

Seychelles Coral Reef Fish

About 2 million species of marine animals live in coral reefs. Seychelles has an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 million km² of ocean, this large marine territory of the country is host to highly abundant and diverse marine life. Seychelles has 23,000 hectares of protected reefs and marine areas. There are more than 1,000 species of fish occur in the Seychelles waters. Coral reef fish are a very important resource for tourism, nutrition and science. It is fascinating to learn about these beautiful creatures and their survival adaptation in the very dynamic world of coral reefs. This poster presents some common species living in Seychelles coral reefs that you can easily see when you go snorkeling or diving.



Lined Surgeon *Acanthurus lineatus* (25 cm)
A surgeonfish has a tiny blade or knife on each side, just in front of its tail. It can use this knife to defend its territory. Some types of surgeonfish can also change colour to let other fish know it is angry.

Powder-blue Surgeon *Acanthurus leucosternon* (23 cm)

Black-eye Rabbitfish *Siganus puelloides* can grow up to 31 cm in length. They live around rocks and coral reefs eating sponges and algae.

Clearfin Lionfish *Pterois radiata* (24 cm in length) is famous for its stunning fins and spines. Its spines are poisonous. Lionfish are fierce predators.



Circular Batfish *Platax teira* can grow up to 60cm long. Juveniles are often found in shallow protected waters and mimic a floating dead leaf to avoid predators.

Oriental Sweetlips *Plectorhinchus orientalis* can grown up to 50 cm in length, living around the seaward reefs. They eat crustaceans and mollusks. Juveniles look much different from adults.

Green throat Parrotfish *Scarus prasiognathus*

Bullethead Parrotfish *Chlorurus sordidus*



Semicircle Angelfish *Pomacanthus semicirculatus* (40cm in length) and has sharp dorsal spines which may be used for defense. This angelfish changes its colour dramatically during its life.

Emperor Angelfish *Pomacanthus imperator* has a very flattened body (about 41cm in length). Juvenile Emperor Angelfish have very different coloration. This is a photo of an adult.

Raccoon Butterflyfish *Chaetodon lunula* (20cm)

Threadfin Butterflyfish *Chaetodon auriga* (21 cm)



Moorish Idol *Zanclus cornutus* (25cm in length) are very peaceful fish. They live in shallow coral reefs, grazing on algae and sponges. They mate for life.

Skunk Anemonefish *Amphiprion akallopisos* (10cm)

Seychelles Anemonefish *Amphiprion fuscocaudatus* (11cm)

Black-saddled Toby *Canthigaster valentini* is a shy, small fish (about 5-10 cm in length). Its flesh is poisonous. When threatened, it inflates its body to almost twice its normal size.



Black and White Snapper *Macolor niger* (60cm in length). Larger juveniles often have 3 to 6 white spots on back (photo). Adults are dark grey to almost black. Juveniles are solitary, adults are often found in large schools.

Peacock Grouper *Cephalopholis argus* (50cm in length).

Black-tipped Grouper *Epinephelus fasciatus* (40 cm)

Picasso Triggerfish *Rhinecanthus aculeatus* (28cm in length). Triggerfish is named for its strong spines on its back.. They like to eat sea urchin, an animal which has protective spines. To avoid hurting itself, the eyes of the triggerfish are located way back where its ears should be, and its skin is very thick.

Groupers have stout bodies and large mouths. They are not long distance fast-swimming fish. They lie in and wait for their prey to swim by and catch them. They often swallow their food rather than biting pieces of it. Groupers are important food source for people.