



BELIZE TREC LTD.

San Pedro, Belize

Species List

January, 2025

Reef Fish

Group – Angelfish – Pomacanthidae

1. Queen angelfish, *Holacanthus ciliaris* local Belize name “Pangler”
2. French angelfish, *Pomacanthus paru*
3. Gray angelfish, *Pomacanthus arcuatus*
4. Rock Beauty, *Holacanthus tricolor*

Group – Butterflyfishes – Chaetodontidae

1. Banded butterfly, *Chaetodon striatus*
2. Four-eye butterfly, *Chaetodon capistratus*
3. Spotfin butterfly, *Chaetodon ocellatus*

Group – Surgeonfishes – Acanthuridae -Protected by law from fishing

1. Blue tang, *Acanthurus coeruleus*
2. Ocean surgeonfish *Acanthurus bahianus*
3. Doctorfish *Acanthurus chirurgus*

Group – Jacks – Carangidae

1. Bar jack, *Caranx ruber*
2. Horse-eye jack, *Caranx latus*
3. African pompano *, *Alectis ciliaris* local Belize name “Pompas criole”
4. Blue Runner, *Caranx crysos* (esp. Soft Coral Garden)
5. Big Eye Scad, * *Selar crumenophthalmus* esp at Soft Coral Garden
6. Cero, *Scomberomorus regalis* * esp at Coral Garden Back Reef

Group – Needlefish – Belontiidae

1. Flat needlefish, *Ablennes hians* Belize name: Long Guard
2. Houndfish, *Tylosurus crocodilus*

Group – Flyingfishes/halfbeaks – Exocoetidae

1. Ballyhoo, *Hemiramphus brasiliensis*

Group – Barracudas – Sphyraenidae

1. Great barracuda, *Sphyraena barracuda*
2. Southern Sennet, *Sphyraena picudilla* (esp. Soft coral Garden)

*Indicates rare species

Group – Bonefishes – Albulidae

1. Bonefish, *Albula vulpes* – Protected by law from commercial fishing and trade.

Local Belize name: Macabi

2. Ladyfish, *Elops saurus*

Group – Mullet – Mugilidae

1. White Mullet, *Mugil curema*

Group – Tarpons – Elopidae

1. Tarpon, *Megalops atlanticus*

Group – Chubs – Kyphosidae

1. Bermuda chub, *Kyphosus sectatrix*

Group – spadefishes – Ehippidae

1. Atlantic spadefish, *Chaetodipterus faber*

Group – Grunts – Haemulidae

1. French grunt, *Haemulon flavolineatum*
2. Bluestriped grunt, *Haemulon sciurus*
3. White grunt, *Haemulon plumieri*
4. Porkfish, *Anisotremus virginicus* local Belize name “Spanish Girl”
5. Caesar grunt, *Haemulon carbonarium*
6. Spanish grunt, *Haemulon macrostomum*
7. Small mouth grunt, *Haemulon chrysargyreum*
8. Tomtate, *Haemulon aurolineatum*
9. Cottonwick, *Haemulon melanurum*
10. Sailors Choice, *Haemulon parra*
11. White Margate, *Haemulon album*
12. Black Margate, *Anisotremus surinamensis*

Group – Snappers – Lutjanidae

1. Mutton snapper, *Lutjanus analis*
2. Gray snapper. *Lutjanus griseus* local Belize name “Black Snapper”
3. Dog snapper, *Lutjanus jocu*
4. Yellowtail snapper, *Ocyurus chrysurus*
5. Schoolmaster, *Lutjanus apodus*
6. Cubera Snapper, *Lutjanus cyanopterus*
7. Mahogany Snapper, *Lutjanus mahogoni*

Group – Damselfish – Pomacentridae

1. Dusky damselfish, *Stegastes fuscus*
2. Threespot damselfish, *Stegastes planifrons*
3. Beaugregory, *Stegastes leucostictus*
4. Bicolor damselfish, *Stegastes partitus*
5. Yellowtail damselfish, *Microspathodon chrysurus*
6. Sergeant major, *Abudefduf saxatilis*
7. Blue chromis, *Chromis cyanea*

Group – Family – Albulidae

1. Bonefish, *Albula vulpes*
2. Ladyfish, *Elops saurus* (esp. Soft Coral Garden)

Group – Hamlets – Serranidae

1. Back Hamlet, *Hypoplectrus nigricans*
2. Indigo hamlet, *Hypoplectrus indigo*

Group – Groupers – Serranidae

1. Nassau grouper, *Epinephelus striatus*
2. Graysby, *Epinephelus cruentatus*
3. Red hind, *Epinephelus guttatus*
4. Black grouper *Mycteropera bonaci*
5. Tiger grouper, *Mycteroperca tigris*
6. Harlequin Bass, *Serranus tigrinus*
7. Goliath grouper, *Epinephelus itajara*
8. Greater soapfish *Rypticus saponaceus* *

Group – Basslets – Grammatidae

1. Fairy basslet, *Gramma loreto*

Group – Parrotfish – Scaridae – Protected by law from fishing

1. Blue parrotfish*, *Scarus coeruleus*
2. Midnight parrotfish, *Scarus coelestinus* local Belize name “Blue Tumbler”
3. Queen parrotfish, *Scarus vetula*
4. Stoplight parrotfish, *Sparisoma viride*
5. Princess parrotfish, *Scarus taeniopterus*
6. Striped parrotfish, *Scarus croicensis* (more common than 5)
7. Rainbow parrotfish, *Scarus guacamaia*
8. Yellowtail parrotfish, *Sparisoma rubripinne*
9. Redband parrotfish, *Sparisoma aurofrenatum*
10. Redtail parrotfish, *Sparisoma chrysopteron*
11. Yellowtail parrotfish (Redfin), *Sparisoma rubripinne*
12. Bucktooth parrotfish, *Sparisoma radians*

Group – Hogfishes & Wrasses – Labridae

1. Hogfish, *Lachnolaimus maximus*
2. Spanish hogfish, *Bodianus rufus*
3. Yellowhead wrasse, *Halichoeres garnoti*
4. Bluehead wrasse, *Thalassoma bifasciatum*
5. Slippery dick, *Halichoeres bivittatus*
6. Clown wrasse, *Halichoeres maculipinna*
7. Rainbow wrasse, *Halichoeres pictus*
8. Black ear wrasse, *Halichoeres poeyi*
9. Creole wrasse, *Clepticus parrae*
10. Puddingwife, *Halichoeres radiatus*
11. Criole wrasse, *Clepticus parrae* (outside reef only)

Group – Squirrelfishes – Holocentridae

1. Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*, local Belize name Welchman
2. Longspine squirrelfish, *Holocentrus rufus*
3. Dusky squirrelfish, *Holocentrus vexillarius*

Group – Gobies – Gobiidae

1. Neon goby, *Gobiosoma oceanops*

2. Cleaning goby

3. Masked goby, *Coryphopterus personatus* esp. at Mexico Rocks

Group – Lefteye flounders – Bothidae

1. Peacock flounder, *Bothus lunatus*

Group – Batfishes – Ogcocephalidae

1. Shortnose batfish, *Ogcocephalus nasutus*

Group – Trumpetfishes – Aulostomidae

1. Trumpetfish, *Aulostomus maculatus*

Group – Tilefishes – Malacanthidae

1. Sand tilefish, *Malacanthus plumieri*

Lizardfish – Synodontidae

Sand Diver, *Synodus intermedius*

Group – Pufferfishes – Tetraodontidae

1. Checkered puffer, *Sphoeroides testudineus*

2. Bridled burrfish, *Chilomycterus antennatus*

3. Web burrfish, *Chilomycterus antillarum*

4. Porcupinefish, *Diodon hystrix*

5. Sharp nose puffer, *Canthigaster rostrata*

6. Bandtail Puffer, *Sphoeroides spengleri*

Group – Boxfishes – Ostraciidae

1. Smooth Trunkfish, *Lactophrys triqueter*

2. Spotted trunkfish

Group – Triggerfish – Balistidae

1. Queen triggerfish, *Balistes vetula* local Belize name “Old Wife”

2. Black Durgon

Group – Toadfish – Batrachoididae

1. Whitelined Toadfish, *Sanopus greenfieldorum*

Group – Filefishes – Monacanthidae

1. Scrawled filefish

Group – Goatfishes – Mullidae

1. Spotted goatfish, *Pseudupeneus maculatus*

2. Yellow goatfish

Group – Morays – Muraenidae

1. Green moray, *Gymnothorax funebris*

2. Spotted moray

3. Chain Moray

4. Purple lipped moray

Group – Carpet sharks – Rhincodontidae

Common Name: Nurse Shark, *Ginglymostoma cirratum*

Common Name: Smalltooth Sawfish, *Pristis pectinata**

Common Name: Lemon Shark, *Negaprion brevirostris*

Group – Requiem sharks – Carcharhinidae

1. Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*

Order: Rajiformes (Rays)

1. Southern Stingray, *Dasyatis americana*

2. Horseshoe stingray, *Himantura schmardae* (Werner, 1904)

3. Lesser Electric Ray, *Narcine brasiliensis**

4. Yellow Stingray, *Urolophus jamaicensis*

Eagle Rays – Myliobatidae

1. Spotted eagle ray (*Aetobatus narinari*)

Toadfish – Batrachoididus

Whiteline Toadfish, *Sanopus greenfieldorum* *

Porifera (Sponges)

Brown Encrusting sponge, *Cliona langae* (most common sponge)

Gray Tube sponge, *Callyspongia vaginalis* (esp. Mexico Rocks)

Orange Rope Sponge, *Aplysina fulva* (esp. Mexico rocks)

Green Finger Sponge, *Iotrochota birotulata* (esp. Wreck at North Cut)

Fire Sponge, *Tedania ignis* (esp. Mangrove)

Loggerhead Sponge, *Spherospongia vesparium* (esp. Coral Garden)

Black Ball Sponge, *Ircinia strobilina* (esp. Coral Garden)

Brown Variable Sponge, *Anthosigmella varians* (esp. Catalain and South Tuffy)

Cnidaria

Stony Corals – Scleractinia

Common Brain Coral, *Diploria strigosa*

Knobby Hill Brain Coral, *Diploria clivosa*

Depressed Brain Coral, *Diploria labyrinthiformis*

Grooved Brain Coral, *Copophyllia natans*

Maze Coral, *Meandrina meandrites*

Rose Coral, *Manicinia areolata*

Elkhorn Coral, *Acropora palmata*

Staghorn Coral, *Acropora cervicornis*

Boulder Coral, *Montastrea annularis*

Lobbed boulder coral, *Montastrea faviolata*

Large cup boulder coral, *Montastrea cavernosa*

Pillar coral, *Dendrogyra cylindrus*

Flower coral, *Eusimilia fastigiana*

Finger coral, *Porities porities*

Mustard Hill coral, *Porities astreoides*

Massive starlet coral, *Siderastrea siderea*

Minimal starlet Coral, *Siderastrea radians*

Stokes starlet coral, *Dichocoenia stokesii*

Thin Lettuce Leaf coral, *Agaricia tenuifolia*

Thick Lettuce Leaf Coral, *Agaricia agaricites*

Cactus coral, *Isophyllia sinuosa*

Rough Star coral, *Isophyllastrea rigida*

Golf Ball coral, *Favia fragum*

Spiny Flower coral, *Mussa angulosa* (at Hol Chan near cave)

Zooxanthellae

Symbiodinium minutum sp. nov. and *S. psygmophilum* sp. nov. (dinophyceae)

Cyanobacterium:

Roseofilum reptotaenium ("creeping band of red filaments").

Annelida:

Spaghetti worm, *Eupolymnia crassicornis*
Fireworm, *Hermodice carunculata*
Magnificent feather duster, *Sabellastarte magnifica*
Split Crown Feather Duster, *Anamobaea orstedii*
Yellow Fanworm, *Nataulax occidentalis*
Social Feather Duster, *Bispira brunnea*
Variegated Feather Duster, *Bispira variegata* (esp. Catalain)
Christmas Tree Worm, *Spirobranchus giganteus*
Horseshoe Fanworm, *Pomatostegus stellatus*
Spaghetti Worm, *Eupolmnis crassicornis*
Southern Lugworm, *Arenicola cristata*
Sponge worm, *Haplosyllis sp.*
Threadworm, *Odontosyllis enopla*

Mollusca

Penshell, *Pinna carnea*
Sunrise Tellin, *Tellina radiata*
Atlantic Wing Oyster, *Pteria colymbus*
Rough Fileclam, *Lima scabra*
Spotted Sea Hare, *Aplysia parvula*
Ragged Sea Hare, *Aplysia dactylomela*
Slimy Doris, *Dendrodoris krebsii* (Mexico Rocks)
Lettuce Sea Slug, *Tridachia crispata*
Flamingo Tongue, *Cyphoma gibbosum*
Atlantic Deer Cowrie, *Cypraea cervus*
Measled Cowrie, *Cypraea zebra*
West Indian Starsnail, *Lithopoma tectum*
Stocky Cerith, *Cerithium litteratum*
Queen Conch, *Strombus gigas*
Milk Conch, *Strombus costatus*
Hawkwing Conch, *Strombus raninus*
Florida Fighting Conch, *Strombus alatus*, local Belize name Mud Conch
Tulip Snail, *Fasciolaria tulipa*
Trumpet Triton, *Charonia variegata*
Chocolate – lined Topsnail, *Calliostoma jauanicum*
Vase Snail, *Vasum sp.*
Caribbean Reef Squid, *Sepioteuthis sepioidea*
Arrow Squid, *Doryteuthis plei*
Common Octopus, *Octopus vulgaris*
White spotted Octopus, *Octopus macropus*
Caribbean Reef Octopus, *Octopus briareus*

Arthropoda

Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*
White spotted spiny Lobster, *Panulirus guttatus*
Spanish Loster, *Scyllarides aequinoctialis*

White spotted spiny Lobster, *Panulirus guttatus*
Spanish Loster, *Scyllarides aequinoctialis*
Giant hermit Crab, *Petrochirus diogenes*
Speckled Crab *Arenaeus cricrarius*
Gall Crab
Giant Mithrax, *Mithrax spinosissimus*
Coral Crab, *Carpilius corallinus*
Ghost Shrimp, *Coralianassa longiventris*

Echinodermata

Red Rock Urchin, *Echinometra lucunter lucunter*
Pencil Urchin, *Eucidaris tribuloides*
Donkey Dung Sea Cucumber *Holothuria mexicana*
Holothuria arenicola small found by Jerry
Tiger's tail sea cucumber
Beaded Sea Cucumber
Five tooth Sea Cucumber
Sea Turtles
Loggerhead Sea Turtle, *Caretta caretta*
Green Sea Turtle, *Chelonia mydas*
Hawksbill Sea Turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*
Manatee
West Indian Manatee, *Trichechus manatus*
Bottlenose Dolphins
Upside down jelly fish
Orange colonial tunicate, *Ecteinascidia turbinata*
Bat fish, *Ogocephalus nasutus*
Fire sponge, *Tedania ignis*
Orange Spotted Goby, Nes longus

Night Snorkel List

Squid, Sleeping Parrotfish, Basket Star, Lobster, Giant Mithrax, Coral Crab, Cardinal Fish, Green Moray Eel, Portunid Crab, Web Burfish, Balloonfish, light swarming Redear Sardine, light attracted Needle Fish, feeding coral polyps, seasonal bioluminescent Thread Worms, seasonal bioluminescent ostracods, nocturnal color pattern changes (e.g. Blue Tang), nocturnal behavior changes (e.g. Grunt schooling).
Spanish Loster, Scyllarides aequinoctialis
Caribbean Reef Squid, Sepioteuthis sepioidea
Caribbean Reef Octopus, Octopus briareus
Common Octopus, Octopus vulgaris
White spotted octopus, Octopus macropus