



# Common Marine Life

## Goa, India



## Potato Grouper



Scientific name:- *Epinephelus tukula*

Description: - Potato grouper, also called the potato cod or potato bass, is a species of marine ray-finned fish with distinctive pale-brownish grey colour with dark blotches. The dark blotches on the body are thought to resemble potatoes and thus give rise to the common name.

Max size: - 2 meters

Max weight: - 110 kgs

## Silver Moony



Scientific name:- *Monodactylus argenteus*

Description: - It is bright shiny silver with yellowish edges to the fins. The dorsal and anal fins have black tips.

Juveniles have more yellow coloration and are distinguished by two vertical black bands. This species occurs in a wide variety of habitat types, including the open ocean, brackish waters, and the freshwater habitat of rivers.

Diet: - Plankton and detritus material

Max size: - 27 cm

## Scorpion Fish



Scientific name: - *Scorpaenopsis spp.*

Description: - Scorpion fish is a species of venomous ray-finned fish. They have numerous amounts of spines on their back which secrete venom. Scorpion fish are master of camouflage.

Diet: - Small fishes and crustaceans

Max size: - 36cm

## Indo-Pacific Sergeant Fish



Scientific name:- *Abudefduf vaigiensis*

Description: - The Indo-Pacific Sergeant is a small tropical species that has five black bars on the body. It is usually seen in inshore and coral reef waters. These fish form large aggregations in which they either feed in the midwater or tend to their nests.

Max size: - 20 cm

## Damselfish



Scientific name: - Family Pomacentridae

Description: - Damselfish species are usually small in size and are associated with tropical rocky and coral reef environments. They spend majority of their time foraging. Damselfish have been known to have elaborate courtship rituals.

Diet: - Small crustaceans, plankton and algae

## Parrot fish



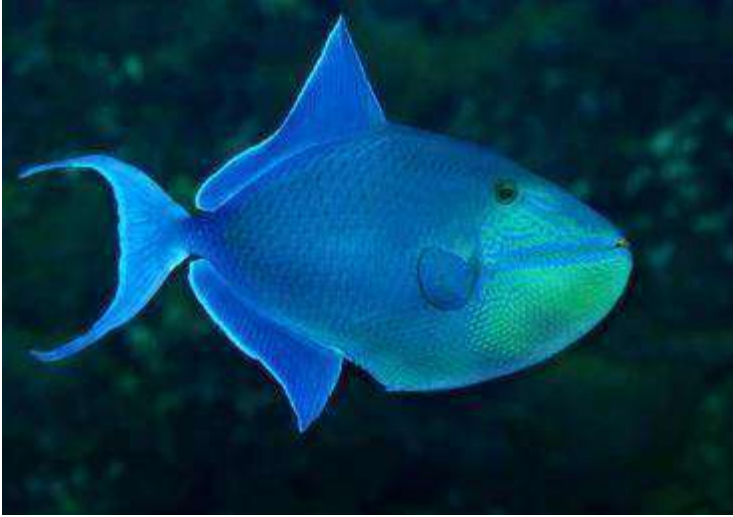
Scientific name: - *Scarus* spp.

Description:- Parrotfish are named for their dentition, which is distinct from other fish. Their. Numerous teeth are arranged in a tightly packed mosaic on the external surface of their jaw bones, forming a parrot-like beak with which they rasp algae from coral and other rocky substrates. They have complex life cycles, with most species starting as males and then changing to females.

Diet: - Algae and coral

Size: - 30-50 cm

## Red-toothed Triggerfish



Scientific name: - *Odonus niger*

Description: - Red-toothed triggerfish are usually deep purple with blue-green markings on the head and glowing light blue margins on the fins and tail. The mouth appears to be grinning and possesses tiny red teeth that are needle sharp with two teeth in the upper jaw visible when the mouth is closed. These fish are aggressive and territorial towards others of their species and can vocalize making a grunting-type sound.

Diet: - Zooplankton and sponges

Max size: - 30 cm



## Bannerfish



Scientific name:- *Heniochus diphreutes*

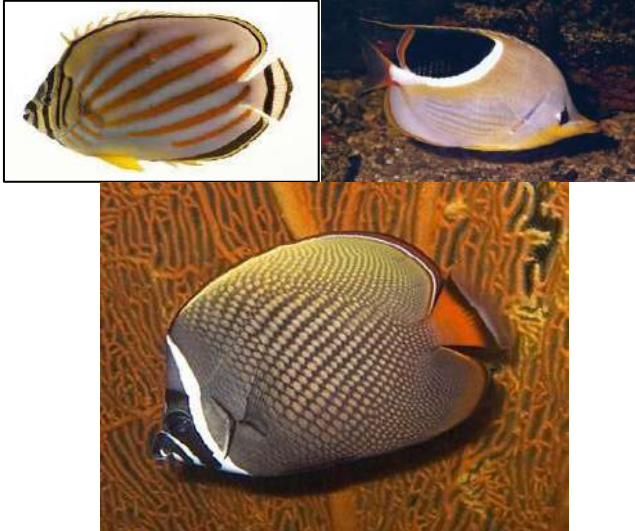
Description: - Bannerfish have a white background with two large black diagonal bars with yellow dorsal, caudal and pectoral fins. Its body is compressed laterally, and the dorsal fin is stretched in a long white filament.

Bannerfish are often confused with Moorish Idols.

Diet: - Zooplankton

Max size: - 18-21 cm

## Butterflyfish



Scientific name: - Family Chaetodontidae

Description: - Butterfly fish get their name from the brightly coloured and strikingly patterned bodies of many species, bearing shades of black, white, blue, red, orange, and yellow. They have uninterrupted dorsal fins with tail fins that may be rounded or truncated, but are never forked.

Diet: - Corals and zooplankton

Size: - 12-22 cm

## Copper Sweeper



Scientific names:- *Pempheris ovalensis*

Description: - Copper sweepers are small schooling fish. These fish are active during the night and hide in caves, harbours, under ledges and around shipwrecks during the day.

Diet: - Planktonic crustaceans, fish and invertebrates

Max size: - 22 cm

## Surgeon Fish



Scientific name: - Family Acanthuridae

Description: - Surgeon fish are a reef associated fish which have scalpel like modified scales which give them their names. They sometimes feed as solitary individuals, but they often travel and feed in schools.

Diet: - Algae

Max size: - 15-40 cm

## Puffer fish



Scientific name: - Family Tetraodontidae

Description: - Puffer species are a small to medium sized fishes. They use their highly elastic stomachs and the ability to quickly ingest huge amounts of water (and even air when necessary) to turn themselves into a virtually inedible ball several times their normal size. Some species also have spines on their skin to make them even less palatable.

Diet: - Algae and small invertebrates

## Angelfish



Scientific name: - *Pomacanthus* spp.

Description: - Angelfish species are usually found around coral reefs. With their bright colours and deep, laterally compressed bodies, marine angelfishes are some of the more conspicuous residents of the reef. As juveniles, some species are different colours than when they reach adulthood. The larger species are also quite bold and seemingly fearless; they are known to approach divers.

Diet: - Zooplankton, algae, benthic invertebrates

Size range: - 15-60 cm

## Moray Eel



Scientific name: - Family Muraenidae

Description: - Moray eels are found in nearshore areas and rocky reefs. Their skin is thick, smooth, and scaleless, while the mouth is wide and the jaws are equipped with strong, sharp teeth, which enable them to seize and hold their prey (chiefly other fishes) but also to inflict serious wounds on their enemies, including humans. They attack humans only when disturbed, but then they can be quite vicious. Moray eels also have a second set of jaws which is used to grasp the prey and transport it into the throat.

Diet: - Small fish crabs and octopuses

## Red Lionfish



Scientific name: - *Pterois volitans*

Description: - The red lionfish is a venomous coral reef fish. They are clad in white stripes alternated with red, maroon or brown stripes and have large, venomous spines that protrude from the body, similar to a mane, giving them the common name lionfish. The venomous spines make the fish inedible or deter most potential predators.

Diet: - Crustaceans, small fish and invertebrates

Max size: - 38 cm



## Spotfin Squirrelfish



Scientific name: - *Sargocentron cornutum*

Description: - Spotfin Squirrelfish live in coral reefs and drop-offs between depths of 6–40 m (20–131 ft). It is a nocturnal predator, feeding on crabs and shrimps by night and hiding under ledges or in caves by day.

Max size: - 27 cm

## Blue and Gold Fusilier



Scientific name:- *Caesio caerulaurea*

Description: - The overall colour of this fusilier species is bluish changing to white on the underside and there is a yellow or golden stripe over the lateral line bordered on both sides. They form large schools in midwater while feeding.

Diet: - Zooplankton

Max size: - 35 cm

## Batfish



Scientific name: - *Platax* spp.

Description: - Batfish are disc-shaped fish, with laterally compressed bodies and large dorsal and anal fins that give individuals a somewhat triangular profile.

Size range: - 40-70 cm

## Gobi and the shrimp



Description: - The Gobi and the shrimp have a symbiotic relationship. This relationship is not parasitic and not commensal—it is mutual. The shrimp builds and maintains a burrow that both animals live in, and the fish offers the shrimp protection from predators. When they are outside of the burrow, the fish keeps an eye out for predators and warns the goby with a flick of the tail if there is a predator nearby. The nearly blind shrimp can then retreat into the burrow to be spared from predation. These animals participate with each other on a highly elaborate and evolved level—and it becomes more impressive when you think about how they are in no way related.

## Goat Fish



Scientific name: - Family Mullidae

Description: - Goatfish are characterized by two chin barbels or goatees, which contain sensory organs and are used to probe the sand or holes in the reef for food. They are benthic feeders owing to their sensory organs. Goatfish have the ability to rapidly change colour, and many species adopt a pale coloration when resting on the sand to blend with the background and become less visible to predators.

Diet: - Worms, crustaceans, molluscs and other small invertebrates

Max size: - 60 cm

## Khul's Maskray



Scientific name: - *Neotrygon kuhlii*

Description: - Kuhl's maskray have a flat, disc-like, rhomboid body up to 47 cm (19 in) in diameter and 70 cm (28 in) in total length. Their colouring is a dark green with blue spots with a light white underbelly, also known as countershading. Their snouts are very short and broadly angular along with an angular disc. The rays' bright coloration serves as a warning for their venomous spines. The rays have a very long tail accommodating two venomous spines on its base.

Diet: - shrimp, small bony fish, molluscs, crabs, and worms

Max size: - 47cm in diameter and 70 cm in length

# Nudibranch



Scientific name: - Order Nudibranchia

Description:- Nudibranchs are a group of soft bodied marine gastropod molluscs which shed their shells after their larval stage. They are noted for their extraordinary colours and striking forms, and they have been given colourful nicknames to match, such as "clown", "dancer", "dragon", or "sea rabbit". Currently, about 3,000 valid species of nudibranchs are known. Nudibranchs are also known to perform cannibalism.

Diet: - Sponges and hydroids

Size: - 4 to 600 mm