



Damselfish









Fishinar 11/1/2017, Carlos & Allison Estape - Instructors








Questions? Feel free to contact us at carlos.allison@me.com or visit us at 100fishid.com

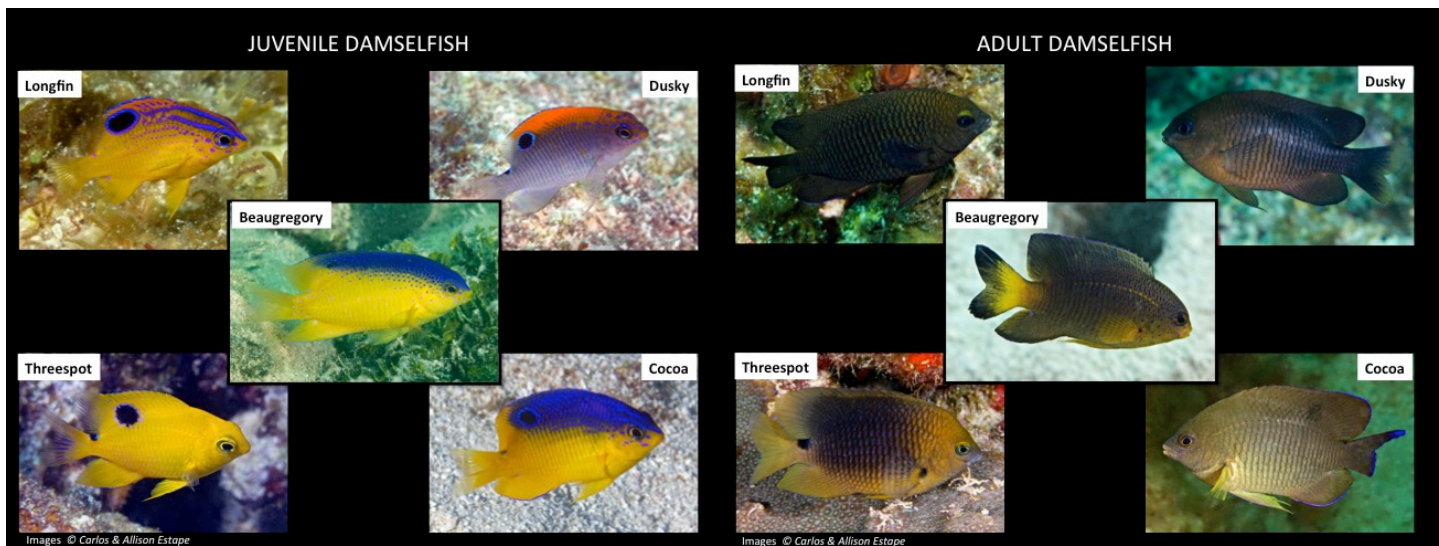
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Damselfish are a keystone species – their algae gardens are essential to reef biodiversity. Their algae gardens are 47x more productive than surrounding turfs

	<p>Sergeant Major, Size: 4 - 6"; max 7"; Depth: 1 – 40+ ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 black body bars • Upper lip does not overhang lower lip • Silver body; back typically has yellow cast (but can show a dark phase)
	<p>Sergeant Major – Dark phase, Size: 4 - 6"; max 7"; Depth: 1 – 40+ ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 black body bars • Upper lip does not overhang lower lip • Typically see dark phase during mating & when males protecting eggs
	<p>Night Sergeant, Size: 5 - 8"; max 10"; Depth: 1 – 15+ ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 dark brown body bars • Upper lip slightly overhangs lower lip • Tan body; back typically has slight yellowish cast
	<p>Yellowtail Damselfish, Size: 4 – 6 ½"; max 7 ½"; Depth: 10 – 40+ ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark body with yellow tail • Blue dots on dark brown body (fade with age) • Create algae gardens
	<p>Yellowtail Damselfish - Juvenile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brilliant blue spots on dark body • Tail can be translucent to whitish & becomes yellow as age • Also called a "jewel fish"

	<p>Bicolor Damselfish, Size: 2 -3 ½"; max 4"; Depth: 2 – 80+ ft Can have 4 color patterns (predominant color variation depends on locality): 1) black cap with yellow chest & white rear (photo taken in Florida Keys) 2) black front/white rear 3) white w/black tail 4) all white</p>
	<p>Bicolor Damselfish, Size: 2 -3 ½"; max 4"; Depth: 2 – 80+ ft Can have 4 color patterns (Predominant color variation depends on locality): 1) black cap with yellow chest & white rear 2) black front/white rear (photo taken in Bonaire) 3) white w/black tail 4) all white</p>
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	<p>Threespot Damselfish, Size: 3 - 4"; max 5"; Depth: 0 – 130 ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black spot on upper tail base & base of pectoral fin • Yellow crescent above eyes • Adult: Grey/brown body with tan tint on lower head & body • Inhabit reef tops - particularly Staghorn coral • Create algae gardens & frequently found with Dusky Damselfish
	<p>Threespot Damselfish – Juvenile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow body; NO blue wash on forehead • Black saddle on upper tail base • Large spot on back & dorsal fin • Easily confused with the Rock Beauty juvenile
	<p>Rock Beauty, Angelfish - Juvenile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black spot ringed in brilliant blue on rear body (blue ring disappears as age) • Thin blue ring around eye (Juvenile & Adult) • Easily confused with the Threespot damselfish juvenile
	<p>Dusky Damselfish Size: 2 - 4"; max 5"; Depth: 1 – 25 ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorsal & anal fins are short & do not extend beyond where tail fin rays join tail base • Narrow dark edge on anal fin • Adult: body is a uniform grey-chocolate-brown

	<p>Dusky Damselfish - Juvenile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brilliant orange wash from snout to end of dorsal • Orange begins to fade as grow into intermediate & vanishes as a adult
	<p>Longfin Damselfish, Size: 2 - 4"; max 6"; Depth: 2 – 80 ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorsal & anal fins extend beyond tail base • Thin bright blue edge on anal fin (Memory Trick: Long, thin blue line) • Body is blackish to grey • Upper edge of eye & nape with yellowish-brown cast • Create algae gardens
	<p>Longfin Damselfish - Juvenile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brilliant blue lines run from snout to back on a bright yellow body • Never have a blue wash/undercolor on upper body • Memory Trick: Long, thin blue lines) •
	<p>Cocoa Damselfish, Size: 3 - 4"; max 5"; Depth: 5 – 100 ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey-brown body with yellowish belly • Dark scale edges create dark oblique lines on body • <u>Usually</u> has a black spot on tail base (Memory Trick: Cocoa Puff) • May have thin bright blue edge on fins
	<p>Cocoa Damselfish – Juvenile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue wash on forehead with blue lines on yellow body • Blue spots on head rarely extend on body • Black spot ringed in blue on dorsal fin extends onto body • <u>Usually</u> has a black spot on tail base (Memory Trick: Cocoa Puff) • Key Difference vs Beaugregory: Cocoa usually has black spot on tail base
	<p>Beaugregory, Size: 2 - 3"; max 4"; Depth: 3 – 40 ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of blue dots on head & gill cover create vague horizontal rows on upper body • Rarely have black spot on tail base • Fins have areas of yellow – especially tail • Body color can vary from yellow w/blue wash to grey-brown
	<p>Beaugregory – Juvenile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of blue dots on head & gill cover below blue wash on forehead • Dark spot on dorsal fin does not extend onto body • Yellow body • Key differences vs Cocoa: blue dots extend onto body; dorsal spot only on dorsal fin; usually does not have a black spot on tail base



RESOURCES:

REEF FISH IDENTIFICATION, 4TH Edition; Paul Humann & Ned DeLoach
Shorefishes of the Greater Caribbean online; Smithsonian Research Institute
<http://biogeodb.stri.si.edu/caribbean/en/gallery/gspecie/3511>