

# SUGAR BEACH

A VICEROY RESORT • ST. LUCIA

An Educational Poster of Marine Life  
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with the collaboration of  
the watersports team  
of SUGAR BEACH

Hi, my name is Julie Sugar. I live in the sea off Sugar Beach resort. I am going to take you on a tour of some of the species you can find there. Your teacher has a set of questions to test you at the end! But first I want to tell you about my name.



**WHAT'S IN A NAME.** My species has a "common name", which is **Sergeant Major**, but because common names vary in different places and with different languages, I also have a "scientific name", which is *Abudefduf saxatilis*, and this stays the same everywhere. The scientific name is normally in latin and in my case means, "The one with prominent sides, living among rocks!". I think I prefer Julie Sugar! The names given here are both **Common** and **Latin**

**ECHINODERMS.** Unlike the corals, worms and sponges, the Echinoderms generally move around to catch their food, although most of them do so very slowly. The Echinoderms include several strange looking groups of species, such as; Starfish, which you all know about; Sea Urchins, with their prickly spines; and the rather unattractive Sea Cucumbers, which spend all their time vacuuming up sediments to eat. Most of these species stay hidden during the day but emerge to feed during the night



**Striped Sea Star.** *Luidia clothrata.* **Slate Pencil Urchin.** *Euclidaris tribuloides.* **West Indian Sea Egg.** *Triploneustes ventricosus.* **Long-Spined Urchins.** *Diadema antillarum.* **Three-Rowed Sea Cucumber.** *Isostichopus badionotus.* **Furry Sea Cucumber.** *Astichopus multifidus.*



My friend Nigel and I photographed over 70 different species of fish. Here are a selection of different types.

**DANGEROUS FISH SPECIES.** There are a few dangerous fish species in the area. They are dangerous because they can sting you with their poisonous spines. They can also be well disguised with seaweed like camouflage. If you see them just keep away, they won't chase after you!



**Common Lionfish.** *Pterois miles.* Considered a pest in the Caribbean. **Spotted Scorpionfish.** *Scorpaena plumieri.* Watch out as really well camouflaged.

**ODD SHAPES.** Many different shaped fish can be found at Sugar Beach ranging from fish with large fins, flat fish, box shaped fish, trumpetfish and round Ballonfish. The Ballonfish is even able to change shape by puffing itself up to scare away predators.



**Spotted Drum.** *Equetus punctatus*, with an unusually long dorsal fin **Peacock Flounder.** *Bothus lunatus.* Flat fish that blends in by changing colour **Smooth Trunkfish.** *Lactophrys triqueter.* Box shaped with a pointed snout. **Honeycomb Cowfish.** *Acanthostracion polygonia.* A box shape with horns on its head. **Trumpetfish.** *Aulostomus maculatus*, with a trumpet shaped snout. **Balloonfish.** *Diadon holocanthus*, covered in sharp spines.

**EGGS AND JUVENILES.** Many of the fish change colour through their life, often starting out brilliantly coloured and then becoming much less attractive as they grow older. The **Yellowtail Damselfish** is a good example as it is covered in electric blue dots when it is young, which it loses when it is mature. The **Longfin Damselfish** is another example as this is a brilliant yellow when young but turns a dull brown/black colour when adult. Other fish change colour at different times. When the adult males of the **Sergeant Major** guard their eggs they are coloured blue!



**Yellowtail Damselfish.** *Microspathodon chrysurus.* Juvenile above, adult below. **Longfin Damselfish.** *Stegastes diencaeus.* Juvenile above, adult below **Sergeant Major.** *Abudefduf saxatilis.* Blue coloured male guarding eggs above

**CORALS.** One of the most important groups of species at the resort, and the rest of the world in fact, are the corals. Some of these corals take hundreds or even thousands of years to grow into reefs. They are particularly at risk from changes in water temperature, because they exist in cooperation with microscopic algae (seaweed), which live in their cells and which provide them with energy during the day. If the water gets too hot the algae can die and the coral dies as well. Climate change is a major cause of temperature change in the world's seas.



**Maze Coral.** *Meandrina meandrites.* **White Finger Coral.** *Porites ?porites.* **Yellow Pencil Coral** *Madracis mirabilis.* **Grooved Brain Coral.** *Diploria labyrinthiformis.*

**WORMS.** It may surprise you but some of the most colourful species are worms. These are not the same as the slippery creatures you can find in the ground, as they have spectacular crowns of tentacles, used for feeding and respiration, often in brilliant colours. They can be difficult to see however, as they are afraid of shadows, and quickly retreat into their tube-like home if disturbed.



**Magnificent Feather Duster.** *Sabellastarte magnifica.* **Christmas Tree Worm.** *Spirobranchus giganteus.* **Social Feather Duster.** *Bispira brunnea.*

**SHRIMPS, CRABS AND LOBSTERS.** Like the Echinoderms the Crustacea (apart from the barnacles) have to move to catch their food, they can't wait for it to come to them. The shrimps, crabs and lobsters are a good example of this, as they have to catch their food using their claws and mobile mouthparts. They are generally "Omnivores", which means they will eat anything they can, including plants, other crabs and shrimps and, even little fishes like Julie Sugar.



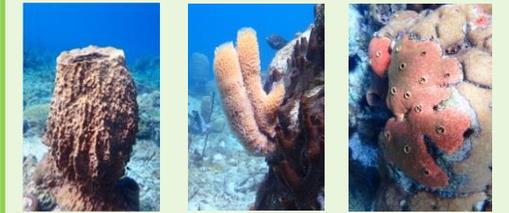
**Channel Clinging Crab.** *Mithrax spinosissimus.* **Banded Coral Shrimp.** *Stenopus hispidus* middle leg modified as a claw. **Caribbean Spiny Lobster.** *Panulirus argus.*

**ANIMALS WITH TENTACLES.** Corals, soft corals (including seafans) and anemones have tentacles, which they extend to catch small animals that swim in the water. Many of these species do this in the dark, so they may be rather dull during the day but are very colourful at night.



**Common Sea Fan.** *Gorgonia ventalina.* **Sun Coral.** *Tubastraea coccinea.* An introduced species from the Indo-Pacific. **Banded Tube Dwelling Anemone.** *Isarachnanthus nocturnus.*

**SPONGES** are some of the biggest species in the resort area. They are also one of the most diverse groups with over 30 species recorded. The biggest of all the sponges at Sugar Beach is called the **Giant Barrel Sponge**, almost 2m high. Sponges also have some of the strangest shapes, including barrels, tubes, dish shaped, rope-like, round balls and encrusting. One species, known as the **Red Boring Sponge** is also very unusual, not because it is boring, but because it secretes acid to bore into the rock



**Giant Barrel Sponge.** *Xestospongia muta.* **Azure Vase Sponge.** *Callyspongia plicifera.* **Red Boring Sponge.** *Ciona delitrix.*

**MOLLUSCS.** All of the species shown on this poster, apart from the fish, are known as invertebrates, because they have no backbone. The final group of species of this type are the Molluscs. Many of these move very little, such as limpets, bivalves and winkles, but other are very fast swimmers and often chase and catch other species in mid-water, including fish. These fast swimmers include cuttlefish, squid and octopus. Most of these species can also change colour to hide and swell up to make themselves look bigger, to scare predators away.



**Caribbean Reef Squid.** *Sepioteuthis sepioidea.* **The Caribbean Reef Squid at night,** is transparent. **Common Octopus.** *Octopus vulgaris*, in an agitated state

**EELS.** Numerous Moray Eels live in the waters off Sugar Beach. These can reach quite a size and have a reputation for being aggressive. This is probably because they constantly open and close their mouths, baring their teeth, but they only do this to breathe.



**Spotted Moray.** *Gymnothorax moringa.* **Chain Moray.** *Echidna catenata.* **Goldentail Moray.** *Gymnothorax millaris.*

**OPEN WATER FISH.** The open waters around Sugar Beach are populated by fish that are sleek in shape and very fast swimming. They are also coloured silver which makes them almost invisible in the blue water.



**Cero.** *Scomberomus regalis.* **Flat Needlefish.** *Blennius hians.* **Great Barracuda.** *Sphyraena barracuda.*

**COLOURFUL.** Many of the species in the area are brightly coloured with "disruptive" patterns and false eyes, which helps to confuse the animals that want to eat them. Some of the most brightly coloured are the Parrotfish. They are known as Parrotfish, not because of their colour but because they have parrot like mouths.



**Spotfin Butterflyfish.** *Chaetodon ocellatus.* **Yellowhead Wrasse.** *Halichoeres gamati.* **Princess Parrotfish.** *Scarus taeniopterus.*



**Longfin Squirrelfish.** *Holocentrus rufus.* **Foureye Butterflyfish.** *Chaetodon capistratus.* **Whitespotted Filefish.** *Cantherhines macroceus.*