



Tropical Pacific Triggerfish and Filefish

REEF Fishinar February 20, 2018, Amy Lee - Instructor

Questions? Feel free to contact amy@REEF.org



Orange-lined Triggerfish (*Balistapus undulatus*)

- Dark green to brownish body with curved diagonal *orange lines*
- Large black blotch on tail base
- Blue and orange stripes run from mouth to below pectoral fin

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean & Red Sea

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Size: Max. 1 ft.



Redtooth Triggerfish (*Odonus niger*)

- Dark blue body with pale blue head
- *Teeth are reddish* and usually visible
- Crescent-shaped tail with long lobes

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean

Photo by: Paddy Ryan

Size: Max. 16 in.



Clown Triggerfish (*Balistoides conspicillum*)

- Black body with large white spots on belly
- Yellowish reticulated pattern on back
- Orange lips and pale band in front of eyes

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Size: Max. 20 in.



Yellowmargin Triggerfish (*Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus*)

- Tan body with dark spots and crosshatch pattern
- Pale orange snout and cheeks
- *Yellow-orange margins* on pectoral, dorsal, anal and caudal fins

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean & Red Sea

Photo by: Paddy Ryan

Size: Max. 2 ft.



Titan Triggerfish (*Balistoides viridescens*)

- Dark body with crosshatch pattern
- Yellow-green snout and cheeks
- Dark band above mouth – looks like a moustache

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean & Red Sea

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Size: Max. 2.5 ft.



Pinktail Triggerfish (*Melichthys vidua*)

- Dark brown body with yellowish snout and yellow pectoral fins
- White dorsal and anal fins with black margin
- *Pinkish caudal fin* with white base

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean

Photo by: Ross Robertson

Size: Max. 13.5 in.



Flagtail Triggerfish (*Sufflamen chrysopterum*)

- Pale yellowish-brown body
- Narrow white-blue or yellow-orange bar beginning below rear of eye
- Yellow-brown triangle edged in white on tail

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean

Photo by: Mark Rosenstein

Size: Max. 9 in.



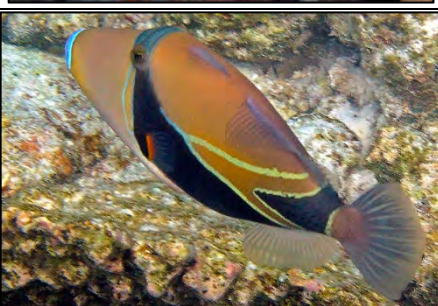
Scythe Triggerfish (*Sufflamen bursa*)

- Pale gray or brown body – can change color rapidly
- Crescent-shaped brown to yellow band behind eye, second band across gill cover
- Thin white line from mouth to anal fin

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean

Photo by: Paddy Ryan

Size: Max. 9.5 in.



Wedgetail Triggerfish (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*)

- Light brown snout and back
- Black band through eye becomes wider towards middle of body
- *Black triangular wedge-like mark* on tail base

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean & Red Sea

Photo by: Gianemilio Rusconi

Size: Max. 10 in.

AKA in HAW - Reef Triggerfish or humuhumunukunukuāpuaʻa



Bridled Triggerfish (*Sufflamen fraenatum*)

- Brown to yellow-gray body
- Narrow pale yellow band under chin
- Dark dorsal, tail and anal fins

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean & Red Sea

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Size: Max. 15 in.



Broom Filefish (*Amanses scopas*)

- Dark brown body with black tail
- Several black bars on midbody with pale central area
- Dark long spines (male) or short bristles (female) in front of tail base

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean & Red Sea

Photos by: Mark Rosenstein

Size: Max. 7.5 in.



Barred Filefish (*Cantherhines dumerilii*)

- Brownish to blue-gray body with indistinct *dark bars* on rear
- Yellow-ish tint on dorsal, anal and caudal fins, yellow iris, yellow spines on tail base
- Dark gill slit

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean

Photo by: Andrew J. Green

Size: Max. 15 in.



Blackbar Filefish (*Pervagor janthinosoma*)

- Brown to olive body with dark blue head and *dark bar* around gill slit
- Blue spots on dorsal and anal fins
- Orange tail

Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean

Photo by: John Turnbull

Size: Max. 5.5 in.



Blackheaded Filefish (*Pervagor melanocephalus*)

- Dark brown to *blue-black head* with orange body and tail
- Orange spots on snout
- Dark bar above pectoral fin base

Regions: CIP, SOP

Photo by: Mark Rosenstein

Size: Max. 4.25 in.



Orangetail Filefish (*Pervagor aspricaudus*)

- Dark blue-gray head and front of body, fades to yellow-orange at rear
 - Tiny black spots on head and front of body
 - Orange-brown iris
- Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean
Photo by: David R/iNaturalist
Size: Max. 5 in.



Wirenet Filefish (*Cantherhines pardalis*)

- Blue-gray or blue-brown with honeycomb or net-like pattern on body
 - Blue-purple stripes on head
 - Usually has white patch on tail base
- Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean & Red Sea
Photo by: Florent Charpin
Size: Max. 10 in.



Mimic Filefish (*Paraluteres prionurus*)

- White body with brown or black spots, bright yellow tail
 - Dark saddles across back
 - Mimics Black-saddled Toby in Pufferfish family
- Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean
Photo by: Mark Rosenstein
Size: Max. 4 in.

Circumtropical:

Scrawled Filefish (*Aluterus scriptus*)

Black Triggerfish (*Melichthys niger*), Black Durgon in TWA

Oceanic Triggerfish (*Canthidermis maculata*), Ocean Triggerfish in TWA, Rough Triggerfish in TEP