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## UnderWaterWorld 2024

### **Front page: Black-sided hawkfish – *Paracirrhites forsteri* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt**

The black-sided hawkfish is native to the tropical and sub-tropical Indo-Pacific Ocean. It is an ambush predator and usually lies in wait on the top of a coral, ready to dart out at passing crustaceans or small fish.

### **January: 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.

### **February: 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.

### **March: Common bottlenose dolphin – *Tursiops truncatus* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt**

The common bottlenose dolphin inhabits temperate and tropical oceans throughout the world. The common bottlenose dolphin is grey in colour and may be between 1,9 and 4 meters long, and weighs between 150 and 650 kg. They often visit the El Quadim Bay.

### **April: Red Sea walkman – *Inimicus filamentosus* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt**

The Red Sea walkman or devil scorpionfish, is as well know as Red Sea walkman. This benthic fish is found on sandy or silty substrates of lagoon and seaward reefs, in coastal regions of tropical oceans. He is a nocturnal bottom ambush predator, and digs himself often partially into the sandy seabed during the day.

### **May: Yellowtail barracuda – *Sphyraena flavicauda* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt**

The yellowtail barracuda is one of the smaller species of barracuda, which can be found in Indo-West Pacific oceans. Yellowtail barracudas school by day in lagoons, inner and outer reef slopes and is a nocturnal hunter of fish and large invertebrates.

### **June: French angelfish – *Pomacanthus paru* – Pleasure Reef, Florida Keys**

The French angelfish lives in the tropical and subtropical Atlantic, from the coast of Brazil to Florida, the Bermuda's and the southern Caribbean. He also lives in the eastern Atlantic, on the coast of West Africa. The French angelfish feeds on sponges, algae, bryozoans, zoantharians, gorgonians and tunicates.

### **July: Yellow-edged moray – *Gymnothorax flavimarginatus* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt**

The yellow-edged moray eel lives in the Red Sea and tropical Indo-Pacific. It inhabits mainly coral-rich lagoons, reef tops, outer and rocky reefs at depths up to 150 meters and is usually solitary. They are mainly nocturnal, but also swim freely in the morning and evening. Fish, cephalopods and crustaceans are among their prey.

### **August: Circular batfish – *Platax orbicularis* – Red Sea, Zerib Soraya, Egypt**

The circular batfish occurs in the Indo-Pacific. He lives in deeper lagoons, reefs channels and outer reefs. Circular batfish live alone or in small groups and feed on algae and small invertebrates.



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**September: Australian sea lion – *Neophoca cinerea* – Indian Ocean, Western Australia**

They live in small colonies along the coasts of Western and South Australia. They are usually found on small uninhabited islands along the coast. The bulls are up to 2,5 meters long and weight 300 kg. Cows are with 1,8 m and 100 kg much smaller.

**October: Three-banded damselfish – *Dascyllus abudafur* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt**

Three-banded damsel fish live in large schools above branching coral colonies or in smaller groups in isolated corals outside the reef proper. They feed on zooplankton, small bottom-dwelling invertebrates and algae.

**November: Rounded porcupinefish – *Cylichthys orbicularis* – Kubu, Bali Sea, Indonesia**

This porcupinefish is widespread throughout the tropical waters of the Indo-West Pacific region. It most commonly occurs in areas where the sea floor is covered in a soft sediment, such as sand, but also above reefs. This species is able to inflate itself by ingesting water. It is active at night and twilight.

**December: Cherry blossom coral – *Siphonogorgia godeffroyi* – Kubu, Bali See, Indonesia**

This soft coral is native to the central Indo-Pacific region. The polyps are white and star-like and are concentrated on the tips of small branches. This species feeds on plankton. It is found at depths between 10 and 20 m and grows on both rocky and coral reefs, on rock ledges, on reef slopes and under overhangs.

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