

Parrotfish are Good for Our Coral Reefs

Grazing parrotfish promote healthy reefs, which protect our coasts, support our economy, and provide us food. Help parrotfish and our reefs by fishing and consuming responsibly.



Your Good Habits Can Save Our Parrotfish

Parrotfish are too valuable to spearfish.

Instead, target sustainable food fish like jacks and grunts.

If you accidentally catch a parrotfish, put it back!

Protect mangroves and seagrass beds.

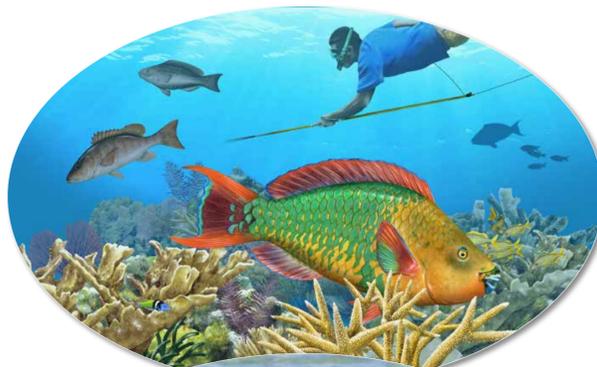
Mangroves and seagrasses are parrotfish nursery habitats.

Choose sustainable seafood while shopping and eating out.

There are many good choices at the Seafood Watch app and website.

Don't leave your gear behind.

Properly dispose of old lines and traps, which can continue to entangle and kill sea life.



Protect our Parrotfish

Why Protect Parrotfish?

Each type of fish on the reef has a specific job to do. Parrotfish help keep the reef clean by feeding on algae. This ensures that corals are not smothered by seaweed, and that open spaces are left for new coral larvae to settle. In this way, parrotfish help coral reefs to grow, providing more habitat for numerous other fish and invertebrates. As they graze, parrotfish also consume rock and dead coral, which is ground down in their gut and excreted as sand. A large parrotfish can produce hundreds of pounds of sand per year!

Common Parrotfish and Their Color Phases

Parrotfish are a diverse group of fish that spend most of their lives on coral reefs. Their name comes from their beaklike teeth and the bright colours displayed by adult males.

Stoplight Parrotfish



Juvenile



Adult



Supermale

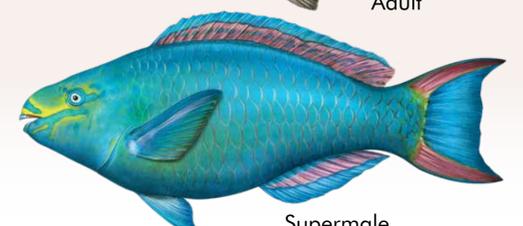
Queen Parrotfish



Juvenile

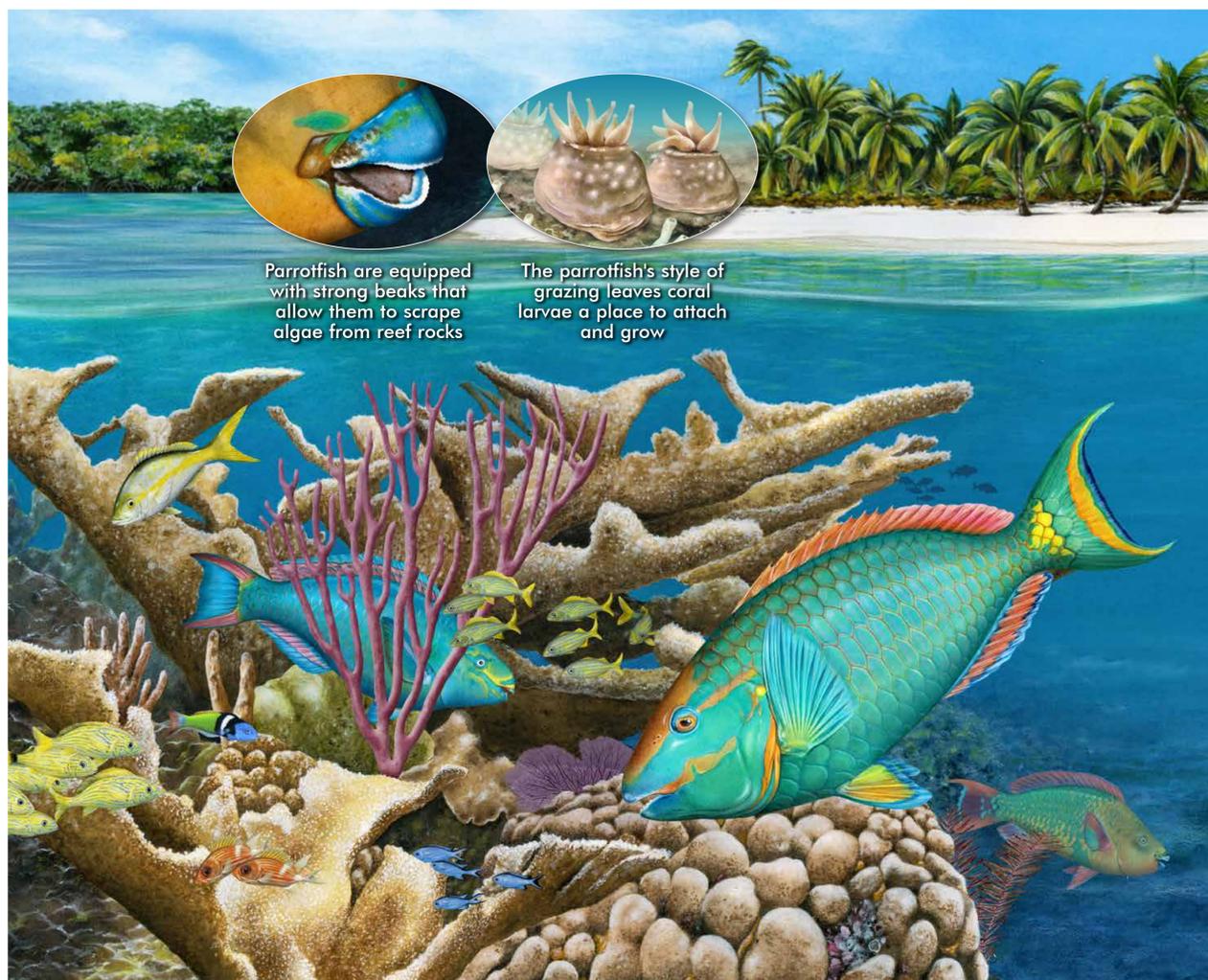


Adult



Supermale

Eleven species of parrotfish are commonly found on Bahamian reefs. Some of the largest parrotfish species can grow to over 5 feet long, while some may only grow to 5-7 inches long.



Parrotfish are equipped with strong beaks that allow them to scrape algae from reef rocks



The parrotfish's style of grazing leaves coral larvae a place to attach and grow



Follow coral courtesies.

Never stand on, kick, or touch coral. Use moorings or anchor in the sand away from reefs. Limit pesticides and fertilizers on lawns. Parrotfish rely on healthy coral reef habitats.



Keep the environment clean.

Pitch in by picking up litter on land and in the water. Solid waste, sewage, and fuel are damaging pollutants that should be properly disposed of at a local landfill or waste processing facility.

Support sustainable development.

Build sustainably by choosing a location and style that will not interfere with sensitive wetland areas. Avoid dredging.

Follow fishing regulations.

Fishing regulations are in place to help ensure the sustainability of important species—don't break the law!

Learn about and support The Bahamas Marine Protected Area Network.

Respect the rules while visiting protected areas. Protected areas benefit the entire marine environment by promoting healthy ecosystems and species. That means fish for the future!



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