

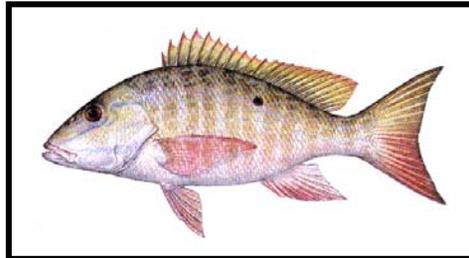
THE U.S. CARIBBEAN REGION WETLANDS AND FISH *A Vital Connection*



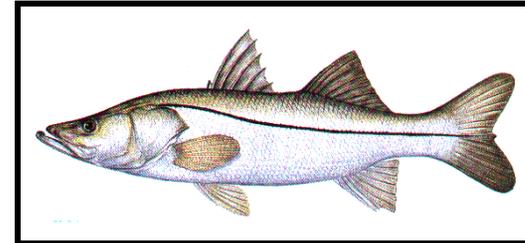
Blue crab



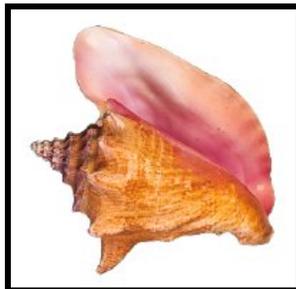
Mutton snapper



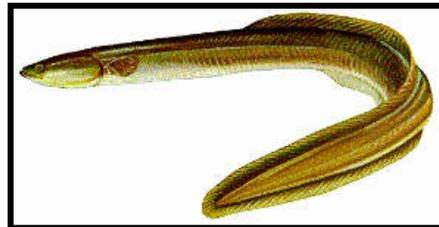
Common snook



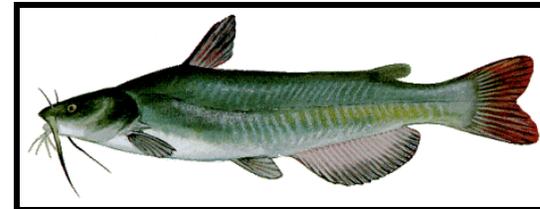
Queen conch



American eel



White catfish



**Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks
Found in U.S. Caribbean Wetlands**

THE U.S. CARIBBEAN REGION WETLANDS AND FISH: A VITAL CONNECTION

FISH, CRUSTACEANS, AND MOLLUSKS FOUND IN U.S. CARIBBEAN WETLANDS

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THE U.S. CARIBBEAN REGION

WETLANDS AND FISH: A VITAL CONNECTION

FISH, CRUSTACEANS, AND MOLLUSKS FOUND IN U.S. CARIBBEAN WETLANDS

INTRODUCTION

Wetlands are among the most important ecosystems on earth. They are especially recognized for providing habitat, food, and protection to many different species of animals (e.g. fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates), and also for their valuable role as nurseries for a wide variety of species of fish and shellfish, including endangered and commercially important species. As a result, wetlands are recognized as a vital ecosystem for fish.

This document provides a reference list of many species of fish and shellfish (crustaceans and mollusks) that utilize and/or depend on the different wetland habitats found throughout the U.S. Caribbean, which is comprised of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas). In addition to listing scientific and common names, this document also includes interesting facts about each species, as well as their association with specific wetland types.

The tables of fish, crustaceans, and mollusks species provided in this document are the result of an online search and literature review for the U.S. Caribbean region. The table listing fish species is very comprehensive and includes not only those species found in wetland habitats but also those found on or associated with coral reefs. The tables given for crustaceans and mollusks are not as comprehensive as the one for fish, but they provide a general reference for some of the most common species utilizing wetland habitats in the region.

This document can be used as a companion document to the outreach document released by the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Habitat Conservation, entitled "The U.S. Caribbean Region, Wetlands and Fish, A Vital Connection" (Delgado and Stedman 2004). It also represents an easy to use reference document that can be utilized for educational purposes, or as a source of information for those interested in the diversity of fish, crustaceans, and mollusks found in association with wetlands of the U.S. Caribbean.

WETLAND TYPES FOUND IN THE U.S. CARIBBEAN

Many different species of fish and shellfish are with wetlands, however their abundance and diversity is highly dependent on the particular characteristics of the habitat being considered. Within the U.S. Caribbean region, wetlands can be divided into two main groups: saltwater wetlands and freshwater wetlands. Within each of these categories, different wetland types can be recognized (including seagrasses).

The following text provides a brief description of the most common wetland types found in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands that are used by fish and shellfish:

Saltwater Wetlands

Saltwater wetlands are the most common wetlands in the U.S. Caribbean region, found throughout almost the entire coastal zone. Salty (saline) water and the influence of tides are defining factors of this type of wetland. The salinity of saltwater wetlands is not a fixed value, but rather changes with distance from the ocean, water depth, freshwater input (i.e. precipitation, runoff, ground water) and season. The two main types of saltwater wetlands found in the U.S. Caribbean are seagrass beds and mangroves, both of great importance to fish.

Seagrass beds:

Seagrass beds are generally found in the shallow subtidal zone of the coastal environment, although occasionally they may be exposed to the atmosphere during very low tides. Seagrasses are a type of rooted submerged vegetation that resembles grass, although they are not part of the grass family. In the Caribbean, seagrass beds are generally associated with mangrove wetlands and coral reefs.

Mangrove wetlands:

The term mangrove is used to refer to a group of trees and shrubs that inhabit the coastal intertidal zone. Mangrove wetlands may also include other associated vegetation including trees, herbs, and ferns, which are generally found in the upland transitional zone, or the intertidal zone as is the case for the leather fern *Acrostichum*. Mangroves are found only in the tropics and subtropics along protected coastlines, including cays, away from the direct action of waves. Mangrove trees have developed special adaptations to survive the variable flooding and salinity conditions imposed by the coastal environment.

Freshwater Wetlands

Freshwater wetlands are often associated with a body of fresh water such as a river, lake, or pond, but the wetland's freshwater supply also can come from precipitation or ground water. Examples of this type of wetland in the U.S. Caribbean are freshwater marshes, forested wetlands, and freshwater aquatic wetlands. In addition to natural freshwater wetlands, human-made impoundments also serve as important habitats for freshwater fish.

Freshwater marshes:

Depending on their location with respect to the coast, some freshwater marshes can still experience the influence of tides. Even freshwater marshes that are not influenced by the tide can experience water level changes associated with rainfall or ground water. Freshwater marshes are generally vegetated by a diverse group of plants including grasses, sedges, rushes, broad-leaved aquatic plants, and soft stemmed aquatic plants such as cattails, arrowheads, pickerelweed and reeds. Characteristic examples of freshwater marshes in the U.S. Caribbean region include a giant sedge marsh and a cattail marsh (although the latter is considered an invasive, undesirable species in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

Forested wetlands:

This type of wetland occurs along rivers and streams and occasionally is flooded by these water bodies. When not flooded, these forests remain dry for varying periods during the year. The vegetation in forested wetlands consists mainly of trees and is very diverse. The types of plants found in a forested wetland generally depend on the frequency and amount of flooding that occurs in a particular area. A swamp bloodwood forest (*Pterocarpus officianalis*) is an example of this type of wetland in the U.S. Caribbean.

Freshwater aquatic:

These wetlands are associated with streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, canals or reservoirs. In Puerto Rico, freshwater aquatic wetlands are also associated with groundwater upwelling. Freshwater aquatic wetlands can be semi-permanently or permanently flooded with still or moving water. These wetlands are dominated by free-floating or rooted aquatic herbs such as naiad, fanwort, hornwort and pondweeds. Water hyacinth and water lily are also species found in freshwater aquatic wetlands; these are however, considered invasive and undesirable species in Puerto Rico.

FISH AND SHELLFISH SPECIES FOUND IN U.S. CARIBBEAN WETLANDS

Within the U.S. Caribbean region, over 500 species of fish and shellfish utilize the different wetland habitats. While some species are unique to only one type of wetland, many use different wetland types during the same day, during the year, during the seasons, or during the different stages of their life cycles depending on their needs. We are including in this document separate tables listing species of fish, crustaceans, and mollusks (see Tables 1-3) that utilize the different wetland types in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. Because of these islands' similarities in geographic position, climatic condition, and coastal habitats, they have in common many of the species listed for the different wetland habitats.

Out of the total number of fish species listed (495), the majority, approximately 49%, utilized multiple wetland types, including coral reef habitats. In contrast, the number of species using a single habitat was more limited, with 3%, 5%, and 7% for mangrove, seagrass, and freshwater habitats, respectively. The exception was coral reefs, where approximately 36% of the fish species listed seemed to be limited to this particular habitat (Figure 1). It is important to consider, however, that these estimations are limited to the literature review conducted to create the actual fish table included in this document.

Furthermore, out of the total number of species of fish utilizing multiple habitats, those using the combination of "mangroves-seagrasses-reefs" or "seagrass-reefs" were more abundant, compared with species using for example, "mangroves-seagrasses, mangroves-reefs", or "freshwater-mangrove habitats". Habitat diversity, the high connectivity that often exists among mangrove, seagrass, and reef habitats (especially seagrasses and reefs), plus the high diversity of fish species that characterize reefs are possible explanations for such trends.

Figure 1. Fish Utilization Pattern of Wetlands and Reef Habitats in the U.S. Caribbean

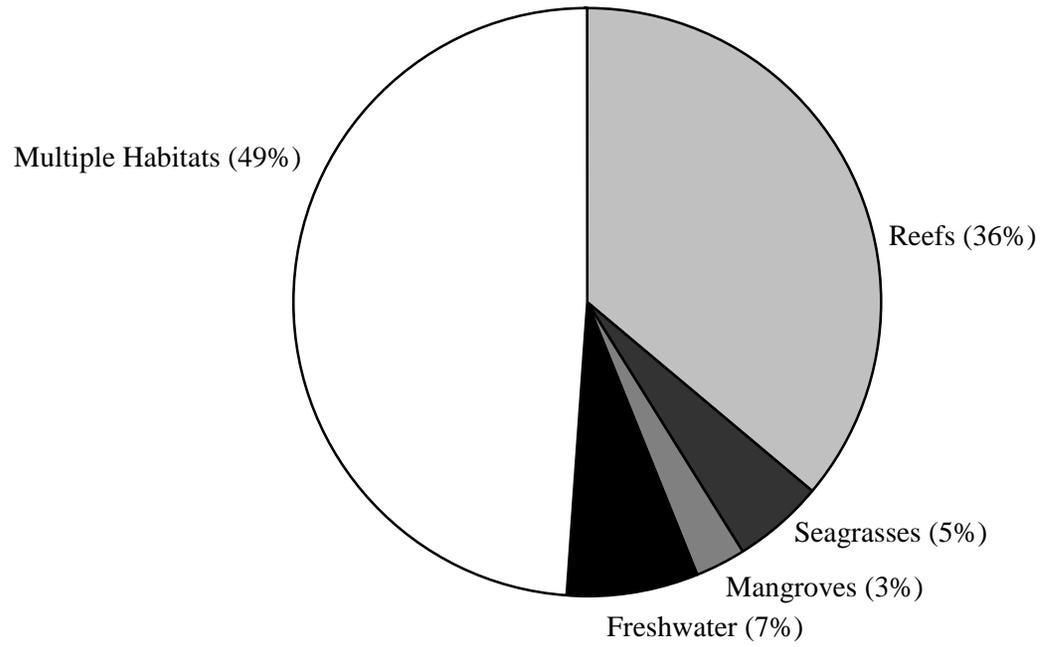


TABLE 1. SPECIES OF FISH FOUND IN WETLANDS AND REEFS OF THE U.S. CARIBBEAN

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Abudefduf saxatilis</i>	Sergeant major; Sargento; Mariquita; Isabelita; Chirivita; Pintado	Species used in aquarium trade. Like all damselfish, it can be territorial and aggressive, especially as it gets older. Adults frequently form large feeding aggregations of up to several hundred individuals.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Abudefduf taurus</i>	Night sergeant; Vieja prieta; Sargento	Minor importance in fisheries. Species used in aquarium trade. Inhabits rocky inshore reefs. Feeds mainly on algae. Marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Acanthemblemaria aspera</i>	Roughhead blenny; Blenio áspero; Vieja	Species used in aquarium trade. Almost always found in small worm holes near or on reefs, where they perch with heads extended. Darts out to grab suspended particles of food. Also feeds on amphipods and copepods.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Acanthemblemaria maria</i>	Secretary blenny; Secretaria; Vieja	Inhabits limestone slopes rather than patch reefs; slopes usually colonized with small brain corals, stinging coral, sea fans, whips, and sea urchins.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Acanthemblemaria medusa</i>	Medusa blenny; Vieja	Prefers shallow coral reefs or rocky bottoms around oceanic islands.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Acanthemblemaria spinosa</i>	Spinyhead blenny; Blenio espinoso; Vieja	On reefs inhabits small worm holes in white limestone rocks or pores in sponges, where they perch with heads out. Darts out for a split second to grab suspended particles of food.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Acanthostracion polygonius</i>	Honeycomb cowfish; Chapín; Gallina; Chapín panal	Important in fisheries. Species used in aquarium trade. Occurs in clear water around coral reefs. Feeds on sponges, tunicates, and shrimp. Uncommon.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Acanthostracion quadricornis</i>	Scrawled cowfish; Chapín; Gallina; Chapín veteado; Toro	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found in shallow water down to 80 m, mainly in seagrass beds. Feeds on sessile invertebrates and slow-moving crustaceans, sponges, hermit crabs and marine plants. Considered an excellent food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Acanthurus bahianus</i>	Ocean surgeon; Médico; Cirujano; Barbero; Médico navajón pardo	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade and occasionally as bait. Usually occurs in groups of five or more individuals. The spine on both sides of the caudal peduncle may cause painful wounds. Feeds on seagrass.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Acanthurus chirurgus</i>	Doctorfish; Médico; Barbero; Cirujano; Navajón	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Mainly diurnal. Ingests sand when feeding on algae. Also feeds on seagrass leaves. The spine on both sides of the caudal peduncle may cause painful wounds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangrove; Seagrasses
<i>Acanthurus coeruleus</i>	Blue tang; Blue tang surgeonfish; Barbero; Médico; Navajón azul	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade and occasionally as bait. Forms small groups. Feeds mainly on algae. Also feeds on seagrass leaves. The spine on both sides of the caudal peduncle may cause painful wounds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Acentronura dendritica</i>	Pipehorse; Caballito flautín	Marine and pelagic.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Achirus lineatus</i>	Lined sole; Suela listada; Lenguado	Occurs mainly in brackish or hypersaline lagoons on sandy-muddy bottoms of estuaries, and in the littoral zone. It hides itself by leaving just its eyes out. Can easily disguise itself in the environment. Its growth rate is relatively slow.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Acyrtops beryllinus</i>	Emerald clingfish; Renacuajo esmeralda	Lives only among the blades of turtle grass, <i>Thalassia</i> . Feeds on small crustaceans.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Acyrtus rubiginosus</i>	Red clingfish; Renacuajo colorado	Lives in close association with the sea urchin mainly for protection. Feeds primarily on benthic crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	Eagle ray; Spotted eagle ray; Leopard ray; Sunfish; Chucho; Ovispo	Commonly found in shallow inshore waters such as bays and coral reefs but may cross oceanic basins. Sometimes enters estuaries. Forms large schools during the non-breeding season.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef
<i>Agonostomus monticola</i>	Mountain mullet; Dajao; Lisa de río	Subsistence fisheries. Adults live in rivers and streams. Young are encountered occasionally in brackish waters. This is the only mullet that ascends far inland and spends all its adult life in freshwater.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Ahlia egmontis</i>	Key worm eel; Gusano de cayos	Inhabits seagrass beds, mangroves, and offshore reefs. Adults move to open sea to spawn.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves; Reef
<i>Albula vulpes</i>	Bonefish; Colvino; Macaco; Conejo; Piojo; Ratón; Macabí	Often forms schools, except large individuals which are solitary. Tolerates oxygen poor water by inhaling air into a lung-like airbladder. Flesh is bony and not esteemed. One of the most important game fishes worldwide.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef
<i>Alphestes afer</i>	Mutton hamlet; Coney; Hamlet; Small Grouper; Aceituna; Guaseta; Mantequilla	A solitary species found in seagrass habitats. Sedentary during the day. It hides in holes or stays among seaweed, sometimes partly covering itself with sand. Nocturnal feeder on benthic crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses
<i>Aluterus schoepfii</i>	Orange filefish; Lija; Lija naranja; Pereza	Subsistence fisheries. Usually found over bottoms with seagrass, sand, or mud. Juveniles are associated with floating Sargassum. Solitary or in pairs. Feeds on a variety of plants, including algae and seagrasses.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>	Scrawled filefish; Lija trompa; Pereza	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits lagoons and seaward reefs. Sometimes found under floating objects. Feeds on algae, seagrass, hydrozoans, gorgonians, colonial anemones, and tunicates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Amblycirrhitus pinos</i>	Redspotted hawkfish; Halconcito	Moderately common in rocky areas and among rubble. Often in holes and shallow caves. Usually lies at rest on the substrate.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Ameiurus catus</i>	White catfish; Bagre blanco; Cabezón; Barbudo blanco; Pez gato	Introduced. Gamefish. Very tolerant of brackish water. Found in mud-bottomed pools, open channels, and backwaters of small to large rivers. Also in lakes and impoundments. Its diet includes fish, aquatic invertebrates and some green matter.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Brown bullhead; Torito; Bagre pardo; Gata; Torito barbudo; Pez gato	Introduced. Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture; gamefish; shown in aquariums. Nocturnal feeder. Can tolerate high carbon dioxide and low oxygen concentrations and temperatures up to 31.6 °C. Buries itself to escape adverse conditions.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Anarchias similis</i>	Pygmy moray; Morena pigmea	Occurs from shallow, poorly developed coral reefs to deep rocky slopes.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Anarchopterus tectus</i>	Insular pipefish; Pez flauta isleño	Inhabits turtle-grass beds, usually in coves on the seaward sides of islands.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Anchoa cubana</i>	Cuban anchovy; Anchoa cubana; Bocona; Bocúa	Subsistence fisheries. Used as bait. Occurs in coastal waters, forming dense schools along beaches in water of 1 m or less.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*
<i>Anchoa filifera</i>	Longfinger anchovy; Anchoa aletilarga; Bocona; Bocúa	A schooling species occurring in coastal waters.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves
<i>Anchoa lamprotaenia</i>	Big-eye anchovy; Longnose anchovy; Anchoa ojona; Bocona; Bocúa	Subsistence fisheries. Used usually as bait. Occurs in coastal waters, forming dense schools. Feeds on zooplankton.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*
<i>Anchoa lyolepis</i>	Shortfinger anchovy; Dusky anchovy; Longnose anchovy; Bocona prieta; Bocúa	Subsistence fisheries. Usually used as bait. A schooling species occurring in coastal waters. Feeds on plankton.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Anchoa parva</i>	Anchovy; Little anchovy; Anchoa; Anchoa chica; Bocona; Bocúa	Minor importance in fisheries. Usually used as bait. A schooling species occurring in coastal waters. Enters saline lagoons and also freshwater. Feeds on plankton.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	Common freshwater eel; American eel; Common eel; Anguila	Species of interest in fisheries. Usually found in permanent streams with continuous flow. Hides during the day in undercut banks and in deep pools near logs and rocks. Migrates in the fall to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. A catadromous species.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Anisotremus surinamensis</i>	Black margate; Vieja; Pompón	Species used in fisheries. Inhabits large patch reefs and sloping rocky bottoms. Often near the shelter of caves, ledges, or wrecks. Feeds at night.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves*
<i>Anisotremus virginicus</i>	Porkfish; Atlantic porkfish; Canario; Catalineta; Cicí	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in recreational fishing. Young are popular aquarium fish. Inhabits reefs and rocky bottoms. Young pick parasites from the bodies of larger fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Antennarius multiocellatus</i>	Longlure frogfish; Martín pescador; Sapo; Pez rana	Inhabits shallow reefs. Commonly found in areas with sponges. May occur in such shallow water that it is driven ashore during storms. A voracious predator, with many color phases used for camouflage. Feeds mainly on fishes, but also crustaceans. Oviparous.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Antennarius ocellatus</i>	Ocellated frogfish; Pez rana manchado; Sapo	Subsistence fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits rocky and coral reefs. Largest species of frogfish in the western Atlantic.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Antennarius pauciradiatus</i>	Dwarf frogfish; Sapito; Pescador; Pez rana	Subsistence fisheries. Usually found near patches of reef and rock. Relatively uncommon. Smallest frogfish in the western Atlantic.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Antennarius striatus</i>	Striated frogfish; Splitlure frogfish; Pez rana rayado; Sapo; Murciélago	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits rocky and coral reefs. Also seen in mud bottoms. Observed to inflate itself greatly like the puffers. Feeds mainly on fishes. Males have more intense coloration and extended cutaneous appendages than females.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Apogon aurolineatus</i>	Bridle cardinalfish; Cardenal pardo	Most common in seagrass beds, but also occurs from the water's edge to 75 m depth. Can be observed in association with corkscrew anemones.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Apogon binotatus</i>	Barred cardinalfish; Cardenal mancha negra	Very common. Found in gravel pits and rock ledges at the sea's edge to clear-water reefs. Remains hidden in cracks and holes during the day.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Apogon evermanni</i>	Evermann's cardinalfish; Oddscale cardinalfish; Cardenal escamú	Found in deep recesses of caves in the outer reef slope. A Nocturnal species. A mouthbrooder species.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Apogon lachneri</i>	Whitestar cardinalfish; Cardenal mancha blanca	Inhabits clear coral reefs. Hides in dark recesses. Feeds in the open on reefs during the night.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Apogon maculatus</i>	Flamefish; Cardenal candela	Most common cardinalfish in the aquarium trade. A nocturnal species, it remains hidden in cracks and holes during the day. Reaches depths of more than 100 m.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Apogon maculiferus</i>	Spotted cardinalfish	A reef associated species. Found under ledges or in caves during the day. Nocturnal. Feeds on zoobenthos, crustaceans, worms, mollusks, and other invertebrates. A mouthbrooder species.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Apogon phenax</i>	Mimic cardinalfish; Mimo	Prefers coral and rocky areas with little sand. Looks very similar to <i>Apogon planifrons</i> , which occurs in the same area. This is a mouthbrooder species.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Apogon pillionatus</i>	Broadsaddle cardinalfish; Broadscale cardinal fish; Cardenal rabinegro	Occurs in coral and rocky areas with little sand. This is a mouthbrooder species.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Apogon planifrons</i>	Pale cardinalfish; Cardenal claro	Inhabits coral and rocky areas from 3-30 m, but possibly much deeper. Hides in dark recesses. Forage in open during the night.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Apogon quadrisquamatus</i>	Sawcheek cardinalfish; Cardenal rayado	Found on coral, sand, or gravel bottoms. Sometimes in association with sea anemones, which possibly provide shelter from predators. It also lives in tubular sponges.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Apogon townsendi</i>	Belted cardinalfish; Cardenal listado	Inhabits coral and rocky areas, often near drop-offs. Solitary or in groups. Found in caves or holes. Often seen hovering in the spines of long-spined urchins.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Archosargus rhomboidalis</i>	Sheepshead; Sea bream; Western Atlantic seabream; Porgy; Chopá; Chopá amarilla, Cagóna	Used in fisheries. When large they migrate from the mangroves to the reefs or algae-covered bottoms. Feeds on plant material (seagrass) and blue-green algae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Arcos macrophthalmus</i>	Padded clingfish; Tadpole clingfish; Renacuajo acojinado	Found in very shallow water along rocky shores that may be exposed to surf. May enter narrow cracks and crevices.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Astrapogon puncticulatus</i>	Blackfin cardinalfish; Cardenal aletinegro	Occurs in clear seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>) where it often inhabits empty snail shells. Caught at night or in the early hours of the morning. A mouthbrooder species.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Astrapogon stellatus</i>	Conchfish; Cardenal carruchero	Used in aquarium trade. Prefers clear waters around oceanic islands. Has a commensal relationship with the conch shell <i>Strombus gigas</i> and with the bivalve <i>Atrina rigida</i> . Emerges at night from the conch shell to feed on small crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Astronotus ocellatus</i>	Oscar; Marble cichlid; Red oscar; Velvet cichlid	Introduced. Mainly found in quiet shallow waters. Feeds on small fish, crayfish, worms and insect larvae. Occurs in mud- and sand-bottomed canals and ponds. A highly valued food fish in South America.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Atherinomorus stipes</i>	Silverside; Bighead; Hardhead silverside; Cabezón; Cabezote; Pejerrey	Potential interest in fisheries. Usually used as bait. Found over soft bottoms as well as in coral reefs. Often found in large schools.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Aulostomus maculatus</i>	Trumpetfish; Corneta; Trompetero	Commonly found in weedy areas and especially around reefs. Often swims behind large herbivorous fishes to sneak up on prey. Mouth opens to diameter of body to suck in prey.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangrove*
<i>Awaous banana</i>	River goby; Saga; Guavina	Important in fisheries. Inhabits clear and well oxygenated waters of streams and rivers over sand and gravel. Also found in turbid waters with muddy bottoms. Feeds on filamentous algae. Spawns in freshwater. Larvae develop in brackish or salt water.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Rivers
<i>Awaous tajasica</i>	River goby; Sand fish; Saga; Guavina	Found in lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. Occurs in brackish water in seasonally intermittent streams.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Bairdiella ronchus</i>	Ground croaker	Important in fisheries. Found in coastal waters, over muddy and sandy bottoms. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. Important foodfish.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Balistes capriscus</i>	Grey triggerfish; Common triggerfish; Peje puerco blanco	Important in fisheries. Used in sport fishing; shown in aquariums. Inhabits bays, harbors, lagoons, and seaward reefs. May drift among Sargassum. Solitary or in small groups. The flesh is of excellent quality.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Balistes vetula</i>	Queen triggerfish; Old wife; Puerco; Peje puerco; Cochino; Cachucho	Used in aquarium trade. May form schools, sometimes solitary. It preys on sea urchins by blowing water to overturn them and then attacking them where the spines are short. Excellent food fish but occasionally can cause intoxication due to the liver.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Bathygobius curacao</i>	Notchtongue goby; Gobio bífido; Guaseta	Found in tidepools and shore waters, including mangrove areas and sheltered seagrass beds.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Bathygobius soporator</i>	Frillfin goby; Moroncillo; Gobio; Guaseta; Mapo; Burón	The most common member of its family. Found in mangroves. Also found on mud bottom in rivers and rocky bottom in tidepools. It is more common as the water becomes less saline.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangrove; Reef; Seagrasses*

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Bodianus pulchellus</i>	Spotfin hogfish; Vieja lomonegro; Capitán negro	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in the aquarium trade. Lives in coral and rocky reefs, rarely at depths greater than 24 m. Feeds on crabs and small shellfish. Juveniles pick parasites from other fishes. Marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Bodianus rufus</i>	Spanish hogfish; Loro capitán; Pudiano; Peje perro colorado	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in the aquarium trade. Inhabits rocky or coral reefs. Feeds on brittle stars, crustaceans, mollusks, and sea urchins. Juveniles actively pick parasites from larger fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves
<i>Bothus lunatus</i>	Plate fish; Peacock flounder; Tapaculo; Lenguado lunado	Demersal marine. Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Most common flounder around coral reefs. Feeds mainly on small fishes but also on crustaceans and octopuses.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Bothus ocellatus</i>	Eyed flounder; Lenguado ocelado; Tapaculo	Minor importance in fisheries. Found in sandy areas with coral rubble or seagrasses, near patch reefs. In shallow coastal waters to depths of 110 m. Lies motionless on the bottom, moving only when frightened. Feeds on fishes, crabs, shrimps, others.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Bryx dunckeri</i>	Pugnose pipefish; Pez flauta hocicudo	An insular species commonly found in shallow turtle-grass beds.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Calamopteryx goslinei</i>	Longarm brotula; Brotula aletilarga	Uncommon species. Inhabits coral reefs and is a live-bearing species.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Calamus bajonado</i>	Jolthead porgy; Bajonado; Pluma; Caricacha	Minor importance in fisheries. Inhabits coastal waters. Occasionally found at depths of at least 200 m. Large adults are usually solitary. Feeds mainly on sea urchins, crabs, and mollusks.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Calamus calamus</i>	Saucereye porgy; Porgy; Pluma ojona	Minor importance in fisheries. Adults are frequently found in coral areas, while the young prefer vegetated (e.g. <i>Thalassia</i>) sandy bottoms. Feeds mainly on mollusks, worms, brittle stars, hermit crabs, crabs, and sea urchins. Easily approached.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Calamus penna</i>	Sheepshead porgy; Littlemouth porgy; Speckled porgy; Pez de pluma; Pluma bocona	Minor importance in fisheries. Found in reef areas over soft or semi-hard bottoms. Juveniles are encountered in seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>). Marketed fresh and frozen.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Calamus pennatula</i>	Pluma porgy; West Indian porgy; Pluma	Used in fisheries. Adults often seen over rocky areas or reefs, from flat bottoms to about 85 m depth. The young inhabit shallower waters. Feeds on crabs, mollusks, worms, brittle stars and hermit crabs. Important food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Callionymus bairdi</i>	Lancer dragonet; Dragoncito lancero	Used in the aquarium trade. Found in shallow reefs, including seagrass beds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Cantherhines macrocerus</i>	American whitespotted filefish; Whitespotted filefish; Lija motas blancas; Pereza	Used in the aquarium trade. Lives in coral reefs or rocky bottoms. Found among gorgonians (coral). Occurs in pairs. Feeds mainly on sponges, gorgonians, and algae but also eats hydroids and stinging coral.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Cantherhines pullus</i>	Orangespotted filefish; Tail-light filefish; Lija motas naranja; Pereza lija colorada; Peje puerco	Subsistence fisheries. Used in the aquarium trade. The young are an important food source in the diet of larger fishes such as tunas and billfishes. May eat seagrass leaves. Generally considered as a trashfish, rarely consumed.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Canthidermis sufflamen</i>	Ocean triggerfish; Turbot; Turco; Lija	Important in fisheries. Used in sport fishing and aquarium trade. Common near dropoffs of seaward reefs. Occasionally in shallow water. Solitary or in small groups in open water. Often associated with Sargassum. Feeds mainly on large zooplankton.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Canthigaster rostrata</i>	Sharpnose puffer; Tamboril narizón; Tambor	A common species found in coral reefs and reef flats, also in tide pools and seagrass beds. Diet consists mainly of seagrass, also feeds on sponges, crustaceans, mollusks, worms, sea urchins, starfishes, and algae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Carangoides bartholomaei</i>	Yellow jack; Guaymen; Guaymen amarillo; Cojinúa; amarilla; Chibí amarillo; Jurel amarillo	Important in fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Prefers offshore reefs and open marine waters. Juveniles often found near the shore on seagrass beds or associated with jellyfish or floating Sargassum. Feeds on small fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Carangoides ruber</i>	Bar jack; Blue runner; Skipjack; Guaymen blanco; Cojinúa blanca; Chibí; Chibí macho	Important in fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Juveniles frequent areas with algae. Usually in schools which may be spawning groups; occasionally solitary. Feeds on fishes, shrimps, and other invertebrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Caranx crysos</i>	Blue runner; Hardnose; Hardtail; Runner; Yellow mackerel; Cojinúa; Cojinuda; Crevalle; Güira; Jurel; Madregal; Medregal	Minor importance in fisheries. Gamefish; shown in aquariums. Used as bait. Found not far from the coast. Juveniles often in association with floating Sargassum. Forms schools. Feeds on fishes, shrimps, and other invertebrates. Excellent food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Caranx hippos</i>	Crevalle jack; Common jack; Green jack; Horse crevalle; Jurel	Important in fisheries. Used in sport fishing and shown in aquariums. Found in waters over the continental shelf. Ascends rivers. Juveniles abundant in brackish estuaries, near sandy beaches and on seagrass beds. Forms fast-moving schools.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves; Reef
<i>Caranx latus</i>	Horse-eye jack; Black jack; Horse-eye; Horse-eye trevally; Cajabeo; Cojobeo; Jurel; Jurel negrón; Jurel ojón; Ojobuey; Tiñosa	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Usually found in offshore reefs. Juveniles occur along shores of sandy beaches and muddy bottoms. May penetrate into brackish water and ascend rivers. Feeds on fishes, shrimps, and other invertebrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Caranx lugubris</i>	Black jack; Jurel negro; Jurel negrón	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and sport fishing. Mostly restricted to clear oceanic waters. Not commonly found in shallow banks. Seen near drop-off at outer edge of reefs. Occasionally forming schools. Feeds on fishes at night.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Carapus bermudensis</i>	Pearlfish; Atlantic pearlfish; Pez perla	Occurs in or near shallow seagrass beds. Lives in the body cavity of sea cucumbers during daytime and leaves host at night.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Carassius auratus auratus</i>	Goldfish; Carpa dorada; Pez dorado; Pez de colores	Introduced. Used in aquaculture and aquarium trade. Gamefish. Inhabits rivers, lakes, ponds and ditches with stagnant or slow-flowing water. Live better in cold water. Lay eggs on submerged vegetation. Used as experimental species. Edible but rarely eaten.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Carcharhinus acronotus</i>	Blacknose shark; Tintorera hocico prieto	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Found mainly over sandy, shell, and coral bottoms. Feeds on small fishes. Preyed on by larger sharks. Viviparous. Utilized dried salted for human consumption.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	Bull shark; Cub shark; Ground shark; Shark; Sarda	Important in fisheries. Gamefish; shown in aquariums. Coastal and freshwater shark inhabiting shallow waters especially in bays, estuaries, rivers, and lakes. Probably the most dangerous species of tropical sharks. Utilized fresh, fresh-frozen or smoked.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	Blacktip shark; Shark; Caconeta punta prieta	Important in fisheries. Gamefish. Often found off river mouths and estuaries, muddy bays, mangrove swamps, lagoons, and coral reef dropoffs. Young common along beaches. Feeds mainly on fishes, also sharks, rays, and crustaceans. Dangerous when provoked.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Carcharhinus perezii</i>	Caribbean reef shark; Reef shark; Shark; Tiburón coralino; Tintorera de arrecifes; Limón; Tintorera coralina	Important in fisheries. Usually found in reefs. A dangerous species implicated in an abortive attack on divers in the Caribbean. Meat is prepared dried salted, hides for leather, liver for oil, carcasses for fishmeal.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Centropomus ensiferus</i>	Swordspine snook; Snook; Swordfin snook; Róbalo; Róbalo machuelo; Robalete	Minor importance in fisheries. Inhabits coastal waters, estuaries, and lagoons, penetrating into freshwater. Usually prefers very low salinity water or freshwater. Feeds on small fishes, crustaceans (mainly shrimps), and plant material such as seagrass leaves.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Centropomus parallelus</i>	Fat snook; Little snook; Róbalo blanco; Róbalo	Minor importance in fisheries. Gamefish. Inhabits coastal waters, estuaries, and lagoons, penetrating into freshwater. Occasionally in hypersaline lagoons. Found over shallow soft bottoms. Feeds on fish and crustaceans. Its flesh is well appreciated.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Centropomus pectinatus</i>	Tarpon snook; Róbalo tablado; Róbalo; Róbalo constantino	Minor importance in fisheries. Lives in coastal waters, estuaries, and lagoons, penetrating into freshwater. Usually prefers very low salinity water or freshwater. Marketed fresh. Feeds on fish and crustaceans.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Centropomus undecimalis</i>	Snook; Common snook; Róbalo	Important in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and for recreational fishing. Inhabits coastal waters, estuaries, and lagoons, penetrating into freshwater. Congregates at mouths of passes and rivers during the spawning season. Feeds on crustaceans and fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses*; Freshwater wetlands; Reef
<i>Centropyge argi</i>	Cherubfish; Querubín; Ángel; Isabelita	Used in aquarium trade. Normally occurs in rubble areas. Feeds on various types of algae. Retreats into holes when frightened. It has been reared in captivity.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Cephalopholis cruentata</i>	Graysby; Cherna enjambre; Cherna; Cabrilla	Minor importance in fisheries. Lives in seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>) and coral reefs. Solitary. Nocturnal predator. Adults feed mainly on fishes; juveniles on shrimps.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Cephalopholis fulva</i>	Coney; Small grouper; Mantequilla; Cherna cabrilla; Negrita; Fino; Guativirí	Important in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Prefers coral reefs and clear water. Females mature at 16 cm length and transform to males at about 20 cm. Males are territorial. Feeds mainly on small fishes and crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses
<i>Cerdale floridana</i>	Pugjaw wormfish; Gusano quijada	Used in the aquarium trade. Reef associated species. Burrows in soft muddy and sandy bottoms in shallow waters.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Cetengraulis edentulus</i>	Anchovy; Atlantic anchoveta; Bocon; Anchoa	Minor importance in fisheries. Usually used as bait. Occurs inshore and forms large schools. Enters brackish waters of lagoons and estuaries. A filter-feeder on both phyto- and zooplankton.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves
<i>Chaenopsis limbaughi</i>	Yellowface pikeblenny	Used in aquarium trade. Live in small holes in areas of sand and coral rubble. Often forms colonies. Prefers clear water. Feeds on small crustaceans, worms, and fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Chaenopsis ocellata</i>	Bluethroat pikeblenny	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in worm tubes in seagrass beds, often in turbid inshore waters. Usually solitary. Very territorial. Occasionally found to depths of 12 m.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Chaetodipterus faber</i>	Atlantic spadefish; Angelfish; Moonfish; Spadefish; Threebanded sheephead; Threetailed porgy; Paguala; Palaguala	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture. Abundant in shallow coastal waters, from mangroves and sandy beaches to wrecks and harbors. Juveniles (black phase) are common in estuaries. Adults form large schools. May eat seagrass leaves. Good food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Chaetodon aculeatus</i>	Longsnout butterflyfish; Caribbean Longsnout butterflyfish; Poey's butterflyfish; Mariposa hocicuda	Used in aquarium trade. Most common on deep reefs. Feeds on small invertebrates. Often seen nibbling on the tube feet of sea urchins or the tentacles of tubeworms. Unlike some chaetodonts it does not pick parasites from the bodies of other fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Chaetodon capistratus</i>	Four eye butterflyfish; Katy; Mariposa; Parché	Used in aquarium trade. Found in shallow reefs. Generally occurs solitary or in pairs. Easily approached.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Chaetodon ocellatus</i>	Spotfin butterflyfish; Katy; Mariposa manchada; Parché	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in shallow coral reefs with clear water. Develops dusky bands at night. Generally common.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Chaetodon sedentarius</i>	Reef butterflyfish; Katy; Mariposa de arrecifes	Used in aquarium trade. Found in coral reefs. Often in pairs. Prefers to feed on eggs of the Sergeant major but also on polychaete worms, shrimps, amphipods, and hydroids.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Chaetodon striatus</i>	Banded butterflyfish; Mariposa rayada	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral reefs. Occurs alone or in pairs. Adults may form plankton-feeding aggregations of up to 20 individuals. Occasionally clean other reef fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Channomuraena vittata</i>	Broadbanded moray; Banded moray; Morena franjeada	Subsistence fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. A solitary species inhabiting outer reef slopes. Found under ledges and in holes of reef slopes. Has the habit of puffing its head like a cobra when approached.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Chilomycterus antennatus</i>	Bridled burrfish; Guanábano brida; Puercoespín	Occurs usually on or near coral reefs. Often found in seagrass beds. Carnivorous.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Chilomycterus antillarum</i>	Web burrfish; Guanábano escamudo; Puercoespín	Inhabits coral reefs with adjacent seagrass and rubble areas. Often found over grass beds. They reach about 25 cm long. Carnivorous.	Puerto Rico	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Chloroscombrus chrysurus</i>	Atlantic bumper; Bumper; Casave; Bagre	Important in commercial fisheries. Found over soft bottoms. Sometimes forming schools near the surface. Juveniles common in brackish estuaries and often associated with jellyfish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses*; Reef
<i>Chromis cyanea</i>	Blue chromis; Burrito; Jaqueta azul; Cromis	Used in aquarium trade. Common above deep outer reefs. Feeds in aggregations of the small zooplankton, primarily copepods. Retreats into coral crevices when frightened.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Chromis enchrysur</i>	Yellowtail reeffish; Caribbean chromis; Yellowtail chromis; Damisela de arrecifes	Lives in steep slopes and outer patch reefs. Occurs in small groups.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Chromis insolata</i>	Sunshinefish; Olive chromis; Jaqueta gris; Burrito; Cromis	Used in aquarium trade. Found in deep outer and seaward reefs. Tends to cluster in small groups close to the bottom, around a single small coral head. Becomes more abundant with depth. Feeds on plankton.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Chromis multilineata</i>	Brown chromis; Yellow-edge chromis; Jaqueta parda; Burrito; Cromis	Subsistence fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Generally found in steep slopes and patch reefs. A diurnal species. Forms moderate-sized feeding-schools over reef tops. Feeds on zooplankton.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Cichla ocellaris</i>	Peacock cichlid; Tucunaré; Tucunare; Pavón; Mamito; Payaso; Arrayado	Introduced. Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and aquarium trade. Gamefish. Forms schools. Occurs in rapids and quiet waters with medium depth and rocky substrates. High predatory habits. Reproduction occurs year-round.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Rivers
<i>Citharichthys arenaceus</i>	Sand whiff; Lenguado arenero; Tapaculo	Demersal species. Occurs in bays, lagoons and shallow coastal waters.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Citharichthys spilopterus</i>	Bay wiff; Lenguado de caletas; Tapaculo	Found in shallow muddy bottoms from the coastline to 75 m depth; also in brackish estuaries and hypersaline lagoons. Part of its diet consists on fish.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses*
<i>Clepticus parrae</i>	Creole wrasse; Doncella colilila	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in seaward reef slopes; occasionally on shallow patch reefs. Found in large aggregations feeding on plankton and other organisms.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Conger triporiceps</i>	Manytooth conger; Conger; Congre dientón; Congrio	Subsistence fisheries. Occurs mainly around islands. Benthic organism found on hard, rocky or coral bottom.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Coralliozetus cardonae</i>	Twinhorn blenny; Blenio bicornio; Vieja	Inhabits eroded limestone slopes dotted with small brain corals, sea fans, whips, sea urchins and others.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Coryphopterus alloides</i>	Barfin goby; Gobio aletirrayado; Guaseta	Lives in reef areas deeper than 12 m.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Coryphopterus dicrus</i>	Colon goby; Gobio pechiamarillo; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral reefs, tide pools, limestone caves, algae-covered rocks and isolated patch reefs surrounded by white sand.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Coryphopterus eidolon</i>	Pallid goby; Gobio pálido; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Found in reef areas deeper than 6 m.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Coryphopterus glaucofraenum</i>	Bridled goby; Gobio brida; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Found in clear white sandy areas near deep reefs and grassy and rocky areas. Also occurs in murky inshore waters. Burrows in the sand. The male guards the eggs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Coryphopterus lipernes</i>	Peppermint goby; Gobio menta; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral heads in fairly deep water. Usually solitary, but sometimes swims close to the reef in small groups.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Coryphopterus personatus</i>	Masked goby; Gobio máscara; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in schools near large coral columns and heads. Has been reared in captivity. Hovers above bottom in caves and shaded areas in reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Cosmocampus albirostris</i>	Whitenose pipefish; Pez flauta hocicoblanco	Coastal species, found in seagrass beds. A cryptic species. Avoids areas with lowered salinity.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Cosmocampus elucens</i>	Shortfin pipefish; Pez flauta aleticorto	Usually in shallow seagrass beds.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Cryptotomus roseus</i>	Bluelip parrotfish; Slender parrotfish; Loro boquiazul; Cotorro	Used in aquarium trade. Found in seagrass beds and weedy areas with sand. Feeds on seagrasses. Buries in the sand to sleep in a mucus tube.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Ctenopharyngodon idellus</i>	Grass carp; White amur; Carpa blanca	Introduced. Gamefish. Shown in aquariums. Found in lakes, ponds, pools, and backwaters of large rivers. Feeds on aquatic plants and submerged grasses. One of the world's most important aquaculture species. Used for weed control in rivers and fish ponds.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Dactylopterus volitans</i>	Flying gurnard; Helmet gurnard; Gavilán; Murciélago; Guaraguao; Volador	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing and aquarium trade. Found on sand, mud or over rocks in sandy areas, exploring the bottom with the free part of the pectoral fins. Feeds on benthic crustaceans, especially crabs, clams and small fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Dasyatis americana</i>	Southern stingray; Raya; Chucho	Important in fisheries and recreational fishing. Buries in the sand during the day and forages at night, usually in seagrass beds. Observed solitary, in pairs, and found in aggregations. Has a serrated spine capable of causing a painful laceration.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Decapterus macarellus</i>	Mackerel scad; Cigarfish; Robin; Caballa; Caballa amarilla; Caballa azul	Important in fisheries. Gamefish. Used usually as bait. Prefers clear oceanic waters (around islands). Found near the surface, but generally caught between 40 and 200 m depth. Forms schools. Feeds mainly on zooplankton. Marketed fresh and salted/dried.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Decapterus punctatus</i>	Round scad; Cigarfish; Dotted scad; Mackerel scad; Round robin; Caballa amarilla; Quía-quía	Minor importance in fisheries. Usually used as bait. A reef-associated species. Inhabits neritic waters, often near sandy beaches. Found generally near the bottom. Feeds on planktonic invertebrates. Spawns well offshore year-round.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Dermatolepis inermis</i>	Marbled grouper; Mutton hamlet; Sickelfish grouper; Boricua	Minor importance in fisheries. Usually on deep ledges and reefs. Often found in caves or deep crevices. Solitary. Darts away when approached or frightened.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Diapterus auratus</i>	Irish mojarra; Irish pompano; Silver perch; Broad shad; Mojarra plateada; Mojarra	Inhabits shallow coastal waters, especially in mangrove-lined creeks and lagoons, but also found on vegetated sand grounds in typical marine areas. Young more widespread than adults. Feeds on plant material and bottom-dwelling invertebrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Diapterus rhombeus</i>	Rhomboid mojarra; Sand mojarra; Caitipa mojarra; Mojarreta; Mojarra	Common in mangrove-lined lagoons; also found over shallow mud and sand grounds in marine areas. Juveniles common in hypersaline lagoons and in brackish water. Feeds on crustaceans, small invertebrates, and plant material (seagrass leaves).	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Diodon holocanthus</i>	Long-spine porcupinefish; Spiny puffer; Balloonfish; Guanábano moteado; Puercoespín	Used in aquarium trade. Found in shallow reefs to open soft bottoms. Often in mangrove channels. Also in areas with rocky substrata. Sometimes forms groups. A relatively poor swimmer. Feeds on mollusks, sea urchins and crabs. Used in chinese medicine.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Diodon hystrix</i>	Spot-fin porcupinefish; Porcupinefish; Spotted porcupinefish; Puercoespín; Guanábano; Erizo	Used in aquarium trade. Found in lagoons and seaward reefs to at least 50 m. Commonly seen in caves and holes in shallow reefs. A solitary and nocturnal fish that feeds on hard shelled invertebrates like sea urchins, gastropods, and hermit crabs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Diplectrum formosum</i>	Sand seabass; Sand perch; Aguavina arenera	Important in commercial fisheries. Gamefish. Inhabits bays, coastal grassy areas, and shallow banks. A reef-associated species. Solitary and retreats into shelter when frightened. Synchronously hermaphroditic.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Diplodus argenteus argenteus</i>	South American silver porgy; Silver porgy; Sargo fino; Sargo Plateado	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Occurs along open rocky coasts, usually in surfy areas. Juveniles are found in littoral pools between rocks. Individuals up to 10 cm are caught in shallow waters in sandy shores or seagrass beds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Diplodus argenteus caudimacula</i>	Silver porgy; Roundspot porgy; Sargo; Sargo fino; Sargo Plateado	Minor importance in fisheries. Found in shallow coastal waters, especially in clear water over rocky and coral bottoms. The young may form aggregations. Feeds on algae, mollusks, and crabs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Doratonotus megalepis</i>	Dwarf wrasse; Doncella enana	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in shallow beds of turtle grass (<i>Thalassia</i>). Common, but seldom noticed among the blades of seagrass.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Dormitator maculatus</i>	Fat sleeper; Mapiro; Masaguán; Moroncillo	Sometimes kept in aquariums as pets. Occurs in marshes, muddy ponds, and channels. Mostly found in fresh water but also in brackish mangrove areas. Changes its coloration during reproduction carrying out a complex mating "dance". Adults guard the nest.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands; Mangroves
<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>	American gizzard shad; Eastern gizzard shad; Gizzard shad; Hickory shad; Mud shad; Nanny shad; Skipjack; Winter shad	Introduced. Minor importance in fisheries. Used as bait. Occurs in rivers, reservoirs, lakes, and swamps. Adults are also found in brackish or saline water of estuaries or bays. Herbivorous filter feeder. Used as fertilizer and for cattle food.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Dorosoma petenense</i>	Threadfin shad; Sardina de agua dulce	Introduced. Minor importance in fisheries. Used as bait. Often forms schools. Mainly found in large rivers, reservoirs, lakes, and swamps. Adults also found in brackish or saline water of estuaries and bays. Eggs adhere to aquatic vegetation.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Echeneis naucrates</i>	Live sharksucker; Sharksucker; Pegador; Pega; Réмора	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing and aquarium trade. Most abundant remora in warm waters. Occurs near as well as far from the coast. Attaches temporarily to a variety of hosts. Juveniles occasionally act as reef station-based cleaners.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Echidna catenata</i>	Chain moray; Morena eslabonada	A benthic and solitary species found commonly on reefs and rocky shore areas. Feeds on small fishes and crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Elacatinus dilepis</i>	Orangesided goby; Gobio anaranjado; Guaseta	Occurs in coral formations surrounded by white sand. Found solitary or in pairs on small coral heads and sponges; also on rocky substrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	Rainbow runner; Salmon runner; Spanish-jack; Yellow tail; Salmón	High importance in commercial fisheries and a valued game fish. Found in oceanic and coastal waters. Generally near the surface over reefs, or sometimes far from the coast. Forms large schools. Feeds on invertebrates and small fishes. Good food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Eleotris pisonis</i>	Spinycheek sleeper; Sleeper; Morón; Moroncillo	This is a freshwater family, which extends into brackish water. Found on shallow, muddy, or sandy bottoms. Appears to prefer estuarine freshwater tributaries.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Elops saurus</i>	Ladyfish; Fiddler; Macabí; Piojo; Chiro; Malacho; Lisa francesa	Usually used for bait. Forms large schools close to the shore. Feeds mainly on crustaceans and small fishes. Spawns in the open sea. Noted for their habit of skipping along the surface of the water and for jumping after being hooked.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses*
<i>Emblemaria pandionis</i>	Sailfin blenny; Blenio vela	Used in aquarium trade. Found in areas with clear water, from rocky shores to coral reefs. Often lives in empty worm holes, coral rubble, or edges of channels where holes are available. Shy, leaves hole only for brief periods.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Emblemariopsis bahamensis</i>	Blackhead blenny; Blenio cabecinegro; Vieja	Found in small patch reefs surrounded by fine white sand.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Emblemariopsis leptocirris</i>	Smallhorn blenny; Blenio cornicorto; Vieja	Species associated with reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Emmelichthyops atlanticus</i>	Bonnetmouth; Boguita	Found in oceanic waters, sometimes over coral heads. Swims in schools to depths of 64 m. Feeds on zooplankton and small fishes.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Enchelycore nigricans</i>	Mulatto conger; Viper Moray; Morena negra; Víbora	Used in subsistence fisheries. A benthic and solitary species common on shallow reefs and along rocky shores.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Enneanectes boehlkei</i>	Roughhead triplefin; Blenio aletimoteado	Used in aquarium trade. Found in patch reefs and rocky bottoms. Often perchs on the surface of sponges or coral heads.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Enneanectes jordani</i>	Mimic triplefin; Blenio piedra	Found on rocky and coral bottoms.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Enneanectes pectoralis</i>	Redeye triplefin; Blenio ojicolorado	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in and around coral reefs and rocky shores in clear water.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Entomacrodus nigricans</i>	Pearl blenny; Blenio perlado	Used in aquarium trade. Intertidal. Found in tidepools, rocky slopes, and places where there are boulders on the bottom. Shuttles back and forth between rockpools and air. Breathes air when out of water. Feeds mainly on algae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>	Rock hind; Cabra mora	Very important in commercial fisheries. Inhabits rocky reefs. Usually solitary. Feeds mainly on crabs and fishes. Its flesh is of good quality. Marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef
<i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>	Red hind; Cabrilla; Mero cabrilla; Mero cherna; Mero colorado; Mero guajiro	High importance in fisheries. Used in recreational fishing and in aquarium trade. Found in shallow reefs and rocky bottoms. Solitary and territorial. Important in terms of numbers caught and total weight of landings in the Caribbean. Excellent food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	Goliath grouper; Jewfish; Spotted jewfish; Itajara; Guasa; Mero; Mero batata; Mero sapo; Mero guasa; Mero sapo; Judío	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Important game fish. Solitary. Occurs in shallow, inshore areas. Found on rock, coral, or mud bottoms. Juveniles found in mangrove areas and brackish estuaries. Territorial. Meat is of excellent quality.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	Red grouper; Cherna americana; Cherna de vivero; Negre; Mero guasa; Cherna; Jaboncillo	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing and shown in aquariums. Occurs mainly over rocky and muddy bottoms. Uncommon around coral reefs. Juveniles may be found in shallow water. Susceptible to red tide toxin. Marketed fresh or frozen.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>	Nassau grouper; Rockfish; Hamlet; Cherna; Cherna criolla	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in recreational fishing and in aquarium trade. Found usually close to caves. Juveniles are common in seagrass beds. Heavily fished and vulnerable to overfishing, particularly when migrating or aggregating to spawn.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Equetus acuminatus</i>	High-hat; Cubbyu; Striped drum; Verdugo rayado	Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in clear waters of tropical islands, especially near coral reefs, but also in adjacent bays over rough bottom. Also often found in seagrass beds. Has been reared in captivity.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Equetus lanceolatus</i>	Jack-knife fish; Ribbonfish; Serrana; Guapena; Verdugo	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found in bays and deep coral reefs. Juveniles sometimes inshore. Feeds mainly on small shrimps and crabs, but also on worms and mollusks.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Equetus punctatus</i>	Spotted drum; Verdugo moteado	Used in aquarium trade. Found under ledges or near small caves. Usually solitary. Feeds at night on crabs, shrimps, and polychaetes. Has been reared in captivity.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Etropus crossotus</i>	Fringed flounder; Lenguado; Lenguado listado; Tapaculo	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Found over sandy and muddy bottoms. Common in estuaries. Feeds on big benthic invertebrates and small fishes. Utilized fresh.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*
<i>Eucinostomus argenteus</i>	Silver mojarra; Spotfin mojarra; Sandflat mojarra; Mojarra blanca	One of the largest mojarras. Found over soft bottoms of bays and shallow inshore areas, often along sand beaches. Enters freshwater. Juveniles are seen in lagoons of mangroves. When large, it migrates from mangroves to sandy reef flats.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses*; Reef
<i>Eucinostomus gula</i>	Jenny mojarra; Silver jenny; Blanquilla	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Usually used as bait. Found in shallow waters, especially abundant over mud bottoms in mangrove-lined lagoons or creeks. Enters fresh water. May occur in aggregations.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses*

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Eucinostomus havana</i>	Bigeye mojarra; Mojarra ojona	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Generally found over vegetated sand grounds and over mud bottoms in mangrove areas. May form aggregations. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. Marketed fresh but not highly esteemed; processed into fishmeal.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Eucinostomus jonesii</i>	Slender mojarra; Mojarra fina	May occur in slightly deep water, and on banks that are farther offshore than those usually inhabited by <i>Eucinostomus argenteus</i> .	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Eucinostomus lefroyi</i>	Mottled mojarra; Mojarra moteada	Adults prefer sandy shores. Young are more widespread. Found in waters of high salinity.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses*; Reef
<i>Eucinostomus melanopterus</i>	Flagfin mojarra; Blackfin mojarra; Mojarra pabellón	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. A coastal species entering estuaries, coastal rivers, and lagoons. Found over sand or mud bottoms. Forages at daytime in small groups.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses*
<i>Eugerres plumieri</i>	Striped mojarra; Patao; Mojarra; Espelúa	Minor importance in fisheries. Found in shallow coastal waters. Common in brackish waters over mud bottoms in mangrove-lined creeks and lagoons. Often enters a considerable distance into freshwaters. Feeds on plant material, mollusks, and crustaceans.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>	Little tunny; Little tuna; False albacore; Little tunny; Bonito; Vaca; Albacora; Salmón	Important in commercial fisheries. Popular gamefish. Reef-associated species. Found inshore over continental and insular shelves. Swims in fast-moving compact schools. Opportunistic predator, which feeds on almost everything within its range.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Fistularia tabacaria</i>	Cornet fish; Bluespotted cornetfish; Flauta; Corneta; Trompetero	A solitary species occurring over grass flats and reefs, also over hard and rocky bottoms. Feeds on fishes, small crustaceans, or invertebrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Tiger shark; Leopard shark; Tigre; Tiburón tigre; Tintorera; Cabrón	Important in commercial fisheries. Gamefish. Found near surface to depths of 140 m. Occurs on or adjacent to continental and insular shelves, frequenting river estuaries, coral atolls, and lagoons. Omnivorous nocturnal feeder. Reported to attack humans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	Mosquitofish; Western mosquitofish; Pez mosquito; Gupi	Introduced. Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits standing to slow-flowing water. Most common in vegetated ponds and lakes, backwaters and quiet pools of streams. Effective in mosquito control. Competes with indigenous fish.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Garmannia saucra</i>	Leopard goby; Gobio leopardo; Guaseta	Found in living coral colonies. One of several small fishes that lives among the tentacles of living corals.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gerres cinereus</i>	Yellowfin mojarra; Broad mojarra; Mojarra blanca; Mojarra de casta; Muniama; Arrayado	Minor importance in fisheries. Enters brackish water, sometimes even fresh water. May occur in small aggregations. Feeds in sand patches among reefs by putting its mouth into the sediment and expelling sand from the gill openings. Feeds on crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>	Nurse shark; Cat shark; La gata; Gata	Minor importance in fisheries. Shown in aquariums. A solitary and sluggish fish, often encountered lying on the bottom. Young may be found among prop roots of red mangroves. Nocturnal. May attack humans. Edible, but mainly valued for its hide.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Gnatholepis thompsoni</i>	Goldspot goby; Gobio dorado; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Found in open sand, rock, and rubble areas. Feeds on organisms and organic material by taking sand into its mouth and expelling it through the gill openings, filtering out its food in the process.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Gobiomorus dormitor</i>	Bigmouth sleeper; Guavina; Mapiro; Zepelín	Adults occur in fresh water, often well inland. Found in large free flowing clear water streams. Lies mostly on the bottom in the slower moving part of streams, sometimes on logs or large stones and on leaf debris or gravel. Carnivorous.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Gobionellus boleosoma</i>	Darter goby; Gobio dardo; Morón; Guaseta	Occurs from brackish water (almost entering freshwater) to hypersaline litoral lagoons. Found in quiet waters of bays and estuaries, in grassy and muddy areas.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses*
<i>Gobionellus oceanicus</i>	Highfin goby; Gobio esmeralda; Setí; Guaseta	Found on shallow mud or mud-sand bottoms in turbid and generally brackish water near estuaries. One of the largest gobies found in Puerto Rican coastal waters. Capable of wide salinity ranges, but more abundant in low salinity.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Gobionellus saepepallens</i>	Dash goby; Gobio tasado; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. A reef associated species. Found in open bottoms composed of sand and fine silt. Observed to share a burrow with shrimps.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves; Reef
<i>Gobionellus stigmatophius</i>	Spotfin goby; Gobio aletimanchado; Guaseta	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found in sand and mud bottoms. Shares burrow with the alpheid shrimp.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses*
<i>Gobiosoma chancei</i>	Shortstripe goby; Yellowline goby; Gobio amarillo; Guaseta	Lives in and around sponges, especially tube sponges.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gobiosoma evelynae</i>	Sharknose goby; Gobio hocicudo; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral reefs with clear waters, preferably in oceanic, insular areas. Found in pairs near coral heads. A cleaner. Feeds on ectoparasites of fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Gobiosoma genie</i>	Cleaner goby; Cleaning goby; Gobio limpiador	Used in aquarium trade. Found on live coral. Removes ectoparasites from other fishes. Has been reared in captivity.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Gobiosoma multifasciatum</i>	Greenbanded goby; Gobio verde; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Found in tidepools in surfer areas with clear waters. Has been reared in captivity. Usually found among the spines of rock-boring sea urchins.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gobiosoma oceanops</i>	Neon goby; Gobio de neón; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral heads. Removes ectoparasites from other fishes. Has been reared in captivity.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gobiosoma prochilos</i>	Broadstripe goby; Whiteline goby; Gobio bandablanca; Guaseta	Found in groups near coral heads. Cleaner fish. Sometimes found on the outer surface of sponges, but not inside. Has been reared in captivity. Feeds on zoobenthos, benthic crustaceans, and other invertebrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gobiosoma randalli</i>	Yellownose goby; Gobio cariamarillo; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in groups near coral heads. Picks external parasites found on other fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gobiosoma spes</i>	Vermiculated goby; Gobio franjeado; Guaseta	Found on muddy bottoms of brackish or nearly fresh waters.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses*
<i>Gramma linki</i>	Yellowlined basslet; Yellowcheek basslet; Chernita raya amarilla	Used in aquarium trade. Found in steep outer reefs. Prefers deep walls and becomes more abundant with depth, except in the eastern Caribbean where they are found at shallower depths.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Gramma loreto</i>	Royal gramma; Fairy basslet; Purple and gold basslet; Gramma; Chernita bicolor	Often found in caves or under ledges. Swims with belly toward substratum, so under ledges seems to be upside down. Feeds on ectoparasites of other fishes. Males show various types of nest care behaviour. Has been reared in captivity.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Grammonus claudei</i>	Reef-cave brotula	Uncommon species. Known only from caverns in coral reefs and rocky shores.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Guavina guavina</i>	Guavina sleeper; Guavina; Cetí; Guavina morón	Found over muddy bottoms, generally in brackish waters of estuaries. Also occurs in fresh water and hypersaline environments. Pollution from sugar mills has reduced this specie's populations from Puerto Rican rivers.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Gymnothorax funebris</i>	Green moray; Black moray; Green congo; Morena verde; Congre	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. A benthic and solitary species. Due to its large size and aggressiveness, the bites of this moray are particularly dangerous. Feeds mainly at night on fish and crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Gymnothorax miliaris</i>	Goldentail moray; Conger moray; Morena colidorada	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. A benthic and solitary species living in coral reefs and rocky shorelines. Usually at depths of 60 m. Active during the day and sometimes hunting with other predators.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Gymnothorax moringa</i>	Spotted moray; Common spotted moray; Hamlet; Morena moteada; Morena pintada; Congo	A benthic and solitary species. Abundant in shallow rocky and grassy areas, and coral reefs. Its bite is very dangerous. Active during the day. Usually seen with its head protruding from a hole and the rest of its body hidden.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Gymnothorax ocellatus</i>	Caribbean ocellated moray; Moray eel; Ocellated moray; Spotted moray; Chafiro; Morena de charcos	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. A solitary species often found on deep soft bottom areas and banks, rarely on coral reefs. Also seen in estuaries and lagoons. Feeds mainly on crustaceans.	Puerto Rico	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Gymnothorax vicinus</i>	Purplemouth moray; Morena boquilila	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Lives in rocky shores and reefs where water is clear. A benthic and solitary species. Most active at night. May cause serious wounds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef
<i>Haemulon album</i>	White margate; White grunt; Margaret grunt; Margate; Jallao; Viuda; Sama blanca; Viejo blanco; Vallao; Vieja; Jallao	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in recreational fishing and shown in aquariums. Found in seagrass beds, sand flats, coral reefs, and wrecks. Occurs in pairs or larger schools.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Haemulon aurolineatum</i>	Tomtate grunt; Caesar; Redmouth grunt; Tomtate; Mulita; Mula; Jeniguana	Found in seagrass beds, sand flats, and patch reefs. Forms schools. Feeds on small crustaceans, mollusks, plankton, algae and other organisms.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Haemulon bonariense</i>	Black grunt; Ronco prieto; Arrayado	Important in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Occurs in shallow areas, over mud to sand-mud bottoms. Found in a variety of habitats such as coral reefs, beds of algae, or seagrass.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Haemulon carbonarium</i>	Caesar grunt; Black grunt; Blacktail grunt; Carbonero	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Occurs in clear rocky or coral reefs and mangroves. Often forming schools. Nocturnal feeder.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Haemulon chrysargyreum</i>	Smallmouth grunt; Bronze grunt; Yellowstripe grunt; Cici; Saboga; Corocoro; Coñuíto	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Used as bait. Juveniles are seen in seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>). Adults are observed in coral reefs during the day but enter open waters at night to feed. Commonly found in schools.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves*
<i>Haemulon flavolineatum</i>	French grunt; Open mouthed-grunt; Yellow grunt; Condenado; Cachicata	Important in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Usually used as bait. Occurs in large schools on rocky and coral reefs. Juveniles abundant in nearshore seagrass beds. Feeds mainly on small crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Haemulon macrostoma</i>	Spanish grunt; Gray grunt; Sow grunt; Striped grunt; Colombiano; Muniama; Corocoro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Inhabits clear reefs. Forms dense schools. Feeds on crustaceans and sea urchins.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Haemulon melanurum</i>	Cottonwick grunt; Cottonwick; French margate fish; Jeniguana; Jeniagua	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Inhabits clear inshore and offshore reefs and adjacent grass beds. Often in schools. Feeds on crustaceans. Marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Haemulon parra</i>	Sailor's grunt; Bastard margaret; Sailor's choice; Ronco; Roncador; Arrayado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Inhabits shallow coastal reefs; the young on seagrass beds, adults in schools in relatively open areas. Feeds at night on mollusks and small fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves*

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Haemulon plumieri</i>	Grunt; White grunt; Bococolorado; Boquicolorao; Cachicata; Cici; Bariblanca; Arará; Ronco-ronco	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Used in recreational fishing. Found in dense aggregations during the day on patch reefs or sandy bottoms. Juveniles are common in seagrass beds. Frequently exhibits a territorial 'kissing' display.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Haemulon sciurus</i>	Blue striped grunt; Boar grunt; Golden grunt; Humpback grunt; Yellow grunt; Ronco amarillo; Cachicata; Boquicolorado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Found in small groups over coral and rocky reefs and dropoffs. Juveniles are abundant in seagrass beds. Feeds on crustaceans, bivalves, and occasionally on small fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Haemulon striatum</i>	Striped grunt; Ronco listado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Occurs along exposed outer or deeper reefs. Found on semi-hard substrates. Feeds mainly on plankton but also eats small crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Halichoeres bivittatus</i>	Slippery dick; Doncella rayada	Used in aquarium trade. Commonly found in rocky and reef areas in shallow waters. Less common in seagrass beds. Feeds on other fishes and gastropods. May feed on seagrass leaves.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Halichoeres caudalis</i>	Painted wrasse; Doncella pintada	A reef associated species. Found in deep seaward reefs. Generally of no interest to fisheries because of its small average size.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Halichoeres cyanocephalus</i>	Yellowcheek wrasse; Doncella amarilla	Used in sport fishing and aquarium trade. Found over hard substrates. Juveniles up to 8 cm act as specialized cleaners. At the cleaning station this wrasse swims in a characteristic seesaw motion.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Halichoeres garnoti</i>	Yellowhead wrasse; Doncella cabeciamarilla	Used in aquarium trade. Commonly found on shallow and deep reefs and exposed rocky ledges. Feeds on various invertebrates. Constantly on the move.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Halichoeres maculipinna</i>	Clown wrasse; Doncella payasa	Used in aquarium trade. Abundant on reef tops and in shallow rocky areas. Found to depths of at least 25 m. Also found in Sargassum beds. Solitary.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Halichoeres pictus</i>	Rainbow wrasse; Painted wrasse; Doncella arcoiris	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits coral reefs, normally high above the bottom. Swims with worm-like movements. Feeds on various invertebrates. Generally of no interest to fisheries because of its small average size.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Halichoeres poeyi</i>	Blackear wrasse; Capitán; Cotorro pequeño; Cotorro falso; Capitán de piedra; Doncella orejinegra	Used in aquarium trade. Commonly found in seagrass beds; uncommon on reefs or muddy bays. Generally of no interest to fisheries because of its small average size.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Halichoeres radiatus</i>	Puddingwife wrasse; Puddingwife; Capitán de piedras	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Adults found on shallow patch reefs or seaward reefs down to 55 m. Juveniles and subadults in shallower coral reefs. Feeds on mollusks, sea urchins, crustaceans, and brittle stars. Marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves*
<i>Harengula clupeiola</i>	False herring; Blackbill sprat; False pilchard; Cascarúa; Escamúa	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Usually used as bait. Occurs in coastal waters, estuaries, and lagoons. Small individuals often along sandy beaches. Tolerates a broad range of salinity. Forms schools. Its flesh has an unpleasant odor.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef, Seagrasses*
<i>Harengula humeralis</i>	Redear herring; Cuvier, Herring; Redear pilchard; Redear sardine; Yellowbill sprat; Machuelo; Sardina de ley	Of potential interest for fisheries. Usually used as bait. Occurs in coastal waters along the shoreline and over clear coral reefs. May form large schools in beaches, mainly over seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>). Often in polluted areas. May feed on seagrass.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Harengula jaguana</i>	Scaled herring; Pilchard; Scaled sardine; Sardina escamúa; Cascarúa	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Occurs in coastal waters, over mud and sand bottoms, and frequently near brackish or hypersaline estuaries. Forms schools. Marketed fresh or canned.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Hemiramphus balao</i>	Balao halfbeak; Balao; Balajú agujón	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Usually used as bait. An inshore surface-dwelling fish. Forms sizeable schools. Feeds on small fishes and plankton. Mainly used as bait for offshore gamefishing.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses*
<i>Hemiramphus brasiliensis</i>	Ballyhoo; Halfbeak; Redtailed balao; Balajú; Balao; Escribano	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used usually as bait. An inshore, surface-dwelling species. Forms sizeable schools. Feeds mainly on seagrasses and small fishes. Mainly used as bait for offshore gamefishing.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Heteroconger longissimus</i>	Brown garden eel; Garden eel; Congre jardinero; Congrio	Found on sandy bottom, living in colonies. Feeds on plankton and detritus. Retreats into its burrow when frightened.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Heteropriacanthus cruentatus</i>	Glasseye; Glasseye snapper; Bigeye; Catalufa; Toro; Payaso; Cómicó; Ojón; Ojudo; Ojobuey	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Common in lagoon and seaward reefs, primarily around islands. Nocturnal. During the day usually occurs solitary or in small groups but at dusk it may gather in large numbers. Known to produce sound.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Hippocampus erectus</i>	Lined seahorse; Northern seahorse; Spotted seahorse; Caballito rayado	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Usually attached to gorgonians (coral) or seagrasses but may occur in floating Sargassum or swimming freely in midwater. Move into deeper waters during winter. Feeds by sucking in small organisms.	Puerto Rico	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Hippocampus reidi</i>	Longsnout seahorse; Slender sea horse; Caballito hocicudo	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Uncommon in most areas, but may be locally common in certain places. Usually attached to gorgonians or seagrasses but may occur in floating Sargassum or swimming freely in midwater. Has been reared in captivity.	Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves*
<i>Holocanthus ciliaris</i>	Queen angelfish; Blue angelfish; Golden angelfish; Yellow angelfish; Isabelita; Ángel reina; Mariposa	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Generally solitary or in pairs. Feeds almost exclusively on sponges. Young pick ectoparasites from other fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Holacanthus tricolor</i>	Rock beauty; Isabelita medioluto; Palometa; Catalineta; Vaqueta dos colores	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found in rocky reefs and rich coral areas. Juveniles often associated with fire corals.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Holocentrus adscensionis</i>	Squirrelfish; Longjaw squirrelfish; Wenchman; Gallo; Candil; Chillo de roca; Candilero	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Occurs in shallow coral reefs and deeper offshore waters. Nocturnal. It hides in deep crevices or under coral ledges during the day. Capable of producing sounds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Holocentrus coruscus</i>	Reef squirrelfish; Wenchman; Gallo de arrecifes	Found in sandy, rocky, and coral bottoms. More common on seaward reefs than on protected reefs. Nocturnal. Found deep in crevices between branches of live corals.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Holocentrus rufus</i>	Longspine squirrelfish; Gallo; Candil; Chillo de roca	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Nocturnal. Found near mouths of caves and holes. At night they usually move to sandy areas and grass beds to feed on crabs, shrimps, gastropods, and brittle stars.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Hypleurochilus bermudensis</i>	Barred blenny; Oyster blenny; Blenio de ostras	Lives in a wide range of habitats, from rocky inshore areas and shallow coral gardens to reefs of moderate depth well offshore. Also found in areas of gravel and rubble or large stands of fire coral.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Hypleurochilus springeri</i>	Orangespotted blenny; Blenio anaranjado	Occurs in rocky areas along quiet shores, usually in less than 3 m depth. Feeds on worms, crustaceans, and filamentous algae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Hypoatherina harringtonensis</i>	Reef silverside; Cabezón de arrecifes; Pejerrey	Found on coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton. Occurs in large schools in shallow waters.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses*
<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	Silver carp	Introduced. Important in fisheries. Used in aquaculture. Requires standing or slow-flowing conditions such as impoundments or backwaters of large rivers. Feeds on phytoplankton and microzooplankton. Used to clean reservoirs and other waters of clogging algae.	Puerto Rico	Rivers

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Hypoplectrus aberrans</i>	Yellowbelly hamlet; Yellowbellied hamlet; Vaca	A solitary species found in rocky and coral reefs. Feeds on crustaceans (especially shrimps).	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Hypoplectrus chlorurus</i>	Yellowtail hamlet; Vaca	A solitary species found near the bottom of coral rich areas. Feeds on crustaceans and fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Hypoplectrus gummigutta</i>	Golden hamlet; Vaca	Important in commercial fisheries. Previously known from deep reefs but has been found in shallow waters (1-8 m). Territorial.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Hypoplectrus guttavarius</i>	Shy hamlet; Vaca	Used in aquarium trade. A solitary species found in rocky or coral reefs. Travels in pairs and remains close to the bottom.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Hypoplectrus indigo</i>	Indigo hamlet; Vaca	Used in aquarium trade. A solitary species found in coral reefs. Swims near the bottom.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Hypoplectrus nigricans</i>	Black hamlet; Vaca	Used in aquarium trade. A solitary species occurring in shallow reefs. Often found near the bottom around soft and hard corals. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Hypoplectrus puella</i>	Barred hamlet; Vaca	Used in aquarium trade. A solitary species found in rocky and coral reefs. Swims near the bottom. Always seen near cover. It is distributed along a wide depth gradient.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Hypoplectrus unicolor</i>	Butter hamlet; Vaca	Used in aquarium trade. Found swimming around reefs, near the bottom. Mainly carnivorous. Has been reared in captivity.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves*; Seagrasses*
<i>Hyporhamphus unifasciatus</i>	Common halfbeak; Halfbeak; Ballyhoo; Silverstriped halfbeak; Balao; Pico fósforo	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Usually used as bait. An inshore, surface-dwelling species frequently entering estuaries. Forms sizeable schools. Uncommon over reefs. Its diet includes seagrass leaves.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Reefs; Seagrasses*
<i>Ichthyapus ophioneus</i>	Surf eel; Finless snake eel; Tieso de marullos	A reef associated species. Burrows in sand in surf areas.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	Channel catfish; Graceful catfish; Barbudo de canal; Bagre de canal; Lisa; Barbudo moteado; Pez gato	Introduced. High importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and in aquarium trade. Gamefish. Lives in rivers and streams; prefers clean, well oxygenated water. Also seen in ponds and reservoirs. Feeds on small fish, crustaceans, clams, and snails.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Inermia vittata</i>	Boga	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used occasionally as bait. Occurs in open water. Sometimes found near the coast, mainly near oceanic islands. Sometimes found over coral heads. Feeds on zooplankton and small fishes.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Jenkinsia lamprotaenia</i>	Dwarf round herring; Blue fry; Dwarf herring; Small herring; Sweethead fry; Mijúa; Minjúa	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Usually used as bait. Often found inshore. Forms schools. Feeds on zooplankton. Preyed upon by many larger fishes and squids.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*; Mangroves*; Reef
<i>Joturus pichardi</i>	Bobo mullet; Hog mullet; Lisa morón	Subsistence fisheries. Adults inhabit upper reaches of rivers but enter brackish waters where spawning probably occurs. Herbivorous; scrapes algae from stones on the bottom with its fleshy lips. Sometimes eats prawns. Important food fish in some areas.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands; Mangroves
<i>Kaupichthys hyoprroides</i>	False moray; Anguila morena	A benthic and solitary species found in and around coral reefs and rocky shores.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Kaupichthys nuchalis</i>	Collared eel; Anguila collarina	A benthic and solitary species occurring in and around coral reefs. Sometimes lives in tubular sponges, which may be its primary habitat.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Kyphosus incisor</i>	Yellow sea chub; Chub; Yellow chub; Chopá amarilla	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Found in shallow waters, mainly over rocky bottoms in coral reef areas. Also among floating Sargassum weeds. Feeds on algae including Sargassum, and some seagrass material. Marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Kyphosus sectator</i>	Bermuda sea chub; Bermuda chub; Rudderfish; Chopá blanca	Minor importance in fisheries. Sport fishing. Shown in aquariums. Lives in shallow waters, over turtle grass, sand or rocky bottoms and around coral reefs. Young commonly found among floating Sargassum weeds. Feeds on plants, small crabs, and mollusks.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Labrisomus bucciferus</i>	Puffcheek blenny; Blenio caretón; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Occurs from rocky and rubble shores with algal mats to reefs and seagrass beds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Labrisomus filamentosus</i>	Quillfin blenny; Filamentous blenny; Blenio filamentoso; Vieja	Inhabits mid-depth coral reefs with abundant algae. Rests on pectoral and dorsal fins, blending with surroundings. May be easily approached.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Labrisomus gobio</i>	Palehead blenny; Blenio pálido; Vieja	Occurs from rocky and rubble shores with algal mats to reefs and seagrass beds. Remains quietly on the bottom, blending with the surroundings.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Labrisomus guppyi</i>	Mimic blenny; Blenio mimo; Vieja	Found in rocky and rubble shores with algal mats, reefs, and seagrass beds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Labrisomus haitiensis</i>	Longfin blenny; Blenio de arrecifes; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Found from rocky and rubble shores with algal mats to reefs and seagrass beds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Labrisomus nigricinctus</i>	Spotcheek blenny; Blenio mancha negra; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Found in shallow rocky or coral bottoms with clear water. Most abundant in water shallower than 4 m. Seeks refuge under rocks, rubble and sea urchins.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Labrisomus nuchipinnis</i>	Hairy blenny; Blenio peludo; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in rocky and rubble shores with algal mats, reefs, and seagrass beds. Generally at depths of a few cm. This species is the largest of the labrisomids in the Caribbean region. Feeds mainly on crustaceans and gastropods.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i>	Hogfish; Capitán; Doncella de pluma; Peje perro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing and in aquarium trade. Found over open bottoms or coral reef areas. Feeds mainly on mollusks, also eats crabs and sea urchins. Flesh highly esteemed; marketed fresh and frozen.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses
<i>Lactophrys bicaudalis</i>	Spotted trunkfish; Chapín; Gallina; Chapín moteado	Used in aquarium trade. Found in clear water around coral reefs. Sometimes under ledges and near small holes. Feeds on a variety of small bottom invertebrates, and some seagrass material. When excited releases toxins that can kill other fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Lactophrys polygonius</i>	Honeycomb cowfish; Chapín; Gallina; Chapín panal	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in clear water around coral reefs. Feeds on sponges, shrimps, and other invertebrates. Uncommon. Consumed fresh, generally roasted.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Lactophrys trigonus</i>	Buffalo trunkfish; Trunkfish; Chapín; Gallina	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found in seagrass beds, coral rubble areas, and offshore reefs. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates and some seagrass leaves. Highly esteemed food fish in the Caribbean.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Lactophrys triqueter</i>	Smooth trunkfish; Chapín; Gallina; Chapín liso	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Solitary or in small groups. Feeds on a variety of small bottom invertebrates, which it exposes by using a jet of water ejected through its mouth. Toxins released when excited can kill other fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves*; Seagrasses
<i>Lasiancistrus guacharote</i>		A freshwater species. Often found in flowing water of small creeks to small rivers. Demersal.	Puerto Rico	Rivers

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Redbreast sunfish; Chopá de pecho colorado; Chopá pechicolorado	Introduced. Gamefish and used in aquarium trade. Found in rocky and sandy pools of creeks and small to medium rivers. Also found in rocky and vegetated lake margins. Considered a potential pest.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands; Rivers
<i>Lepomis gulosus</i>	Warmouth; Chopá negra; Chopá prieta	Introduced. Used in aquaculture and recreational fishing. Usually found over mud in vegetated lakes, ponds, swamps, and quiet water areas of streams.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Bluegill; Chopá; Chopá criolla	Introduced. Used in aquaculture, sport fishing, and in the aquarium trade. Often found in lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and sluggish streams. Active mainly during dusk and dawn. Feeds upon snails, small crayfish, insects, worms, and small minnows.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Redear sunfish; Chopá; Chopá caracolera	Introduced. Used in recreational fishing. Lives in ponds, swamps, and lakes. Also found in vegetated pools with mud or sand bottoms of small to medium rivers. Also occurs in warm, clear and quiet waters rich in vegetation and branches. Feeds on mollusks.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Liopropoma carmabi</i>	Candy basslet; Candy bass; Guaseta listada; Merito dulce	Found in deep coral reefs. Remains hidden in deep, dark recesses. Rarely shallower than 24 m.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Liopropoma mowbrayi</i>	Cave bass; Guaseta jorobada	A solitary species living in deep rocky and reef areas. Stay hidden in caves, deep undercuts and dark recesses in reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Liopropoma rubre</i>	Peppermint bass; Swissguard basslet; Guaseta menta	Important in commercial fisheries. A solitary species found in deep holes of coral reefs. Common, but rarely seen.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Lipogramma trilineatum</i>	Threeline basslet; Chernita trirrayada	Found beneath rocky and coral ledges. Also found in deep reefs.	Puerto Rico	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Liposarcus multiradiatus</i>	Sailfin catfish; Radiated ptero; Sailfish catfish	Introduced. Used in aquarium trade. Found in streams and lakes, and in weedy mud-bottomed canals. Nocturnal. Feeds on algae, worms, insect larvae, and other bottom-dwelling aquatic organisms.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Lophogobius cyprinoides</i>	Crested goby; Gobio crestado; Guaseta	Found in tidal creeks, mangroves, and other quiet fresh to fully saline coastal waters.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Lucayablennius zingaro</i>	Arrow blenny; Blenio puya; Vieja	Lives in coral reefs. Drifts with its tail bent to prey on small fish. Retreats into holes or empty worm tubes. Often seen with schools of masked gobies.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Lutjanus analis</i>	Mutton snapper; Mutton fish; Pargo; Pargo criollo; Sama; Pargo cebadal	High importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Occurs in continental shelf areas and clear waters around islands. Adults found among rocks and corals; juveniles over sandy, vegetated bottoms. Feeds both day and night. Flesh considered good quality.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Lutjanus apodus</i>	Schoolmaster snapper; Schoolmaster; Cají; Cajisote; Pargo amarillo; Pargo rubio	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in shallow, clear, warm coastal waters over coral reefs. Juveniles are found over sand bottoms with or without seagrasses, and over muddy bottoms of lagoons or mangroves. Feeds mainly on crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>	Cubera snapper; Cuban snapper; Guacinuco; Pargo cubera; Pargo mulato; Cubera; Pargo guacinuco	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Adults are found mainly around ledges over rocky bottoms or around reefs. Young sometimes inhabit mangrove areas. Feeds mainly on fishes, shrimps, and crabs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	Gray snapper; Mangrove snapper; Red snapper; Pargo prieto; Pargo gris; Pargo mulato; Pargo de mangle; Caballerote	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing and aquarium trade. Inhabits coastal and offshore waters. Sometimes in lower reaches of rivers (especially the young). Forms large aggregations. Feeds during the night, mainly on crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Lutjanus jocu</i>	Dog snapper; Dogtoothed snapper; Pargo rubio; Pargo colorado; Pargo sama; Pargo dientón; Jocú	Important in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Adults are common around rocky or coral reefs. Young are found in estuaries and occasionally entering rivers. Feeds mainly on crustaceans (shrimps, crabs), and fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Lutjanus mahogoni</i>	Mahogany snapper; Rayado de yerba; Arrayado de yerbas; Pargo ojón; Ojanco	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in recreational fishing. Found in clear shallow waters over rocky bottoms near coral reefs, less frequently in sandy or seagrass areas. Forms large aggregations during the day. Feeds at night.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	Lane snapper; Mexican snapper; Rayado; Redtailed snapper; Spot snapper; Manchego; Arrayado; Mancheva; Pargo guanapo	Important in commercial fisheries. Sport fishing; shown in aquariums. Found over all types of bottom, but mainly around coral reefs and vegetated sandy areas. Forms large aggregations, especially during the breeding season. Feeds at night. Good food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>	Silk snapper; Chillo; Vermeille; Vivaneau; Pargo colorado; Pargo de lo alto	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Common near the edge of the continental and island shelves. Also found in deeper waters, usually ascending to shallow water at night. Marketed fresh. Said to be a good food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Lythrypnus crocodilus</i>	Mahogany goby; Crocodile goby; Gobio caimán; Guaseta		Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Lythrypnus nesiotus</i>	Island goby; Gobio isleño; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral or rocky habitats.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Lythrypnus spilus</i>	Bluegold goby; Gobio azuldorado; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral reefs.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Malacanthus plumieri</i>	Sand tilefish; Sandfish; Jolocho; Jorocho; Matajuelo blanco	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Primarily a shallow-water benthic species found on sand and rubble bottoms. Builds mounds of rubble and shell fragments near reefs and grass beds. Tends to bite when handled.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Malacoctenus aurolineatus</i>	Goldline blenny; Blenio banda dorada; Vieja	Inhabit clear, shallow water from tidepools to grass beds and reefs; often in eroded limestone areas inhabited by rock-boring urchins. Usually near sea urchins.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Malacoctenus boehlkei</i>	Diamond blenny; Blenio de cristal; Vieja	Inhabit patch reefs or other deeper water coral formations. Live in association with giant anemones (<i>Condylactis gigantea</i>). Often finds refuge in the tentacles when threatened.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Malacoctenus delalandei</i>	Brazilian blenny; Blenio brasileño; Vieja	Generally found on sandy bottoms and seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>). Feeds mainly on crustaceans but also on gastropods and worms.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Malacoctenus erdmani</i>	Imitator blenny; Blenio imitador; Vieja	Found in surfaces of rocks, in depressions, and among clumps of algae, among broken coral debris and rocks in only a few feet of water.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Malacoctenus gilli</i>	Dusky blenny; Blenio oscuro; Vieja	Found in sandy bottoms with rocks or boulders, seagrass beds, and patch reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Malacoctenus macropus</i>	Rosy blenny; Blenio rosado; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in a wide variety of shoreline habitats and patch reefs. Found in sponge beds in shallow waters and grassy areas.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Malacoctenus triangulatus</i>	Saddled blenny; Blenio dorsomanchado; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits coral reefs and rocky shores. Often found in crevices, or among weed and rubble. Feeds on crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Malacoctenus versicolor</i>	Barfin blenny; Blenio aletimanchado; Vieja	Lives in shallow sandy and rocky areas of coral reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Manta birostris</i>	Giant manta; Manta ray; Atlantic manta; Devilfish; Giant devil ray; Manta; Mantarraya	Common in nearshore waters, near coral and rocky reefs; sometimes found over deep water. Penetrates shallow muddy bays and the intertidal zone. Also occurs off river mouths. Found solitary or in loose aggregations. This is the world's largest ray.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Megalops atlanticus</i>	Tarpon; Silverfish; Silverking; Sábalo; Tarpón; Sábalo real	Important in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and shown in aquariums. Sport fishing. Often found in river mouths and bays, entering fresh waters. Able to live in hot, saline or fresh, de-oxygenated waters. Feeds on insects and crustaceans (surface feeding).	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Melichthys niger</i>	Black triggerfish; Black durgon; Pigger; Japonesa; Tobi; Galafate; Galafate negro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found in clear seaward reefs. More common around oceanic islands. Feeds mainly on algae and zooplankton; also feeds on phytoplankton and seagrass leaves.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Microdesmus luscus</i>	Blind wormfish; Gusano ciego	A species associated with rock or coral reef habitat.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Micrognathus crinitus</i>	Banded pipefish; Harlequin pipefish; Pez flauta rayado	Found in pockets of coral rubble (low coral growth on white sand bottom), usually in the vicinity of sea fans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Microgobius carri</i>	Seminole goby; Gobio rayamarillo; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Burrows in the bottom of open stretches of coarse sand, usually at depths between 6-21 m. Often found floating over the burrow.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Microgobius meeki</i>	Mangrove goby; Gobio de mangles; Guaseta	Found in shallow, mud-bottom mangrove areas. Survives in hypersaline waters. Feeds on zoobenthos and benthic crustaceans.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Micropogonias furnieri</i>	Whitemouth croaker; Croaker; Hardhead; Burro; Corvina boquiblanca; Verrugato; Corvino	High importance in commercial fisheries. Found over muddy and sandy bottoms in coastal waters, and in estuaries where the nursery and feeding grounds are located. Forms schools. Undergoes seasonal migration. Feeds on crustaceans and plant fragments.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves
<i>Micropogonias undulatus</i>	Atlantic croaker; Hardhead; Corvina; Roncadina; Corvina ondulada; Corvino	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Occurs usually over mud and sandy mud bottoms in coastal waters, and in estuaries where nursery and feeding grounds are located. Feeds mainly on worms, crustaceans, and fishes. Excellent food fish.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Micropterus coosae</i>	Redeye bass; Lobina ojicolorada	Gamefish. Inhabits rocky runs, pools of creeks, and small to medium rivers. Juveniles occur in shallow runs and riffles over sand and gravel river bottoms. Feeds on aquatic insects, crayfishes, and small fishes.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Largemouth bass; Green trout; Lobina	Introduced. Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquaculture, sport fishing. Shown in aquariums. Inhabits clear, vegetated lakes, ponds, and swamps. Also in backwaters and pools of creeks and rivers. Sometimes cannibalistic. Excellent food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Microspathodon chrysurus</i>	Yellowtail damselfish; Jewelfish; Damisela coliamarilla	Subsistence fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found in very shallow waters of coral reefs. Territorial. Feeds primarily on algae. Juveniles occasionally pick parasites from other species of fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Monacanthus ciliatus</i>	Fringed filefish; Lija ribeteada; Pereza; Peje puerco	Subsistence fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Occurs over sandy and rocky bottoms, but more often in seagrass beds. Young are often associated with floating Sargassum. Feeds on plants (seagrass), algae, and small crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Monacanthus setifer</i>	Pygmy filefish; Speckled filefish; Lija pigmea; Pereza	Subsistence fisheries. More common in offshore areas, around floating seaweed and islands. Juveniles are associated with floating seaweeds. Feeds on plants and small invertebrates. Generally considered as trashfish, rarely consumed.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Monacanthus tuckeri</i>	Slender filefish; Lija delgada; Pereza	Found over sandy and rocky bottoms. Drifts among gorgonians (a type of coral). Feeds on algae and invertebrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Moringua edwardsi</i>	Spaghetti eel; Anguila fidefillo	Young and females burrow in sandy tidepools and reef areas. Males inhabit deeper waters. Feeds on burrowing invertebrates that live in the sand.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	Flathead mullet; Black mullet; Callifaver mullet; Common mullet; Grey mullet; Striped mullet; Lisa rayada	High importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquaculture, sport fishing and aquarium trade. Enters estuaries and rivers. Usually in schools over sand or mud bottom and dense vegetation. Adults inhabit fresh waters. Reproduction occurs in the sea.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Mugil curema</i>	White mullet; Silver mullet; Jarea; Lisa criolla; Lisa blanca; Cramo; Josea	Commercially valuable species in Puerto Rico. Used in aquaculture. Occurs in sandy coasts, littoral pools, and muddy bottoms of brackish lagoons and estuaries. Lives within a wide range of salinity, temperature and oxygen levels. Feeds on plant material.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Mugil gyrans</i>	Fantail mullet; Mullet; Lisa abanico	Occurs in coastal waters, brackish water lagoons, and the lower reaches of rivers (sometimes in freshwater). Prefers clearer-water shallows than other mullets. Juveniles occur inshore. Feeds on algae, small crustaceans, and detritus.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Mugil liza</i>	Striped mullet; Liza; Lisa; Lisa macho; Lebranche; Lebranco	Important in fisheries. Used in aquaculture. Inhabits coastal marine waters and brackish estuaries. Also found in hypersaline lagoons. May enter freshwater. Undergoes trophic migrations along the coasts. Feeds on organic detritus and filamentous algae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Mulloidichthys martinicus</i>	Yellow goatfish; King mullet; Salmonete amarillo; Chope	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Found over sandy areas of lagoon and seaward reefs. Often in schools. Juveniles are common in seagrass beds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Mycteroperca acutirostris</i>	Comb grouper; Guajil espinoso	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Juveniles live in turtle grass beds, mangrove areas, and shallow waters among soft corals and coral reefs. Adults are found on rocky bottoms with high relief. Feeds on plankton.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves; Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>	Black grouper; Black rockfish; Marbled rockfish; Guajil; Mero pinto; Guajil prieto; Aguajil; Diente de sable	High commercial importance in fisheries. Gamefish. Shown in aquariums. Inhabits rocky and coral reefs. Solitary. Adults feed mainly on fishes; juveniles on crustaceans. Common but difficult to approach. Marketed fresh. Flesh is of excellent quality.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>	Yellowmouth grouper; Blake; Hamlet; Harlequin rockfish; Princess rockfish; Salmon rockfish; Scamp; Abadejo; Bacalao; Guajil boquiamarillo	Important in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Found mainly on rocky or coral bottoms. Small and middle-sized individuals commonly occur in mangrove-lined lagoons. Feeds on fishes. Sex-reversal observed.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>	Mottled grouper; Comb grouper; Guajil espinoso	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Occurs over rocky and sandy bottoms. Young individuals are common in mangrove-lined lagoons. Also seen in coral reefs. Feeds on mollusks and small fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Mycteroperca tigris</i>	Tiger grouper; Tiger rockfish; Guajil pinto; Mero pinto	Important in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. A solitary species found in coral reefs and rocky areas. Feeds mainly on fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>	Yellowfin grouper; Rockfish; Aguaji; Bonaci arara; Guajil; Mero pinto; Guajil colirrubio	High commercial importance in fisheries. Used in recreational fishing and shown in aquariums. Juveniles occur in shallow turtle grass beds; adults found on rocky and coral reefs. Feeds mainly on fishes and squids. Sex-reversal has been observed.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Myrichthys breviceps</i>	Sharptail eel; Seasnake; Tieso colilargo; Congre	Often found swimming near the bottom in clear water, from harbors to reefs. Common in sand areas and seagrass beds. Found in shallow areas to depths of 9 m. Feeds mainly on crabs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Myrichthys ocellatus</i>	Goldspotted eel; Goldspotted eel; Goldspotted snake eel; Tieso manchas doradas	Used in aquarium trade. Common near islands and in rocky or coral areas. May move beneath the sand. Found in seagrass beds and areas with sand and coral rubble. Feeds mainly on crabs. Forages at night for prey.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Myripristis jacobus</i>	Blackbar soldierfish; Seenorass; Squirrelfish; Toro; Torito; Cundeamor	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found from shallow coral reefs to offshore deeper waters. A nocturnal species aggregating around coral reefs and deeper rocky reefs. Sometimes found swimming upside down.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Myrophis platyrhynchus</i>	Broadnose worm eel; Gusano hocicudo	Inhabits tidal creeks or protected and semi-protected bays, never in the surf zone.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangrove
<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>	Lemon shark; Limón; Tintorera; Tiburón limón; Cazón; Caconeta	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Occurs solitary or in small groups. Feeds mainly on fish. Young remain in sheltered coastal nurseries. Adults may undertake long seasonal migrations. Has been involved in several attacks on people.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef
<i>Neoniphon marianus</i>	Longjaw squirrelfish; Gallo bocón	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Rarely found in shallow water, but appears to be the most common squirrelfish in the depth range of 30-60 m or more. Used as food fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Nes longus</i>	Orangespotted goby; Gobio puntinaranja; Guaseta	Found on silty open bottoms. Usually in less than 9 m depth. Shares burrow with the alpheid shrimp.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Nicholsina usta usta</i>	Emerald parrotfish; Loro esmeralda; Cotorro	Subsistence fisheries. Inhabits seagrass beds and open bottoms, especially in shallow water. Larger adults live in deeper water.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>	Yellowtail snapper; Yellowtail; Cola; Colirrubia; Rabirrubia; Rabittabia;	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in aquaculture and sport fishing. Inhabits coastal waters, mostly around coral reefs. Often in aggregations. Feeds mainly at night. Spawning occurs throughout the year.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Odontoscion dentex</i>	Reef croaker; Corvina de arrecifes; Corvino	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Inhabits caves and crevices, or found among corals. Solitary or in groups. Feeds at night mainly on shrimps and small fishes, and their larvae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Ogcocephalus nasutus</i>	Shortnose batfish; Redbellied batfish; Diablo carichato; Murciélago	Found in flat bottoms of sand, coral rubble, seagrass, or mud. Occurs from the water's edge to at least 275 m depth. Feeds on mollusks, crabs, fishes, worms, and algae. May be caught by hand.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Ogilbia cayorum</i>	Key brotula; Brotula de cayos	Inhabits shallow waters from shore to outer reefs. Cryptic. Locally abundant.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Oligoplites saurus</i>	Leatherjack; Cueriduro; Leather jacket; Leathercoat; Needlejack; Runner; Leatherback; Zapatero; Cueriduro; Quiebra	Used in sport fishing. Found inshore, along sandy beaches, bays, and inlets. Enters estuaries and fresh water. Forms large-fast moving schools. It has spines connected to venomous glands that can cause wounds. Feeds on crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*; Mangroves; Reef
<i>Ophichthus gomesii</i>	Shrimp eel; Tieso negro; Congre	Subsistence fisheries. Inhabits soft bottoms. Occurs in bays and backwaters to offshore banks. The most common eel on Florida shrimp grounds. Rarely consumed.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Ophichthus ophis</i>	Spotted snake eel; Tieso manchado; Congre	Used in subsistence fisheries. Usually used as bait. Lives in a permanent burrow, often in very shallow water. Heads protrude from the sand. Nocturnal. Feeds on octopus and fish. Easily approached. Feared by fishermen.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Ophioblennius atlanticus</i>	Redlip blenny; Blenio boquicolorado	Larvae are often found in deep water. The adults are restricted to shallow waters and dwell among rocks and coral reefs, where there is considerable wave action. Bites very severely, with its two very long and sharp canine teeth.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Ophioblennius macclurei</i>	Redlip blenny; Blenio boquicolorado	Used in the aquarium trade. Found in shallow, clear waters with coral or rock bottoms. Territorial.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Opisthognathus maxillosus</i>	Mottled jawfish; Quijada moteada	Used in the aquarium trade. Inhabits an elaborate burrow, often fairly deep (30 cm), and with a terminal chamber. The vertical passage lined with coral and shell fragments.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Opistognathus aurifrons</i>	Yellowhead jawfish; Quijada cabecirrubia	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits burrows made of crushed coral or sand. Hovers vertically, above or near its hole. The male courts the female by swimming in an arched position with his fins spread towards her. Male broods the eggs orally.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Opistognathus macrognathus</i>	Banded jawfish; Longjaw jawfish; Quijada listada	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits sandy bottoms near coral reefs. Feeds on gastropods, crabs, and fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Opistognathus whitehursti</i>	Dusky jawfish; Quijada prieta	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits rock and sand bottoms or the eroding edges of weed beds. Egg mass incubated in the mouth of males.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Opistonema oglinum</i>	Atlantic thread herring; Threadfin herring; Thread herring; Arengue; Machuelo; Arenque de altura; Sardina de altura; Sardina de lancha	Important in commercial fisheries. Usually used for bait. Inhabit harbors and shallow coastal areas. Forms schools. Feeds by filtering plankton but also take small fishes, crabs, and shrimps.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Oreochromis aureus</i>	Blue tilapia; Tilapia azul; San pedro	Introduced. High commercial importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and aquarium trade. Usually used as bait. Found in warm ponds, impoundments, lakes, and streams. Forms schools. Sometimes territorial. Reproduces in both fresh and brackish water.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands; Rivers
<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>	Mozambique tilapia; Largemouth kurper; Mozambique mouthbrooder; Java tilapia; Tilapia; Tilapia prieta; Chopá; Palometa; Tilapia mozambica; San pedro	Introduced. High commercial importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture, sport fishing and aquarium trade. Common in estuaries and coastal lakes. Also found in warm weedy pools of streams, canals, and ponds. Mainly diurnal. May form schools. Omnivorous.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands; Mangroves
<i>Oreochromis niloticus niloticus</i>	Nile tilapia; Mozambique tilapia; Tilapia nilótica; San pedro	Introduced. High commercial importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture. Occurs in freshwater habitats like rivers, lakes, sewage canals, and irrigation channels. Mainly diurnal. Feeds mainly on phytoplankton or benthic algae. Marketed fresh and frozen.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands; Rivers

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Oreochromis urolepis hornorum</i>	Wami tilapia	Introduced. Used in aquaculture and aquarium trade. This species is occasionally territorial. Feeds on unicellular algae and detritus, including decayed fragments of macrophytes. Potential pest.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Oreochromis urolepis urolepis</i>	Rufigi tilapia	Introduced. Used in aquaculture and aquarium trade. Occurs in warm weedy ditches and canals.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands; Rivers
<i>Parablennius marmoreus</i>	Seaweed blenny; Blenio de algas	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits eroded basins and boulders covered by algae, sea fans and other organisms. Sometimes around mangrove roots. Young are sometimes found in floating Sargassum. Omnivorous, but feeds mostly on algae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Paraclinus barbatus</i>	Goatee blenny; Blenio barbudo; Vieja	Demersal marine.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Paraclinus cingulatus</i>	Coral blenny; Blenio de corales; Vieja	Occurs in pockets of coral rubble on reefs or in tidepools.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Paraclinus fasciatus</i>	Banded blenny; Blenio listado; Vieja	Occurs in protected shallow waters, in coral, rock or sand bottoms especially in seagrass beds.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Paraclinus grandicomis</i>	Horned blenny; Blenio cornudo; Vieja	Associated with mollusks, sponges, and anemones.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Paraclinus nigripinnis</i>	Blackfin blenny; Blenio aletinegro; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Found in rocky tide pools, eroded limestone slopes, and basins. Also around rocks covered with algae and surrounded by sand. Also seen in areas with coral.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Paralichthys tropicus</i>	Tropical flounder; Lenguado tropical; Tapaculo	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Found over muddy and sandy bottoms in shallow waters, but also known to occur at depths of at least 55 m. A reef associated species.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Paranthias furcifer</i>	Creole-fish; Chilla rubia; Rabirrubia de lo alto	Subsistence fisheries. Used in aquarium trade and as fish bait. Lives in coral reefs and hard bottom areas. Forms feeding aggregations well above the reef. Feeds mainly in midwater on zooplankton. Retreats instantly when alarmed.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Pempheris schomburgkii</i>	Glassy sweeper; Copper sweeper; Barrigón clareado; Barredor	Occurs in clear water with coral bottom. Found in aggregations in dark crevices and caves. Nocturnal. Its name probably refers to the juveniles, which are so transparent that the backbone can be seen in the living fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Phaeoptyx conklini</i>	Freckled cardinalfish; Cardenal moteado	Commonly found on shallow rocky and coral bottoms, in empty conch shells, rubble, or empty containers. Abundant where <i>Acropora palmata</i> (a type of coral) abound.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses*
<i>Phaeoptyx pigmentaria</i>	Dusky cardinalfish; Cardenal prieto	Found on coral, gravel, or shell bottoms. Hides in deep caves during the day. At night, drift above reefs, often near open basket stars.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses*
<i>Phaeoptyx xenus</i>	Sponge cardinalfish; Cardenal de esponjas	Occurs in coral reefs and rocky bottoms, frequently inhabiting cylindrical sponges. A mouthbrooder species.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	Fathead minnow; Black-head minnow; Rosey reds; Mino cabezón	Introduced. Usually used as bait. Inhabits muddy pools of headwaters, creeks, and small rivers. Also found in ponds. Tolerates harsh conditions (e.g., turbid, hot, poorly oxygenated, intermittent streams). Potential pest.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Platybelone argalus argalus</i>	Keeltail needlefish; Keeled needlefish; Agujón de quilla	Subsistence fisheries. Occurs offshore; particularly abundant around islands. Schools in sheltered parts of the reef. Feeds mainly on small fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Platygillessus rubrocinctus</i>	Saddle stargazer; Dardo listado; Mirón; Mirador	Inhabits sand and rubble areas around coral reefs or exposed rocks. The reddish-brown bands along the sides of the fish serve as camouflage when the fish partially buries itself in sand.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Plectrypops retrospinis</i>	Cardinal soldierfish; Gallo cardenal	Used in aquarium trade. Remains in deep enclosures during the day. Found in holes and caves in coral reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Guppy; Gupi	Introduced. Used in aquarium trade. Found from highly turbid water in ponds, canals and ditches at low elevations to pristine mountain streams at high elevations. Tolerates a wide salinity range. Feeds on zooplankton, small insects, and detritus.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Poecilia vivipara</i>	Top minnow; Gupi mino	Introduced. Widespread in mildly brackish water in canals and drainage ditches at the edges of swamps. Rarely found in freshwater. Feeds on mosquito larvae and it has been used for mosquito control in ponds and reservoirs.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Polydactylus oligodon</i>	Little scale threadfin; Barbudo aletinegro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Occurs along sandy or muddy shores. Reef associated species.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Polydactylus virginicus</i>	Threadfin; Barbú; Barbudo	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Often occurs in very shallow water along beaches. Also found in estuaries and hypersaline lagoons and sand flats near reefs. Common around islands. Nocturnal. Feeds mainly on crustaceans, also seagrass material.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Pomacanthus arcuatus</i>	Gray angelfish; Isabelita gris; Chirivita; Mariposa; Palometa	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Usually solitary, occasionally in pairs. Juveniles are part-time cleaners. Flesh reported to be of excellent quality.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Pomacanthus paru</i>	French angelfish; Angelfish; Isabelita negra; Chirivita; Ángel francés	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Common in shallow reefs. Usually in pairs, often near sea fans. Spawning pairs are strongly territorial. Flesh considered to be of good quality.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Pomadasys crocro</i>	Burro grunt; Freshwater grunt; Ti copa; Viejo; Ronco blanco	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Shown in aquariums. Inhabits rivers and creeks. Found along sandy shores and on mud bottoms in brackish mangrove-lined lagoons. Only member of the grunt family capable of living in freshwater for extended periods.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses*; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Priacanthus arenatus</i>	Atlantic bigeye; Bigeye; Catalufa; Toro; Rey; Sol; Payaso; Ojobuey; Cómico	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing and aquarium trade. Found on coral reefs and rocky bottoms. Forms small aggregations near the bottom. A nocturnal feeder. Most of its prey are larvae. Flesh considered excellent quality; marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Priolepis hipoliti</i>	Rusty goby; Gobio mohoso; Guaseta	Used in aquarium trade. Found on shallow bottoms of coral reefs with clear water. Usually occurs on undersides of ledges and roofs of caves. Feeds on small crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Prognathodes aculeatus</i>	Longsnout butterflyfish; Caribbean longsnout butterflyfish; Poey's butterflyfish; Mariposa holicuda	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits deep coral-rich reefs and drop-offs. Feeds on small invertebrates. Often seen nibbling on the tubefeet of sea urchins or the tentacles of tubeworms. Solitary, but sometimes in pairs. Seeks refuge when approached.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Pseudogramma gregoryi</i>	Reef bass; Jaboncillo de arrecifes	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits areas with live coral. Common in rubble. Feeds on crustaceans and worms.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Pseudupeneus maculatus</i>	Spotted goatfish; Salmonete colorado; Salmonete moteado	Important in commercial fisheries. Inhabits shallow waters to depths of 90 m, especially over sand and rock bottoms in reef areas. Young juveniles often found on seagrass beds. Feeds on small invertebrates.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves*
<i>Psilotris alepis</i>	Scaleless goby; Scaleless goby; Gobio desnudo; Guaseta	Found on shallow bottoms of coral reefs, usually less than 5 m.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Psilotris batrachodes</i>	Toadfish goby; Gobio sapo; Guaseta	Inhabits coral reefs.	Puerto Rico	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Psilotris celsus</i>	Highspine goby; Gobio vela; Guaseta	Inhabits coral reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Ptereleotris helenae</i>	Hovering goby; Helen's dartfish; Gobio flotador; Guaseta	Found on sandy or coral rubble bottoms. Inhabits 'U-shaped' burrows. Often in pairs. Feeds on zooplankton. Hovers with head down near burrow.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Puntius conchonius</i>	Rosy barb; Mino rosado	Introduced. Used in aquarium trade. Lives in lakes and fast flowing hill streams. Beautiful; most impressively colored during the mating period. Feeds on worms, crustaceans, insects, and plant matter.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands; Rivers
<i>Pythonichthys sanguineus</i>	Loose-skin eel; Anguila pellejúa	A benthic species found on reefs or rocky areas.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Remora remora</i>	Common remora; Remora; Réмора; Pegador; Pega	Reef-associated species. Usually associated with sharks but also attaches itself to other large fishes, sea turtles, and even ships. Sometimes free-swimming. Young individuals are more active as parasite pickers. Feeds on parasitic copepods.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Rhizoprionodon porosus</i>	Caribbean sharpnose shark; Atlantic sharpnose shark; Sharpnose shark; Cazón; Playón; Tiburoncito	Common in bays and estuaries often entering rivers. Feeds mainly on small fishes. Viviparous. Utilized salted or frozen for human consumption and processed into fish meal.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>	Vermilion snapper; Bastard snapper; Small red snapper; Mingo snapper; Besugo; Rubia; Tunaro; Buchúa; Cagón de lo alto; Buchona; Chilla rubia; Pargo cunaro; Sardo	Minor importance in fisheries. Found in moderately deep waters. Common over rock, gravel or sand bottoms near the continental edge and islands. Young fish occur in shallower depths. Often forms large schools. Feeds on fishes, shrimps, crabs, etc.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef
<i>Risor ruber</i>	Tusked goby; Gobio dientón; Guaseta	Occurs in large loggerhead sponges and other similar sponges.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Rivulus marmoratus</i>	Mangrove rivulus; Matanzas rivulus; Rivulus; Guajacón; Rivulo de mangle	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits shallow, mud-bottomed ditches, bays, mangroves, salt marshes, and other brackish-water environments. Also in crab burrows. Can tolerate heavy pollution of fresh or salty waters. The only known self-fertilizing vertebrate.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves
<i>Rypticus saponaceus</i>	Greater soapfish; Soapfish; Jabón; Jaboncillo	Subsistence fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Solitary. Often found lying motionless against rocks. Secretes abundant mucus which makes its surface slimy, and when disturbed the slime turns into a soapy foam. The mucus contains a toxic protein.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Rypticus subbifrenatus</i>	Spotted soapfish; Jaboncillo manchado	Important in commercial fisheries. A solitary species found around reefs and rocky areas. Adults seem to prefer clearer waters than juveniles.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Sardinella aurita</i>	Round sardinella; Gilt sardine; Spanish sardine; Sardina española	High importance in commercial fisheries. Usually used as bait. Schools in coastal waters from inshore to the edge of shelf. Juveniles tend to stay in nursery areas, but on maturity rejoin adult stocks offshore. Strongly migratory.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves
<i>Sargocentron coruscum</i>	Reef squirrelfish; Wenchman; Gallo de arrecifes	Inhabits sandy, rocky, and coral bottoms. More common on seaward reefs than on protected reefs. Retreat into recesses when alarmed. Nocturnal. Found deep in crevices between branches of live corals. Oviparous.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Sargocentron vexillarium</i>	Dusky squirrelfish; Gallito	Inhabits inshore reefs and tidepools. Hides in small recesses. Common, but rarely seen. Nocturnal species.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Scartella cristata</i>	Molly miller; Blenio marmorado	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits shallow rocky areas and tide pools. Hide in empty <i>Strombus gigas</i> shells, holes or troughs of rocks, or between algae. Herbivorous.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Scarus coelestinus</i>	Midnight parrotfish; Judío; Loro; Cotorro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Occurs from rocky coastal reefs to seaward reefs. Often in schools. Feeds by scraping off algae from rocks or dead coral. Its diet also includes seagrass leaves.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Scarus coeruleus</i>	Blue parrotfish; Brindao; Loro azul; Cotorro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits coral reefs. Juveniles found on seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>). Feeds on benthic plants and small organisms in the sand. Forms large spawning aggregations.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Scarus croicensis</i>	Striped parrotfish; Cotorro; Loro rayado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found over shallow, clear waters, generally over seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>). Also found on rocky or coral areas. Forms schools. Feeds on plants.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Scarus guacamaia</i>	Rainbow parrotfish; Guacamayo; Loro verde; Cotorro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Young are found in mangrove areas. Feeds on benthic algae, also seagrasses. Has a cave as home where it retires at night or when danger threatens. Uses the sun as an aid to locate the cave.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Scarus iseri</i>	Striped parrotfish; Cotorro; Loro rayado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found over shallow, clear waters, generally over seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia</i>). Also found on rocky or coral areas. Forms schools. Feeds on plants.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef; Mangroves*
<i>Scarus taeniopterus</i>	Princess parrotfish; Princesa; Loro; Cotorro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found on bottoms with coral or rock. Juveniles often occur in association with seagrass (<i>Thalassia</i>). Forms large feeding aggregations and feeds on plants. Sleeps in a mucus cocoon.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Scarus vetula</i>	Queen parrotfish; Reina; Vieja; Loro; Cotorro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits coral reefs and adjacent habitats. Feeds on algae scraped from rocks or dead coral, also seagrass leaves. Sleeps in a mucus cocoon. Often seen in groups.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i>	King mackerel; Kingfish; Carite; Sierra	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Often found in outer reef areas. Feeds primarily on fishes. Large schools have been found to migrate over considerable distances along the Atlantic U.S. coast.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>	Spanish mackerel; Sierra; Alasana; Pelicán; Pintado	High importance in commercial fisheries. Gamefish. Reef-associated species. Migrates in large schools over great distances along the shore. Larvae are found in surface waters. Feeds mainly on small fishes, also shrimps and cephalopods.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Scomberomorus regalis</i>	Cero; Sierra; Alasana; Pelicán; Pintado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Abundant in clear waters around coral reefs, occasionally forming schools. Feeds on fish, squids, and shrimps. Good food and game fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Scorpaena albifimbria</i>	Coral scorpionfish; Rascana coralina; Rascacio	Inhabits small patch reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Scorpaena bergii</i>	Goosehead scorpionfish; Rascana cabeza; Rascacio	A reef associated species. Inhabits shallow clear waters from shore to 75 m depth. Harmless.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Scorpaena brasiliensis</i>	Barbfish; Rascana barbuda; Rascacio	Commonly found in bays, harbors, and on the continental shelf. Inhabits soft bottoms. Master of camouflage, lies motionless, blending with the surroundings.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*; Reef
<i>Scorpaena grandicornis</i>	Plumed scorpionfish; Grass scorpionfish; Scorpionfish; Rascana; Rascana cornuda; Rascacio	Found in seagrass beds, grassy bays, and channels. Moves only when disturbed. Causes wounds, which are extremely painful, but not fatal. Voracious carnivorous with preference for shiny juvenile fish such as mojarras, also feeds upon crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef; Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Scorpaena plumieri plumieri</i>	Spotted scorpionfish; Rascana moteada; Rascacio; Veneno; Rascaso	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Often found in shallow coral reef and rocky areas. Lies motionless on the bottom. Displays characteristic bright white spots when disturbed.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves*; Seagrasses*
<i>Scorpaenodes caribbaeus</i>	Reef scorpionfish; Rascana de arrecifes; Rascacio	Sometimes drifts above hard substratum, reef bottoms and areas of rocky rubble mixed with sand. Hides on ceilings of shallow caves or ledges. Common.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Scorpaenodes tredecimspinosus</i>	Deepreef scorpionfish; Rascana de coral hondo; Rascacio	Occurs mostly on deep coral reefs, and steep coral-covered slopes.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	Bigeye scad; Goggle-eye; Goggle-eyed scad; Goggler; Jack; Chicharro; Cobeo; Jurel ojón	High importance in commercial fisheries. Game fish. Used as bait. Prefers clear oceanic waters around islands. Sometimes in turbid waters. Mainly nocturnal. Feeds on shrimps, zooplankton, and fish larvae. Forms groups of thousands of hundreds of fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Selene vomer</i>	Lookdown; Dollarfish; Hairfinned dory; Horsehead; Jorobado; Corcobado; Coronado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in recreational fishing and shown in aquariums. Found in shallow coastal waters. Juveniles may be seen in estuarine areas and off sandy beaches. Found in schools. Flesh has excellent flavor.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves
<i>Seriola dumerili</i>	Greater amberjack; Amberjack; Great amberfish; Jenny lind; Rock salmon; Medregal; Doronado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquaculture and sport fishing. Shown in aquariums. Inhabits deep reefs; occasionally enters coastal bays. Feeds on fishes. Juveniles associate with floating plants or debris in oceanic or offshore waters.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	Almaco jack; Amber; Falcate amberjack; Crevalle; Escolar; Medregal	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Inhabits outer reef slopes and offshore banks. Forms small groups. Adults are pelagic and demersal. Young are often seen around floating objects. Feeds mainly on fishes, but also on invertebrates.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Serranus annularis</i>	Orangeback bass; Guaseta lomonaranja	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits rocky areas and deep reefs. Rest on the bottom near the entrance of protective recesses. Occurs in pairs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Serranus baldwini</i>	Lantern bass; Guaseta lámpara	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in rocky and weedy areas. Often found in seagrass beds but also seen around rocks, coral rubble, or old shells. Feeds on shrimp and small fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses
<i>Serranus tabacarius</i>	Tobaccofish; Chilla negra; Guaseta negra	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits shallow rocky or coral bottoms with clear water. Tends to stay near the bottom. In groups on deeper reefs.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses
<i>Serranus tigrinus</i>	Harlequin bass; Guaseta Harlequín	Used in aquarium trade. Common in areas with rock or scattered coral. Solitary or in pairs. Feeds mainly upon crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses
<i>Serranus tortugarum</i>	Chalk bass; Guaseta terrosa	Important in commercial fisheries. Found over rubble, silty, or sandy bottoms. Often in small groups hovering over a patch of coral rubble or an old conch shell. Feeds on plankton. Difficult to approach.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Sicydium plumieri</i>	Sirajo goby; Sirajo; Olivo; Cetí; Chupapiedra; Setí	Feeds by scrapping algae off rocks in the streams. Uses its sucker to move up vertical wet surfaces. The larvae of this goby are valued as a local delicacy. Post-larvae migrate to the estuaries and then back to the river.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Rivers
<i>Sicydium punctatum</i>	Tritri	Abundant in rivers of coastal volcanic topography. Excavates nests below gravel bottom. Male provides most of the parental care. A ventral sucking disc found on the fish's belly allows it to hold onto the stream's rock substrate.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Sparisoma atomarium</i>	Greenblotch parrotfish; Loro parchoverde; Cotorro	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in deep rocky and coral reefs with steep walls. Generally seen in seagass beds or on reefs with thick algal cover.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Sparisoma aurofrenatum</i>	Redband parrotfish; Loro bandacolorada; Cotorro	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits coral reefs. Young usually in adjacent seagrass beds. Often rests on the bottom. Feeds on plants. Solitary or in small groups.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Sparisoma chrysopteron</i>	Redtail parrotfish; Loro colirojo; Vieja; Cotorro; Loro verde	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in coral reefs and adjacent habitats, the young especially in seagrass beds. Juveniles or primary-phase adults rapidly assume a mottled pattern to camouflage with substratum.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Sparisoma radians</i>	Bucktooth parrotfish; Loro; Loro dientón; Vieja; Cotorro	Often found in seagrass beds in shallow, protected waters. Feeds mainly on epiphytes and seagrass blades, leaving crescent bite marks. Darts into seagrass when frightened.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves; Reef; Artificial reef
<i>Sparisoma rubripinne</i>	Redfin parrotfish; Yellowtail parrotfish; Loro aletirrojo; Cotorro; Vieja colorada	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Juveniles can rapidly assume a mottled pattern when resting on the bottom. Spawning is usually a group activity, with males and females similarly colored. Feeds on benthic algae and seagrasses.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Sparisoma viride</i>	Stoptlight parrotfish; Cotorro; Loro; Loro verde; Chaporra; Loro colorado	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral reefs. Young may be found in seagrass beds. Produces a significant amount of sediment through bioerosion using its strong beak-like jaws and constantly regrowing teeth.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Sphoeroides greeleyi</i>	Green puffer; Caribbean puffer; Tamboril caribeño	Found over soft bottoms generally with vegetation such as seagrasses (<i>Thalassia</i>). Prefers turbid waters. Feeds on marine invertebrates. Locally consumed but its visceral organs may be toxic.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Sphoeroides nephelus</i>	Southern puffer; Tamboril moteado	Subsistence fisheries. Inhabits bays, estuaries, and protected coastal waters. Feeds primarily on shellfish, also eats some fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Sphoeroides spengleri</i>	Bandtail puffer; Tamboril colilistado; Tambor	Abundant in all inshore habitats where there is adequate cover, such as seagrass beds and reef flats. Also seen in bottoms of sand and coral rubble. Feeds on mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms, algae, and seagrass. Generally common.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses
<i>Sphoeroides testudineus</i>	Checkered puffer; Marble puffer; Tamboril cuadrulado; Tambor	Common in bays, tidal creeks and protected coastal waters, especially on seagrass beds. Rare or absent on coral reefs. To ward off predators, it inflates itself like a balloon. Highly toxic; used to poison cats and dogs. Feeds on crustaceans and mollusks.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves; Reef
<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	Great barracuda; Picuda; Picuda brava; Picúa; Picúa brava; Barracuda	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in sport fishing; shown in aquariums. Juveniles occur among mangroves, estuaries and shallow sheltered reef areas. Adults occur in a wide range of habitats. Rarely attacks humans. Diurnal and solitary. Feeds on fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Sphyraena guachancho</i>	Northern sennet; Sennet; Guachanche barracuda; Guachanche; Guaguancho; Picúa parda; Picuda parda; Guachancho; Guavancho; Picuilla	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in shallow and generally turbid coastal water over muddy bottoms. Often around river estuaries. Forms schools. Feeds mainly on fishes and shrimps. Marketed fresh and salted.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Sphyraena picudilla</i>	Southern sennet; Small barracuda; Little barracuda; Picuda lanceta; Picudilla; Picuilla; Picúa chin; Picúa lanceta	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in recreational fishing. Inhabits coastal waters. Found in rocky or coral reefs. More abundant over muddy bottoms. Juveniles occur in seagrass beds. Often occurs in large schools, sometimes near the surface.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead; Cornuda; Morfillo; Cornuda cortada; Tiburón martillo	Important in fisheries. Gamefish. Found over continental and insular shelves and adjacent deep water. Often close inshore and entering bays and estuaries. Adults solitary, in pairs, or schools; young in large schools. Potentially dangerous to people.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great hammerhead; Cornúa; Martillo; Cornuda; Tiburón martillo	Important in commercial fisheries. Found close inshore and well offshore, over the continental shelves, island terraces, and lagoons. Feeds on stingrays, fish, crabs, lobsters, and other sharks. A viviparous species. Potentially dangerous to people.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Starksia atlantica</i>	Smooth-eye blenny; Blenio ojón; Vieja	Found in coral reefs.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Starksia hassi</i>	Ringed blenny; Blenio listablanca; Vieja	Inhabits deep coral reefs. Found in rich coral tops of dropoffs to at least 175 m.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Starksia lepicoelia</i>	Blackcheek blenny; Blenio oreja prieta; Vieja	Found in coral reefs.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Starksia nanodes</i>	Dwarf blenny; Blenio enano; Vieja	Inhabits patch reefs and coral heads in relatively deep water.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Starksia sluiteri</i>	Chessboard blenny; Slutier blenny; Blenio de slutier; Vieja	A reef associated species. Found in crevices and on rubble to depths of at least 40 m.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Stathmonotus gymnodermis</i>	Naked blenny; Blenio pelado; Vieja	Inhabits eroded limestone shorelines where the bottom is scattered with small stinging corals, brain corals, sea fans, and other organisms.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Stathmonotus hemphilli</i>	Blackbelly blenny; Blenio pechinegro; Vieja	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in limestone rubble in clear, shallow water.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Stathmonotus stahli</i>	Eelgrass blenny; Seagrass blenny; Blenio talasiero; Vieja	Usually found in seagrass beds. Also in rubble areas covered by mats of algae and sponges, or in beds of finger coral. Generally found in less than 10 m depth.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Stegastes adustus</i>	Dusky damselfish	Used in aquarium trade. Found in rocky shores exposed to wave action. Often in tide pools. Feeds mainly on algae and detritus. Territorial. Generally common.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Stegastes diencaeus</i>	Longfin damselfish; Damisela aletilarga; Damisela de miel	Used in aquarium trade. Lives in coral and rocky reefs of sheltered lagoons and inshore areas. Territorial.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Stegastes fuscus</i>	Brazilian damsel; Demoiselle; Dusky damselfish; Leopoldito; María molle	Inhabits shallow, coral or rocky bottoms and sometimes found near the shore in areas with little visibility. A diurnal species. Feeds mainly on algae and detritus, also some seagrass leaves.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Stegastes leucostictus</i>	Beaugregory; Gregorio; Damisela azul	Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in seagrass beds, coral or rocky reefs and sandy areas. Also found around mangrove shores and sponge beds. Remains within 50 cm from the substrate.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Stegastes partitus</i>	Bicolor damselfish; Damisela bicolor	Used in aquarium trade. Found in shallow coral reefs and isolated patch reefs in deeper water. Feeds mainly on algae. Aggressively territorial but only around a small area.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Stegastes pictus</i>	Yellowtip damselfish	Found in shallow rocky reefs in association with colonies of <i>Millepora alcicornis</i> (a type of coral). Feeds mainly on benthic algae. Aggressively territorial.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Stegastes planifrons</i>	Threespot damselfish; Yellow damselfish; Damisela amarilla	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits inshore and offshore coral reefs. Found within caves at night. Often seen anywhere there is abundant algae on reefs. Juveniles eat external parasites of fishes. Guards large territories.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Stegastes variabilis</i>	Cocoa damselfish; Damisela chocolate	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits inshore and offshore coral reefs. Adults feed mainly on benthic algae. Juveniles feed on invertebrates. Often solitary. Juveniles are aggressively territorial. Aggressive when breeding.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves*; Seagrasses*
<i>Stephanolepis hispidus</i>	Planehead filefish; Lija cabecichata; Pereza	Found on sand or mud bottoms. Associated with Sargassum. Feeds on benthic invertebrates. Edible but generally rejected by fishermen.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses*
<i>Strongylura marina</i>	Atlantic needlefish; Agujón; Agujón del Atlántico	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing. Found in coastal areas and mangrove-lined lagoons. Enters freshwater. Feeds mainly on small fishes. Marketed fresh.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses; Freshwater wetlands

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Strongylura timucu</i>	Timucu; Tholepin; Agujón timucu	Subsistence fisheries. Adults found on reef flats, lagoons, or in freshwater. Juveniles found among floating algae. Feeds mainly on small fishes. When disturbed, may leap and skitter at the surface.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Syacium micrurum</i>	Channel flounder; Lenguado de canales; tapaculo	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Found on soft bottoms of the continental plateau. Feeds on worms and crustaceans. Exhibits sexual dimorphism.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Symphurus arawak</i>	Caribbean tonguefish; Lenguado caribeño	Used in aquarium trade. A reef associated species. Found in bays and shallow coastal waters.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Symphurus plagiusa</i>	Duskycheek tonguefish; Blackcheek tonguefish; Tonguefish; Lenguado; Lenguado carinegro del Golfo	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Occurs over mud or sand bottoms. Normally found along sand banks near the mouth of rivers. Nocturnal feeder. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates, crustaceans, plant material (seagrass), and others.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Syngnathus caribbaeus</i>	Caribbean pipefish; Pez flauta caribeño	Inhabits weedy or sandy bottoms of shallow inshore waters.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Synodus foetens</i>	Inshore lizardfish; Galliwasp; Doncella; Lagarto de orillas	Used in subsistence fisheries. Gamefish. Adults are found on shallow and deep sand flats among grass. Also seen inshore in saltwater creeks, rivers, bays, and deep channels within lagoons. A solitary voracious predator. Juveniles are pelagic.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Synodus intermedius</i>	Sand diver; Lizardfish; Doncella; Lagarto; Guavina	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquarium trade. Found on sandy bottom around boulders or in sandy corridors in patch reefs. Uncommon near the shore.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Synodus synodus</i>	Diamond lizardfish; Lizardfish; Red lizardfish; Lagarto colorado	Primarily found in shallow inshore waters. Rests on hard surfaces rather than on sand. Also occurs in reef areas, but ventures into open water as deep as 90 m.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Thalassoma bifasciatum</i>	Bluehead; Bluehead wrasse; Doncella cabeciazul; Rabone	Inhabits reef areas, inshore bays, and seagrass beds. Sex reversal observed. Feeds on a great variety of small benthic organisms, zooplankton, and the ectoparasites of other fishes.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Artificial reef; Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Tilapia rendalli</i>	Redbreast tilapia; Redbreasted bream; Congo tilapia; Tilapia moteada; San pedro; tilapia pechicolorada; Chopá	Introduced. Important in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and aquarium trade. Gamefish. Prefers quiet, well-vegetated water along river littorals or backwaters, floodplains and swamps. Tolerates a wide range of temperature and salinity. Potential pest.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Freshwater wetlands
<i>Tomicodon fasciatus</i>	Barred clingfish; Hourglass clingfish; Renacuajo rayado	Found on rock substratum close to shore. It has color variability.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Trachinocephalus myops</i>	Snakefish; Culebra; Lagarto	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Found over sandy bottoms of deep outer reef slopes. Common in estuaries. Rests on or more often burrows into substrate, leaving eyes exposed. Feeds on fishes and small crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Trachinotus blochii</i>	Snubnose pompano; Golden permit; Goldfin permit; Permit; Palometa; Spinous dory; Tropical permit	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in aquaculture and recreational fishing. Shown in aquariums. Juveniles found in sandy shorelines, and shallow sandy or muddy bays near river mouths. Adults move out in schools to clear seaward reefs.	Puerto Rico	Reef
<i>Trachinotus falcatus</i>	Permit; Cobbler; Palometa; Pámpano; Pámpano jorobado	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in aquaculture and esteemed as a game fish. Shown in aquariums. Solitary or in small schools. Smaller fish tolerate brackish water. Spawns offshore. Excellent food fish. Feeds on invertebrates and crustaceans.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangrove
<i>Trachinotus goodei</i>	Palometa; Banner pompano; Cobbler; Gafftopsail; Great pompano; Longfin pompano; Old wife; Permit; Pampano; Pompano; Palometa; Pámpano aletilargo	Minor importance in fisheries. Used in aquaculture and sport fishing. Adults form schools in clear coastal areas, usually near coral formations. Juveniles common in clean sandy beaches. Feeds on crustaceans, worms, insect pupae, mollusks, and fish.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Tylosurus crocodilus crocodilus</i>	Hound needlefish; Houndfish; Agujón caimán; Guamá	Important in commercial fisheries. Gamefish. Found over lagoon and seaward reefs. Solitary or in small groups. Feeds on fishes. It can cause puncture wounds with its sharp snout when jumping out of the water.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Urobatis jamaicensis</i>	Yellow stingray; Round stingray; Yellow spotted stingray; Raya amarilla	Shown in aquariums. Found along sandy beaches. Especially in sandy areas in and around coral reefs. Raises front end of disc to attract prey seeking shelter. Capable of causing dangerous wounds with its venomous spine.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses*
<i>Uropterygius macularius</i>	Marbled moray; Morena veteada	Found usually on or near coral reefs up to 30 m depth, but occasionally to 137 m.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Xanthichthys ringens</i>	Sargassum triggerfish; Puerquito; Cocuyo	Used in aquarium trade. Inhabits reef slopes, usually well below 30 m, where in some places, they are among the most common fish. Young live among floating Sargassum. Solitary or in small groups. Feeds on crabs and sea urchins. Spawns in deep water.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Xiphophorus hellerii</i>	Green swordtail; Red swordtail; Swordtail; Pez cola de espada; Pez coliespada	Introduced. Used in aquarium trade. Found in rapidly flowing streams and rivers, preferring heavily vegetated habitats. Occurs in warm springs, weedy canals, and ponds. Feeds on worms, crustaceans, insects, and plant matter. Used for genetics research.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>	Southern platyfish; Platy; Plati	Introduced. Used in aquarium trade. Occurs in warm springs, canals, and ditches with typically slow-moving water, silt bottoms and weedy banks. Feeds on worms, crustaceans, insects, and plant matter. Used for genetic research.	Puerto Rico	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Xyrichtys martinicensis</i>	Rosy razorfish; Straight tail razorfish; Navajón rosado	Used in aquarium trade. Common in open sandy areas. Feeds on small invertebrates. Dives head first into the sand when frightened. Generally common. Of no interest to fisheries because of its small average size.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef

Fish Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Xyrichtys novacula</i>	Pearly razorfish; Navajón perlado; Doncellita	Minor importance in commercial fisheries. Used in sport fishing and aquarium trade. Inhabits clear shallow areas with sandy bottoms, in the vicinity of seagrass beds and corals. Feeds mainly on mollusks, crabs, and shrimps. Builds nests with coral debris.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Seagrasses
<i>Xyrichtys splendens</i>	Green razorfish; Navajón verde	Used in aquarium trade. Common in shallow, sandy areas in and around seagrass beds. Prefers clear waters. Generally of no interest to fisheries because of its small average size.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef

(*) in column “Habitat Used”: Means that the species found in that particular habitat was reported for a country within the Caribbean region, but not specifically for Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

TABLE 2. SPECIES OF CRUSTACEANS FOUND IN WETLANDS OF THE U.S. CARIBBEAN

Crustacean Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Alpheus normanni</i>	Green snapping shrimp; Snapping shrimp	Common on subtropical and tropical seagrass beds. Stays below the meadow surface in burrows during the day. Nocturnal. Feeds on juveniles of the hard clam (<i>Mercenaria sp.</i>).	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Atya innocous</i>	Jonga; Guábara; Chágara	Potential importance in fisheries. Common in both rushing mountain and lowlying sluggish streams. Migrates as larvae to coastal environments and migrates back to rivers as postlarvae. It reaches a maximum length of 7 cm.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Rivers
<i>Atya lanipes</i>	Guábara; Chágara	Potential importance in commercial fisheries. Freshwater species as adults. Migrates as larvae to coastal environments and migrates back to rivers as postlarvae.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Rivers; Estuaries
<i>Atya scabra</i>	Guábara; Chágara	Potential importance in commercial fisheries. Migrates as larvae to coastal environments and migrates back to rivers as postlarvae.	Puerto Rico	Rivers; Estuaries
<i>Brachycarpus biunguiculatus</i>	Two claw shrimp	Found near shore among corals or rocks on reefs. Known to be a cleaning shrimp. Mostly nocturnal. Live as male-female pairs in smaller protected recesses. Timid animals.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Callianassa acanthochirus</i>	Ghost shrimp	Found in or near seagrass beds on shallow tropical lagoons. Captures and stores drifting detritus of seagrass and algae in their burrows.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Callianassa longiventris</i>	Ghost shrimp	Found in or near seagrass beds on shallow tropical lagoons. Captures and stores drifting detritus of seagrass and algae in their burrows.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Callianassa quadracuta</i>	Ghost shrimp	Found in shallow tropical lagoons. Builds volcano-shaped mounds of ejected sediment during feeding and burrowing in seagrass habitats. High density of this shrimp is negatively correlated to seagrass productivity.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses

Crustacean Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Callinassa rathbunae</i>	Ghost shrimp	Found in shallow tropical lagoons. Builds volcano-shaped mounds of ejected sediment during feeding and burrowing in seagrass habitats. High density of this shrimp is negatively correlated to seagrass productivity.	U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Callinectes bocourti</i>	Blue crab; Red blue crab; Cocolía	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in shallow brakish waters over mud to sandy bottoms. Capable of living in polluted areas. Feeds on bivalve mollusks, fish, other crustaceans, organic debris, vegetation, and benthic infauna.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Callinectes danae</i>	Blue crab; Cocolía	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs from muddy estuaries in mangroves and algae-broken shell bottoms, to beaches and open ocean. Cannibalistic. Feeds on mollusks, fish, other crustaceans, organic debris, vegetation, and benthic infauna.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Callinectes exasperatus</i>	Blue crab; Cocolía	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in marine, estuarine, and maybe fresh water, in association with mangroves and river mouths, up to 7.5 m depth. Feeds on bivalve mollusks, fish, other crustaceans, organic debris, vegetation, and benthic infauna.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Callinectes larvatus</i>	Blue crab; Cocolía	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in a variety of shallow environments: sand, mud flats, algae-grass flats, mangroves, etc. Often in intertidal pools. Feeds on mollusks, fish, other crustaceans, organic debris, vegetation, and benthic infauna.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves; Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Callinectes ornatus</i>	Blue crab; Ornate blue crab; Cocolía	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in sandy or muddy bottoms from shore to 75 m. Also in bays and river mouths. Tolerates a broad salinity range. Feeds on bivalve mollusks, fish, other crustaceans, organic debris, vegetation, and benthic infauna.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses
<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>	Blue crab; Cocolía	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in freshwater, estuaries, and shallow ocean, in mud bottoms. Active swimmer. More active during daylight. Tolerant of extremes. Blue crabs are highly fecund. Feeds mainly on mollusks and hard clams.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves; Seagrasses

Crustacean Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Cardisoma guanhumi</i>	Blue land crab; White land crab; Great land crab; Juey común; Juey; Juey azul; Juey de tierra	Subsistence fisheries. One of the largest crabs in the world. It hides during the day in burrows near swamps. Considered a pest in Puerto Rico. Mostly a vegetarian crab. Peak activity time is at dawn and dusk. Found up to 5 km away from the coast.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Mangroves
<i>Epilobocera sinuatifrons</i>	River crab; Buruquena	Subsistence fisheries. Found in rivers. Active predator. Can be found in caves.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Freshwater wetlands
<i>Gnathophyllum americanum</i>	Striped bumblebee shrimp	Found in lagoons, bays ,and along external reefs. Usually observed in association with sea stars, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Hippolyte curacaoensis</i>	Caridean shrimp	Clings to seagrass blades during daylight but swims more frequently at night.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Hippolyte pleuracanthus</i>	False Zostera shrimp		Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Hippolyte zostericola</i>	Zostera shrimp; Broken back shrimp; Atlantic shrimp	Herbivorous shrimp.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Jonga serrei</i>	Shrimp	Typically a freshwater species, but could be found in marine habitats, or probably have marine larvae.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Latreutes fucorum</i>	Slender sargassum shrimp	Common in floating Sargassum, surface waters, and grass flats. Clings to seagrass blades during daylight but swims more frequently at night.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Latreutes parvulus</i>	Caridean shrimp	Found in littoral waters from sponges among shells, dead coral, hydroids, and on seagrass flats. Occurs from surface to 44 m. Not very common anywhere in its range.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Leander tenuicornis</i>	Brown grass shrimp	Found in floating sargassum, above the sediment surface, and among seagrass blades during day and night.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Lysmata moorei</i>	Caridean shrimp	Mostly nocturnal.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Macrobrachium acanthurus</i>	Cinnamon river shrimp	Potential importance in commercial fisheries. Inhabits rivers and bays. It is found under rocks or among submerged vegetation on the edges. Feeds on vegetation and small invertebrates.	Puerto Rico	Rivers; Freshwater wetlands

Crustacean Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Macrobrachium carcinus</i>	Big claw river shrimp	Important in commercial fisheries. Inhabits rivers and low-ground ponds. Territorial and omnivorous. It is cannibalistic, what makes its breeding difficult. Post larval shrimp migrate from estuaries to upstream pools.	Puerto Rico	Rivers; Estuaries
<i>Macrobrachium crenulatum</i>	Freshwater prawn	Potential importance in commercial fisheries. Lives in holes, under rocks, submerged roots, or under organic materials. Feeds on detritus. Post larval shrimp migrates from estuaries to rivers.	Puerto Rico	Rivers; Estuaries
<i>Macrobrachium faustinum</i>	Freshwater prawn	Subsistence fisheries. Inhabits slow flowing rivers and marshes in low lying areas, and fast flowing streams in hilly regions.	Puerto Rico	Rivers; Marshes
<i>Macrobrachium heterochirus</i>	Cascade river prawn; Crayfish; Freshwater prawn; Langostino	Potential importance in commercial fisheries.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Metapenaeopsis goodei</i>	Shrimp	Found in mud, sand, gravel, broken shell, rock, coral reefs, and sometimes algae. Occurs from the surface to 329 m.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Micratya poeyi</i>	Freshwater shrimp	Typically a freshwater species, but could be found in marine habitats, or probably have marine larvae.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Panulirus argus</i>	Spiny lobster; Caribbean spiny lobster; Langosta espinosa; Langosta común	High importance in fisheries. Active at night. Feeds on a wide variety of foods such as clams, mussels, crabs, worms, and occasionally plants. Juveniles are found in seagrasses. It sheds (molts) its shell up to 25 times in the first five years of life.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef; Mangroves
<i>Panulirus guttatus</i>	Spotted spiny lobster; Brazilian lobster; Langostino; Langosta moteada	Important in commercial fisheries. Lives on reefs. Primarily a nocturnal feeder. Seeks refuge during the day, emerges and feeds on variety of foods at night. When disturbed, it swims quickly backwards using powerful movements of its tail.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef
<i>Panulirus laeviscauda</i>	Smoothtail lobster; Smoothtail spiny lobster; Langosta espinosa; Langosta verde	Important in commercial fisheries. Abundant in Brazilian waters but is rarely found in the Caribbean. Mainly found in mangrove environments. This species can reach a maximum of 31 cm.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Reef; Mangroves

Crustacean Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Penaeus brasiliensis</i>	Red or Pink spotted shrimp; Caribbean brown shrimp; Camarón rosado con manchas; Camarón	Commercial importance. Typically a marine species that invade estuarine habitats. Reddish color. This is considered the biggest species, the females can reach 25 cm and the males 19 cm.	Puerto Rico	Estuaries
<i>Penaeus duorarum</i>	Northern pink shrimp; Pink shrimp; Pink spotted, Pink night shrimp; Langostino rosado	Important in commercial fisheries. Occurs in coastal waters and estuaries on sand, shell-sand, or coral-mud bottoms. Actively swims, burrows, and crawls. Opportunistic omnivore. The young are often found abundantly in seagrasses.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Penaeus notialis</i>	Southern pink shrimp; Camarón	Species of high importance in commercial fisheries. Prefers mud, sandy mud or sandy patches among the rocks. The juveniles are estuarine, the adults strictly marine.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Estuaries
<i>Penaeus schmitti</i>	Southern whites; White shrimp; Camarón blanco	Important species in commercial fisheries. The adults are marine, the juveniles estuarine. It is found from the shore down to about 47 meters.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Estuaries
<i>Penaeus subtilis</i>	Brown shrimp; Camarón marrón; Camarón	Important in commercial fisheries. Uses brackish environments (coastal lagoons, marshes and estuaries) during small periods of their life cycle.	Puerto Rico	Estuaries; Marshes
<i>Periclimenes americanus</i>	American grass shrimp	Inhabits coastal waters. Prefers sandy or rocky bottom, often between algae or coral, or among turtle grass or debris. Swims alone or in small groups at the surface at night.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Periclimenes iridescens</i>	Caridean shrimp	Occurs in sand and algae, also in corals.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Potimirrim americana</i>	Shrimp	Typically a freshwater species, but could be found in marine habitats, or probably have marine larvae.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Potimirrim glabra</i>	Shrimp	Typically a freshwater species, but could be found in marine habitats, or probably have marine larvae.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Potimirrim mexicana</i>	Shrimp	Typically a freshwater species, but could be found in marine habitats, or probably have marine larvae.	Puerto Rico	Rivers
<i>Processa bermudensis</i>	Caridean shrimp	Found in shallow marine waters including high salinity estuaries, grass flats, sand and shells. Mostly nocturnal. It has daytime burrowing habits.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses

Crustacean Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Processa riveroi</i>	Caridean shrimp	Mostly nocturnal. It has daytime burrowing habits.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Salmoneus sp.</i>	Caridean shrimp		Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Thor manningi</i>	Caridean shrimp	Occurs above the sediment surface and among seagrass blades. Also in living or dead coral, algae. Has a sexual system in which females pass through a brief male phase. There are some who remain male all their lives, a sort of "super male type".	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Tozeuma carolinense</i>	Caridean shrimp; Arrow shrimp	Common in beds of vegetation or similar habitats in shallow water. Often swims in a vertical position and rests in a clinging position on seagrass blades. It blends well with the background. Feeds by grazing on epifauna on grasses.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Trachycaris restrictus</i>	Caridean shrimp		Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Ucides cordatus</i>	Juey pelú	Important in commercial fisheries. Lives in mangroves where it excavates burrows in the substratum, mainly mud. During high tide remains in the burrow, leaves at low tide to look for food. Omnivorous species.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Xyphocaris elongata</i>	Caridean shrimp; Camarón	Typically a freshwater species, but could be found in marine habitats, or probably have marine larvae.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses; Mangroves

(*) in column "Habitat Used": Means that the species found in that particular habitat was reported for a country within the Caribbean region, but not specifically for Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

TABLE 3. SPECIES OF MOLLUSKS FOUND IN WETLANDS OF THE U.S. CARIBBEAN

Mollusk Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Aplysia sp.</i>	Sea hare; Liebre de mar	Conch without external shell. Found on sand. Can exude a reddish substance when handled. Its diet may include seagrass leaves.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Arene tricarinata</i>		Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Atrina sp.</i>	Almeja	Found partially buried in the sand. They are attached to the bottom with proteic fibers forming strong anchors.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Batillaria minima</i>	West Indian false cerith; Snail; Caracol	They grow to a maximum size of about 15 mm. Their shells have an elongated conical shape.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Biomphalaria sp.</i>		Freshwater mollusk. Found in freshwater forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Brachidontes recurvus</i>	Hooked mussel	Found on the surface of mangrove roots.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Bulla striata</i>	Striate bubble; Atlantic bubble	Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico. Also found in grassy areas. Common species.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Cassis flammea</i>	Flame helmet; Gallina	Adults are found in seagrasses.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Cassis madagascarensis</i>	Cameo helmet; Gallina	Adults, early and late juveniles are found in seagrasses. Also found on sand bottoms.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Cassis tuberosa</i>	Helmet shell; Caribbean helmet; Gallina	Adults, early and late juveniles are found in seagrasses. Adults also found in hard bottoms. Feeds upon sea urchins.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Cerithium sp.</i>	Horn shell; Caracol	Can be found on mud in mangrove swamps.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Mangroves
<i>Chione cancelata</i>	Almeja	Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Codakia orbicularis</i>	Tiger lucine; Almeja	Found buried within soft sediments between seagrass roots. Occurs in sediments with low oxygen. Can withstand high temperatures and salinity. Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses

Mollusk Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Codakia orbiculata</i>	Dwarf tiger lucine; Almeja	Found buried within soft sediments between seagrass roots. Occurs in sediments with low oxygen. Can withstand high temperatures and salinity. Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Conax sp.</i>	Chipe	Important in commercial fisheries and subsistence fisheries. Found in estuaries.	Puerto Rico	
<i>Crassostrea rhizophorae</i>	Mangrove oyster; Ostión de mangle	Important in commercial fisheries and subsistence fisheries. Found in brackish water forming clusters on the prop roots of the red mangrove, as well as pilings and rocks. Small with a long purple shell. Considered a delicacy by humans.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Cymatium sp.</i>	Seashell; Caracol	Has ornamented shells.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Cymatium vespaceum</i>	Dwarf hairy triton	Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Diplodonta punctata</i>	Almeja	Found buried within soft sediments between seagrass roots. Found in sediments with low oxygen. Can withstand high temperatures and salinity. Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Diplodonta semiaspera</i>	Almeja	Found buried within soft sediments between seagrass roots. Found in sediments with low oxygen. Can withstand high temperatures and salinity. Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Fasciolaria tulipa</i>	True Tulip; Conch; Caracol	Adults are found in hard bottoms, reefs, and seagrasses. Has ornamented conchs. Can be found in a great variety of colors.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Gouldia insularis</i>		Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Heterodonax bimaculatus</i>	Almeja	Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Hipponix antiquatus</i>	White hoof shell	Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Isognomon alatus</i>	Flat tree-oyster	Found in intertidal and subtidal surfaces of mangrove roots.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves

Mollusk Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Lucina blanda</i>	Almeja	Found buried within soft sediments between seagrass roots. Found in sediments with low oxygen. Can withstand high temperatures and salinity. Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Lucina pectinata</i>	Thick lucine; Clam; Almeja; Lucina	Important in commercial fisheries. Used in biomedical experiments: the protein Hemoglobin I is extracted from this clam.	Puerto Rico	
<i>Mercenaria campechiensis</i>	Southern quahog; Cherry stone clams; Almeja dura	It has some importance in commercial fisheries. Abundant on sandy or muddy shores. Filter feeder.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>	Northern quahog, Hard clam, Cherrystone, Littleneck; Round clam; Almeja	Very important in commercial fisheries. Used in aquaculture. Commonly found in bays or protected areas. Burrows shallowly in sediments of either mud or sand. A filter feeder.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Mercenaria mercenaria notata</i>	Northern quahog; Almeja dura	A subspecies of <i>M. mercenaria</i> of smaller size. Found in sediments of either mud or sand. Filter feeder.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Microcardium tinctum</i>		Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Modiolus americanus</i>	Mussel; American horsemussel	Suspension-feeding mussel.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Modulus sp.</i>	Conch; Caracol		Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Nerita tessellata</i>	Tessellate nerite; Checkered nerite	Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Neritima virginea</i>		Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Phacoides pectinatus</i>	Bivalve mollusk	Organism characterized as a deep burrower in mangrove mud.	Puerto Rico	Mangroves
<i>Phyllonotus sp.</i>	Conch; Caracol	Has ornamented conchs.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Physa acuta</i> or <i>P. cubensis</i>	Tadpole snails; Pouch snails	Freshwater mollusk. Found in freshwater forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico. They are widespread, abundant, and tolerant of pollution.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Pinna sp.</i>	Almeja	Found partially buried in the sand. They are attached to the bottom with proteic fibers forming strong anchors.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Rissoina bryera</i>		Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands

Mollusk Species	Common Name	Interesting Facts	Region	Habitat Used
<i>Strombus costatus</i>	Milk Conch; Harbour conch; Caracol blanco	Adults, early and late juveniles are found in seagrasses. Adults also found in hard bottoms.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Strombus gallus</i>	Rooster-tail conch	Found on coralline fragments and marine grass bottoms (seagrasses). Uncommon species.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Strombus gigas</i>	Pink conch; Queen conch; Carrucho	Important in commercial fisheries. Found in hard bottoms, reef, rubble, sand/shell and seagrasses. Shells are large, up to 30 cm in length, pinkish and beautiful. Feeds mainly on algae, also seagrass. Larvae eat plankton. Adults are most active at night.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef; Forested wetlands
<i>Strombus pugilis</i>	West Indian fighting conch; Carruchito peleador; Uña	Adults, early and late juveniles are found in seagrasses. Adults are also found in hard bottoms.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Strombus raninus</i>	Hawk-wing conch	Adults are found in seagrasses.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses; Reef
<i>Tagelus sp.</i>	Pitijuye	Important in commercial fisheries and subsistence fisheries. Found in estuaries.	Puerto Rico	
<i>Tellina laevigata</i>	Almeja	Feeds on organic detritus.	Puerto Rico	Seagrasses
<i>Thiara granifera</i>	Quilted melania	Found in freshwater from rivers, streams, and lakes to drainage ditches, irrigation canals, cement ponds, and swamps. Feeds on algae, microorganisms, and small particles of organic matter. Sold in the pet trade industry. Tolerates pollution.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Truncatella caribaensis</i>		Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands
<i>Vasum muricatum</i>	Caribbean vase	Adults are found in seagrasses.	Puerto Rico; U.S. Virgin Islands	Seagrasses
<i>Zebina browniana</i>	Smooth risso	Mollusk of marine habitat. Found in forested wetlands (bloodwood swamp) in Puerto Rico.	Puerto Rico	Forested wetlands

(*) in column “Habitat Used”: Means that the species found in that particular habitat was reported for a country within the Caribbean region, but not specifically for Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

GLOSSARY

Amphipod: A small shrimp-like crustacean.

Benthic: Organisms that live on the bottom of a water body. They are not free-floating like pelagic organisms.

Brackish: Slightly salty.

Camouflage: An animal's disguise, usually through color, that enables it to blend in with its surroundings.

Catadromous: Fish that migrates from fresh water to saltwater to spawn.

Coastline: The line that forms the boundary between land and the water.

Copepod: A member of a large group of species of very small shrimp like crustaceans; common in marine and, to a lesser extent, freshwater systems.

Cryptic: Refers to a behavior or coloration that tends to conceal an animal.

Debris: The remains of something that has been destroyed or broken up.

Demersal: Refers to fish and animals that live near the bottom of a water body.

Diurnal: Active during the day.

Ecosystem: A community of plants and animals interacting with one another and with their environment.

Estuary: A semi-enclosed body of water with an open connection to the sea, where saltwater and freshwater mix.

Filter feeder: An organism that filters out nutrients such as plankton, bacteria, or detritus from the water.

Fishery/fisheries: The act, process, and industry of catching fish, crustaceans, mollusks, or other aquatic organisms for commercial, recreational, subsistence or other purpose.

Groundwater: Underground water that is generally found in the pore space of rocks or sediments.

Habitat: The place and conditions in which an organism lives.

Herbivore: An animal that eats plants.

Hermaphrodite: An animal or plant, which has both male and female reproductive organs.

Hypersaline: Term used to characterize waters with salinity greater than 40 ppt due to land-derived salts.

Insular: Related to, characteristic of, or situated on an island.

Intertidal: Refers to the zone between high and low tides, which is alternately exposed to the air and to the sea.

Littoral zone: Area on or near the shore of a body of water.

Mouthbrooder: Fish that care for the eggs/larva/fry by holding them in their mouth, thus protecting them from danger by third party fish.

Neritic: Refers to fish and organisms that live in nearshore waters.

Nursery: The part of a fish's or animal's habitat where the young grow up.

Omnivorous: Feeding on all kinds of foods, plant or animal material.

Oviparous: Reproducing by eggs that hatch outside the female's body.

Pelagic: Refers to fish and other organisms that live in the open sea, in the water column, away from the sea bottom.

Plankton: Passively floating or weakly motile aquatic plants (phytoplankton) and animals (zooplankton).

Predator: An animal that hunts and kills other animals for its food.

Runoff: That part of precipitation or irrigation water that flows from the land to streams or other surface waters.

Salinity: Measure of the salt content of water or other liquids.

Sargassum: A brown algae forming dense floating masses in tropical Atlantic waters such as the Sargasso Sea.

Sessile: Organisms that are permanently attached or fixed to a surface. Oysters for example are sessile organisms.

Shellfish: Any aquatic animal that has a shell, such as crustaceans and mollusks.

Spawn/spawning: Process of releasing and fertilizing eggs.

Subsistence fishery/fisheries: A fishery in which the harvested resource is used directly without sale for profit; not considered a leisure or sporting activity.

Subtidal: Zone below the low-tide mark, which is always submerged in the water.

Tidal: Pertaining to, affected by, or having tides.

Zoobenthos: Animals that live on or near the bottom of a water body.

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