



INDO-PACIFIC REEF CHECK INDICATOR SPECIES

Videos taken in the Maldives and Musandam, Oman

Maldives videos courtesy of MV Carpe Diem divemaster Sobah



These videos of Indo-Pacific Reef Check indicator species are provided by Biosphere Expeditions in YouTube playlist <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4A0E027C32E6B922> as a teaching, training and self-check tool. If you have any comments or would like to add your own videos (both of which would be appreciated), please contact Biosphere Expeditions at info@biosphere-expeditions.org. A list of what the videos show and tips on how to record the species shown on your Reef Check survey is available from <http://www.biosphere-expeditions.org/images/stories/pdfs/reefcheck/Indo-Pacific%20indicator%20videos.pdf>. This document and the original videos are also available on <https://www.box.com/s/5261697b778152685e48>.

File name	Species	Indicator Y/N	Remarks
Fish (1)	Moray eel	Y	Long, within cracks in the coral, 'yawning' mouth.
Fish (2)	Moorish idol	N	Video tracks moorish idol: yellow, black and white, long snout. Not an RC indicator.
Fish (3)	Humphead wrasse	Y	Large (!) slow swimming with pectoral fins. NOT feeding on seabed.
Fish (4)	Gold-spot emperor	N	Schooling in mid-water, often in large numbers. Up to 30 cm.
Fish (5)	Whitetip reef shark	Y	Record under "rare animals sighted", record also off transect.
Fish (6)	Oriental sweetlips	Y	Generally slow swimming. Large, rubbery "sweet" lips (hence the name).
Fish (7)	Big-eye emperor	N	Slow swimming. VERY large eye. Generally small.
Fish (8)	Grouper	Y	Marbled grouper. Usually large, slow swimming, under overhangs / in caves.
Fish (9)	Crescent-tail bigeye	N	Red or silver, swimming in mid-water.
Fish (11)	Fusilier	N	Open-water, usually blue and yellow, fast swimming in schools.
Fish (12)	Midnight snapper	Y	Common – about 20-30 cm. Yellow eye.
Fish (13)	Black and white and red snapper	Y	Both indicators. Bulkier b/w snapper, then zooms to red snapper.
Fish (14)	Black and white and red snapper	Y	
Fish (15)	Grey reef shark (Y), jack (N), eagle ray (Y)	Y,N,Y	Shark and eagle ray record as 'off transect' megafauna. Jacks are not indicators (not a true reef species).
Fish (16)	Small fish: red tooth trigger. Large fish: black and white snapper	N,Y	Trigger fish are superabundant swimming on top of the reef, usually in exposed reefs.
Fish (17)	Coral trout (grouper)	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.

Fish (18)	Humphead wrasse	Y	Large fish near to the reef. Also in background a coral trout, emperor, jack, surgeonfish.
Fish (19)	Humphead wrasse	Y	
Fish (20)	Humphead wrasse	Y	
Fish (21)	Surgeonfish	N	Humphead surgeonfish – high in water, plankton feeding. Very thin.
Fish (22)	Red tooth trigger, then jack	N	
Fish (23)	Jack	N	
Fish (24)	Longnose emperor	N	Larger than the average target snapper. Very elongated.
Fish (25)	Longnose emperor (N), jack (N) and lyretail grouper (Y)	N,N,Y	Lyretail grouper with stunning yellow margins. Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (26)	Longnose emperor	N	
Fish (27)	Ornate ghost pipefish	N	
Fish (28)	Bannerfish (foreground)	Y	Butterflyfish category. Anthias and damselfish schooling in background in heavy current.
Fish (29)	Midnight snapper	Y	Heavy bodied. Usually in water column. This one is being cleaned near to the reef.
Fish (30)	Yellowfin grouper	Y	Very rare.
Fish (31)	Jack	N	
Fish (32)	Jack	N	
Fish (33)	Humphead surgeonfish	N	
Fish (34)	Butterflyfish	Y	Dot-dash
Fish (35)	Butterflyfish	Y	Dot-dash
Fish (36)	Regal angelfish	N	
Fish (37)	Parrotfish	Y	Swims with pectoral fins. Beak. Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (38)	Peacock grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (39)	Coral trout (grouper)	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (40)	Grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (41)	Oriental sweetlips	Y	
Fish (42)	Redmouth grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (43)	Fusiliers	N	Schooling, always swimming
Fish (44)	Parrotfish	Y	Note beak and use of pectoral fins for swimming. Record only if > 20 cm.
Fish (45)	Oriental sweetlip	Y	Yellow with black lines, 'hangs' under corals, and in schools. Never swims fast.
Fish (46)	Dogtooth tuna	Y	Record off-transect sightings
Fish (47)	Whitetip reef shark	Y	Record off-transect sightings
Fish (48)	Midnight snapper	Y	Broad body, usually higher in the water column. Often in schools.
Fish (49)	Marbled grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (50)	Moray eel	Y	

Fish (51)	Butterflyfish	Y	
Fish (52)	Yellow longnose butterflyfish	Y	All butterflyfish are delicate, thin and generally flit in amongst the corals.
Fish (53)	Butterflyfish	Y	
Fish (54)	Bigeye emperor (N), sweetlips (Y)	N,Y	
Fish (55)	Parrotfish (pair)	Y	Note the sandy excrement. Record only if > 20 cm.
Fish (56)	Parrotfish	Y	Note feeding, beak and use of pectoral fins for swimming. Record only if > 20 cm.
Fish (57)	Pyramid butterflyfish	Y	
Fish (58)	Pompano	N	Jack family. Not a true reef species.
Fish (59)	Butterflyfish	Y	
Fish (60)	Butterflyfish	Y	
Fish (61)	Butterflyfish AND redmouth grouper	Y,Y	Record grouper only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (62)	Powder blue surgeonfish	N	Reef flat (shallow water) grazer. Often in large schools.
Fish (63)	Double-saddled butterflyfish	Y	At the end of the shot, with two black patches.
Fish (64)	Grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (65)	Grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm BUT this species however, never grows to over 30 cm!
Fish (66)	Too many fish		
Fish (67)	Bannerfish (butterflyfish)	Y	Often quite large compared to the delicate small species.
Fish (68)	Too many fish ;)		
Fish (69)	Orange-lined emperor	N	Large, 'sitting' motionless when first spotted.
Fish (70)	Wrasse	N	Very common small fish swimming close to the reef. Do not confuse with parrotfish.
Fish (71)	Parrotfish	Y	Note feeding, beak and use of pectoral fins for swimming. Record only if > 20 cm.
Fish (72)	Parrotfish	Y	
Fish (73)	Parrotfish	Y	
Fish (74)	Parrotfish	Y	
Fish (75)	Parrotfish	Y	
Fish (76)	Parrotfish	Y	Attended to by two cleaner wrasse. Record only if > 20 cm.
Fish (77)	Parrotfish	Y	Note beak and use of pectoral fins for swimming. Record only if > 20 cm.
Fish (78)	Bannerfish (butterflyfish)	Y	
Fish (79)	Grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm BUT this species however, never grows to over 30 cm!
Fish (80)	Peacock grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (81)	Too many fish		
Fish (81)	Butterflyfish (Y), fast parrotfish (Y), grouper (Y)	Y,Y,Y	Record parrotfish only if > 20 cm. Record grouper only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (82)	Redtooth triggerfish (N), humphead wrasse (Y)	N,Y	Redtooth triggerfish extremely common swimming in vast schools (do not confuse with butterflyfish). Humphead wrasse is the large fish amongst small triggerfish.
Fish (83)	Yellowfin grouper	Y	Very rare form.

Fish (84)	Jack	N	
Fish (85)	Yellow-margin triggerfish	N	Note the swimming action. Very different from parrotfish and butterflyfish.
Fish (86)	Dogtooth tuna	Y	Record off-transect sightings
Fish (87)	Jack	N	
Fish (88)	Butterflyfish (Y), snapper (Y), wrasse (N), damselfish (N)	Y,Y,N,N	
Fish (89)	Snapper (Y), butterflyfish (Y)	Y,Y	
Fish (90)	Snapper	Y	
Fish (91)	Butterflyfish	Y	
Fish (92)	Parrotfish	Y	Note beak and use of pectoral fins for swimming. Record only if > 20 cm.
Fish (93)	Butterflyfish	Y	
Fish (94)	Wrasse	Y	
Fish (95)	Grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (96)	1 snapper (Y), damselfish (N), wrasse (N), sergeant major (N)	Y,N,N,N	
Fish (97)	Bannerfish (butterflyfish)	Y	
Fish (98)	Fusiliers	N	Do not confuse with snappers. Note very forked tail.
Fish (99)	Cardinalfish	N	Do not confuse with snappers. Note very large eyes.
Fish (100)	1 butterflyfish (Y), sergeant majors (N), damselfish (N), surgeonfish (N)	Y,N,N,N	
Fish (101)	Grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (102)	Lots of fish, including Arabian angelfish (N) at the end	N	
Fish (103)	Lots of fish over hard coral garden		
Fish (104)	Snapper and grouper	Y	Record grouper only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (105)	Emperor	N	
Fish (106)	Lots of fish over reef		
Fish (107)	Clownfish	N	
Fish (108)	Snapper (Y) and sergeant majors (N)	Y,N	
Fish (109)	Barracuda (N) and fusiliers (N)	N	
Fish (110)	Snapper (Y), bream (N), parrotfish (Y), butterflyfish (Y), fusilier (N)	Y,N,Y,Y,N	Do not mistake the black and white striped bream (at the beginning and end) for snappers!
Fish (111)	Goatfish (N), wrasse (N)	N	
Fish (112)	Grouper	Y	Record only if > 30 cm and size class.
Fish (113)	Barracuda	N	

Inverts (1)	Other (acidians / sea squirts)	Y	Abundant, growing on long dead coral. Substrate category.
Inverts (2)	Crown of thorns starfish	Y	Invertebrate category
Inverts (3)	Drupella feeding scar	N	Make a note within the substrate category against bleaching / disease.
Inverts (4)	Giant clam	Y	Record in 10 cm size categories. Invertebrate category.
Inverts (5)	Other (Gorgonian)	Y	Substrate category.
Inverts (6)	Too many categories		
Inverts (7)	Lobster	Y	Invertebrate category.
Inverts (8)	Sea cucumber (pink seafish)	Y	Record this species, the black square one (with spikes) and the large spiky red one.
Inverts (9)	Sea cucumber (pink seafish)	Y	Record this species, the black square one (with spikes) and the large spiky red one.
Inverts (10)	Lobster	Y	Invertebrate category.
Others (1)	Recently killed coral (RKC)	Y	Substrate category – note the white (RKC) and the area covered by algae.
Others (2)	Recently Killed Coral (RKC)	Y	Substrate category – note the white area predated on by Drupella snail.
Others (3)	Hard corald (HC) - porites	Y	Very common massive coral, in green, brown and blue colours.
Others (4)	Too many categories ;)		
Others (5)	Other (OT) and sponge (SP)	Y,Y	Other is the Gorgonian seafan. Sponge is the blue tube-like lifeform.
Others (6)	Too many categories		Includes HC, SP, SC (soft coral), OT (Ascidian) and NIA (algae).
Others (7)	Predominantly SP	Y	Sponges of many varieties, and some SC.
Others (8)	HC pretending to be SC	Y	Watch out for this one!