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UnderWaterWorld 2021

Front page: Yellowfin goatfish – *Mulloides vanicolensis* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Occurs in the Red and Arabian Seas and is the only mullet found in schools of up to 200 individuals. Hogfish and snapper species often join the shoal.

January: Grunts and Snappers – Haemulidae & Lutjanidae – Pleasure Riff, Florida Keys

Grunts and snappers are predominantly nocturnal animals. During the day they can often be observed in groups near coral blocks, mostly under small overhangs or in caves when resting.

February: Sea squirts – Ascidiacea – Menjangan Island, Bali Sea, Indonesia

Sea squirts are found all over the world, usually in shallow water and are sessile animals: they remain firmly attached to substratum, such as rocks and shells. Sea squirts feed by taking in water through the oral siphon and filtering out the plankton from the water.

March: Hawksbill sea turtle – *Eretmochelys imbricata* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Hawksbill sea turtles are primarily found in tropical coral reefs. As a highly migratory species, they inhabit a wide range of habitats, from the open ocean to lagoons and even mangrove swamps in estuaries. Hawksbill sea turtle may reach 30 to 40 years of age.

April: Yellow saddle goatfish – *Parupeneus cyclostomus* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

It occurs solitarily or in groups, in all areas of the coral reefs and bottom area. It uses its barbels to probe holes and force out prey and is found in the Indo-Pacific from the Red Sea to South Africa, the Hawaiian Islands.

May: Halgerda malesso nudibranch – *Halgerda malesso* – Pemuteran, Bali Sea, Indonesia

It is found in Indonesia, the Philippines and Mariana Islands. It feeds on sponges and can grow to a size of 7 cm.

June: Bluegreen puller – *Chromis viridis* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Widespread in the Indian Ocean. Lives in shoals over corals of protected reefs where they can flee quickly in case of danger.

July: Magnificent anemone – *Heteractis magnifica* – Red Sea, Zerib Soraya, Egypt

The magnificent anemones are found in the Indo-Pacific. They usually sit on exposed areas on large coral blocks. The anemones provide a habitat for various small fish. This beautiful Anemones are growing in a large field at a depth of 30 meters.

August: Striped eel catfish – *Plotosus lineatus* – Red Sea, Ras El Quseir, Egypt

Striped eel catfish is one of the few in the sea and the only catfish living in coral reefs. It lives in shallow water, at depths of up to 35 metres, above soft and sandy bottoms in lagoons and on coral reefs. Juveniles form dense ball-shaped schools up to 1.000 fishes for their protection.

September: White-tip reef shark – *Triaenodon obesus* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Occurs in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean at depths of up to 40 metres. It can grow up to 210 cm. It lives Individually or in small groups on the reef, resting on the bottom during the day, hunting fish at night. It always returns to the same resting place.

October: Tropical striped triplefin – *Helcogramma striata* – Bali Sea, Tulamben, Indonesia



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The tropical striped triplefin is found in reefs in the western Pacific Ocean from Japan to Australia. It reaches a maximum length of 4 cm. It is normally found perched on coral or other hard surfaces where it watches for drifting plankton on which it feeds.

November: Blackfin barracuda – *Sphyraena qenie* – Red Sea, Bet Goha, Egypt

Occurs in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea in large schools, stationary during the day on current-rich reefs. At night they dissolve to search for food.

December: Durban hinge-beak shrimp – *Dendrochirus zebra* – Bali Sea, Tulamben, Indonesia

Dance shrimp grow to 4 cm in size and often live in large groups under overhangs and in dark crevices. Dance shrimp are omnivores but prefer animal food and they like to eat different invertebrates.

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