

An Educational Poster of Marine Life prepared by **Dr. Nigel Thomas**, for the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort.



We were able to photograph over 70 species of fish during our visit. Here is a selection of different types.

**SCARY FISH.** Several fish species look scary but unless you threaten them they will do you no harm. The moray eels reach quite a size and they seem to like living amongst the rocks of the breakwater, just off the beach at the Hilton Moorea Resort. The sharks only seem to come out at night, probably attracted by the lights under the creperie. The Lagoon Triggerfish, whilst looking comical, has a bit of a temper and will chase you away from his territory, with a nip if necessary!



**Giant Moray Eel.**  
*Gymnothorax javanicus*, in the breakwater.



**Blacktip Reef Shark.**  
*Carcharhinus melanopterus*



**Lagoon Triggerfish.**  
*Rhinecanthus aculeatus.*

**ODD SHAPED FISH.** Many different shaped fish can be found off the Hilton Moorea Resort ranging from flat fish, box shaped fish, fish with spines, elongated fish, fish with strange patterns and fish with long fins. Most of these shape and colour adaptations help them to hide from or scare away predators.



**Rockmover Wrasse.**  
*Novaculichthys taenioris.* Found over inshore rocks.



**Reeftop Pipefish.**  
*Corythoichthys haematopterus.*



**A Flounder, Bothidae species.** Colour changes to match its background.



**White-spotted Puffer.**  
*Arothron hispidus.* May puff up if threatened.



**Smooth Flutefish.**  
*Fistularia commersonii* can appear almost invisible.



**Moorish Idol.** *Zanclus comutus.* Characteristically long dorsal spine

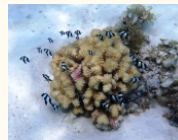
**FISH THAT HIDE.** Many of the fish are quite timid and like to hide away underneath overhangs or in burrows. The underside of the coral outcrops are excellent hiding places, as well as amongst the branches of some coral species, or even burrowing in the coral. The sand covered areas, although they appear empty, are also excellent places to hide, with many fish creating burrows in the sand.



**Guineafowl Puffer.**  
*Arothron meleagris.* Hides under ledges



**Porcupine fish.** *Diodon hystrix.* Very timid.



**Humbug Dascyllus.**  
*Dascyllus aruanus.* Shelter in the coral.



**Banded Goby.**  
*Amblygobius phalaena.* Burrows, in pairs, in the shallow water sands.



**Bluestreak Goby.**  
*Valencienna strigata.* Burrows, with its partner, in shallow water sands.



**Delicate Blenny.**  
*Glyptoparus delicatulus.* Very small tube dweller.

**COLOURFUL FISH.** Many of the species in the area are brightly coloured with "disruptive" patterns, bars and stripes, which help 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 hard, parrot like mouths.



**Ornate Butterflyfish.**  
*Chaetodon ornatissimus*



**Sixbar Wrasse.**  
*Thalassoma hardwicke.*



**Checkerboard Wrasse.**  
*Halichoeres hortulanus.*



**Spotfin Squirrelfish.**  
*Neoniphon samara.*



**Saddled Butterflyfish.**  
*Chaetodon ephippium.*



**Common Parrotfish.**  
*Scarus psittacus.*

**SHOALS AND TERRITORIES.** Many fish species protect themselves by swimming together in big shoals, while others individually defend quite small areas of seabed. The territorial fish can be quite aggressive, but thankfully are often the smallest fish on the reef. One of the most interesting groups of territorial fish are the cleaner fish. They have their own cleaning station and bigger fish come to have lice and other pests pecked from their skin and gills, even inside their mouths..



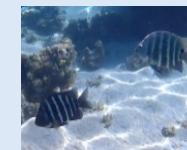
A shoal of **Convict Surgeonfish.**  
*Acanthurus triostegus* in open water.



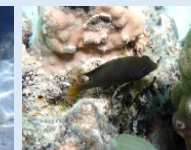
**Blue Damsel.**  
*Pomacentrus pavo,* over branching corals.



A group of **Flathead Grey Mullet.** *Mugil cephalus* over the shallow water sands.



**Blackspot Sergeant.**  
*Abudefduf sordidus* Very protective of egg patches



**Threespot Damsel**  
*Pomacentrus tripunctatus.* Very territorial!



Small blue and white fish is a **Bluestreak Cleaner Wrasse.** *Labroides dimidiatus*