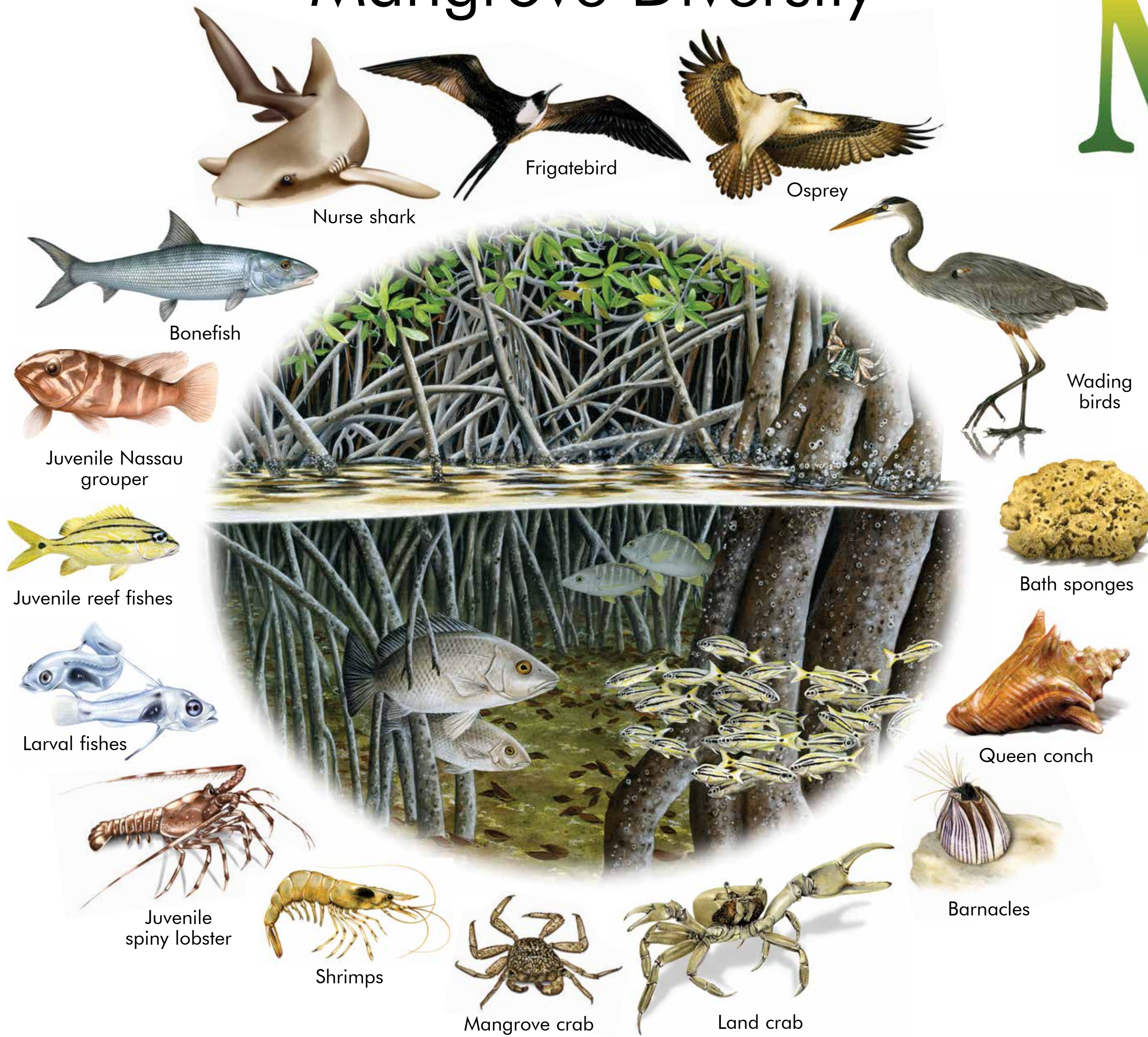


Mangrove Diversity

Mangrove Manners



Mangroves are bushes and trees that can live in saline waters. They form a crucial component of the coastal realm by supporting biodiversity, serving as a nursery for juveniles, and protecting shorelines from storm damage and erosion.

Mangrove Species



Red Mangrove — Most common mangrove in The Bahamas, found nearest to the coast. Identified by characteristic arching prop roots.



Black Mangrove — Found immediately inland of red mangroves. Roots extend outward underground and send up pneumatophores, which often stick out above the water like little snorkels.



White Mangrove — Common in high marshes, upland of red and black mangroves. Leaves are rounded at the base and tip. Two salt glands at the base of each leaf appear as small bumps.

- Most of the seafood we eat relies on mangroves at some stage in their lives.
- Mangrove roots provide a complex environment to help shelter juvenile fish from predators.
- Mangrove ecosystems support ecotourism activities such as catch-and-release fly fishing, snorkeling, birdwatching, and kayaking.
- Mangroves provide a buffer zone from heavy waves and storms which is important for juvenile fish.
- Mangroves make excellent roosting habitat for birds.
- Mangroves serve as sinks for carbon, reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Mangroves filter run-off from the land, helping to keep our seas clean and clear.
- Mangroves and other native coastal plants reduce shoreline erosion and help protect upland property, lessening the effects of storms and hurricanes.



Connections to Mangroves

Many juvenile fish and other sea life that grow up in mangroves move to seagrass beds and coral reefs as they mature. As such, mangroves and coral reefs are inextricably linked through the movements of animals. We must take care of mangroves to ensure fish populations remain healthy enough to support our food needs.

Your Good Habits Can Save Our Mangroves

Properly dispose of solid and liquid wastes
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.

Prevent and report oil spills
Learn about local boating laws and methods for proper oil disposal.

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

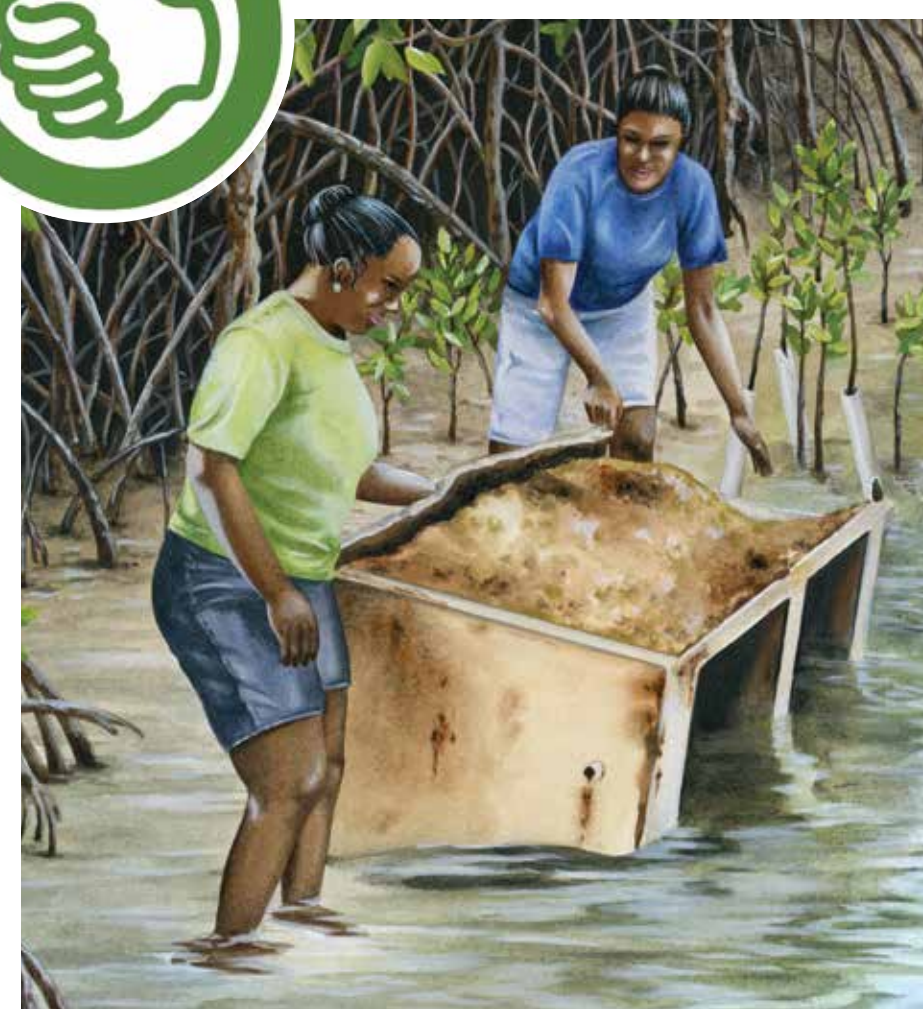
Remove derelict traps and lines
This good deed will help ensure that no fish are needlessly killed in "ghost" traps.

Remove fishing line from snagged baits
Fishing line left in the ocean can be mistaken for food by animals. Properly dispose of fishing line when you reach the shore.

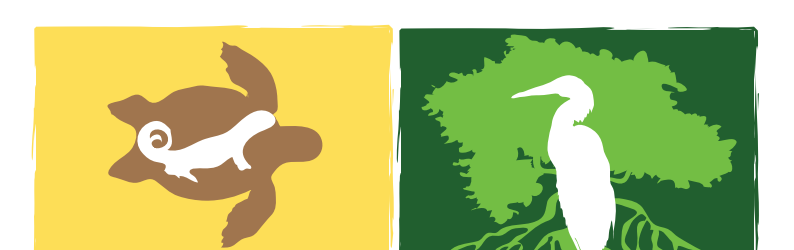
If trimming mangroves, follow guidelines
Because mangroves grow below the high water mark they are regulated by The Government. Contact your local government for advice.

Participate in coastal clean-ups
Contact your local conservation group to find out how you can become involved in beach, shoreline, and underwater clean-ups.

Be a mangrove steward
Get involved with mangrove conservation projects such as planting and helping to protect seedlings. Tell your friends and family about the importance of mangroves.



Help your community and the environment by removing unsightly and damaging trash from your local mangrove wetland.



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