# **Yellowhead Wrasse** - Terminal



## Yellowhead Wrasse - Terminal Phase

Family: Wrasse

#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Two wavy lines radiate from rear upper eye
- 2. Yellow head and forebody
- 3. Dark midbody bar joins dark (occasionally red) stripe under dorsal fin that extends to tail

The Yellowhead wrasse only grows to be about 5-6 inches long and likes to swim around the reef looking for food. They like to eat algae, crustaceans, such as crabs, eggs, shrimps, snails and worms. They are pretty easy to spot and aren't afraid of snorkelers or divers.

# **Yellowhead Wrasse** - *Initial*



### Yellowhead Wrasse - Initial Phase

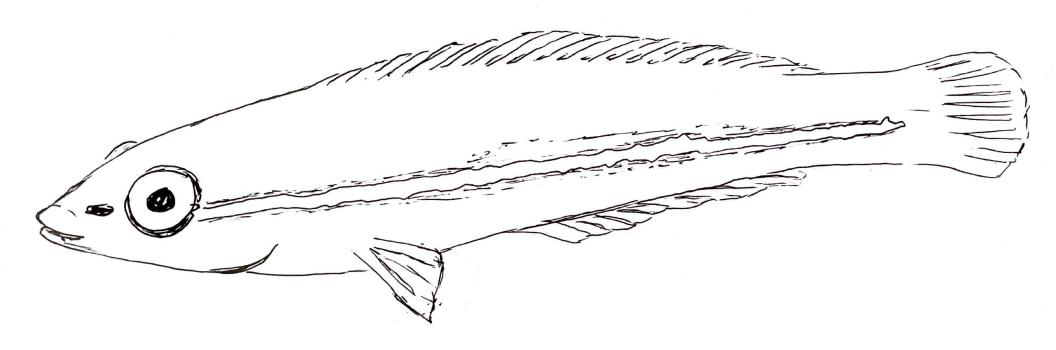
Family: Wrasse

#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Two wavy lines radiate from rear upper eye
- 2. Dark to dusky upper head and back

The Yellowhead wrasse only grows to be about 5-6 inches long and likes to swim around the reef looking for food. They like to eat algae, crustaceans, such as crabs, eggs, shrimps, snails and worms. They are pretty easy to spot and aren't afraid of snorkelers or divers.

# **Yellowhead Wrasse** - *Juvenile*



### Yellowhead Wrasse - Juvenile Phase

Family: Wrasse

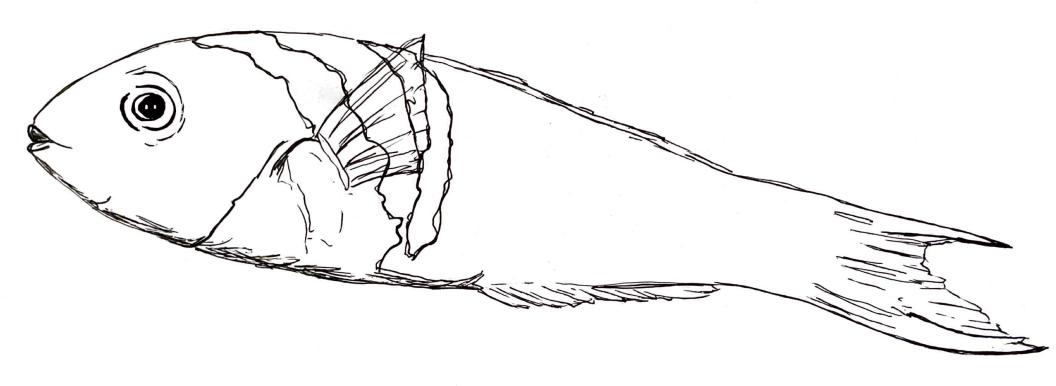
#### **Physical Description: Juvenile Phase**

- 1. Usually bright yellow
- 2. Brilliant blue midbody stripe

When they are young (juveniles) Yellowhead wrasse play a very important role on the reef - they are cleaner fish who help keep all the other fish clean and healthy. This works out great for everyone - the big fish get all the itchy uncomfortable parasites off of them and the juvenile wrasse get to eat all the juicy, tasty parasites.

Although many different species of fish act as cleaner fish when they are juveniles, the Yellowhead wrasse are the most common cleaner fish in the Caribbean and around Florida.

# Bluehead Wrasse -Terminal



## Bluehead Wrasse - Terminal Phase

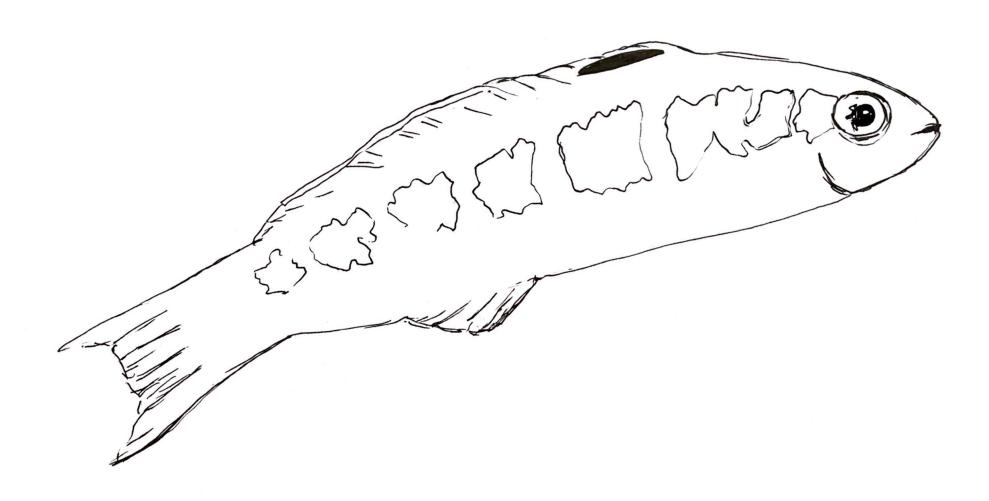
Family: Wrasse

#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Blue head
- 2. Two dark bars behind the head separated by a white bar
- 3. Rear of body is blue to blue-green

The Bluehead wrasse only grows to be about 4-5 inches long and just like the similar Yellowhed erase, they like to swim around the reef looking for algae, crustaceans, such as crabs, eggs, shrimps, snails and worms to eat. They are pretty easy to spot and aren't afraid of snorkelers or divers.

# **Bluehead Wrasse** - *Intermediate*



### Bluehead Wrasse - Intermediate Phase

Family: Wrasse

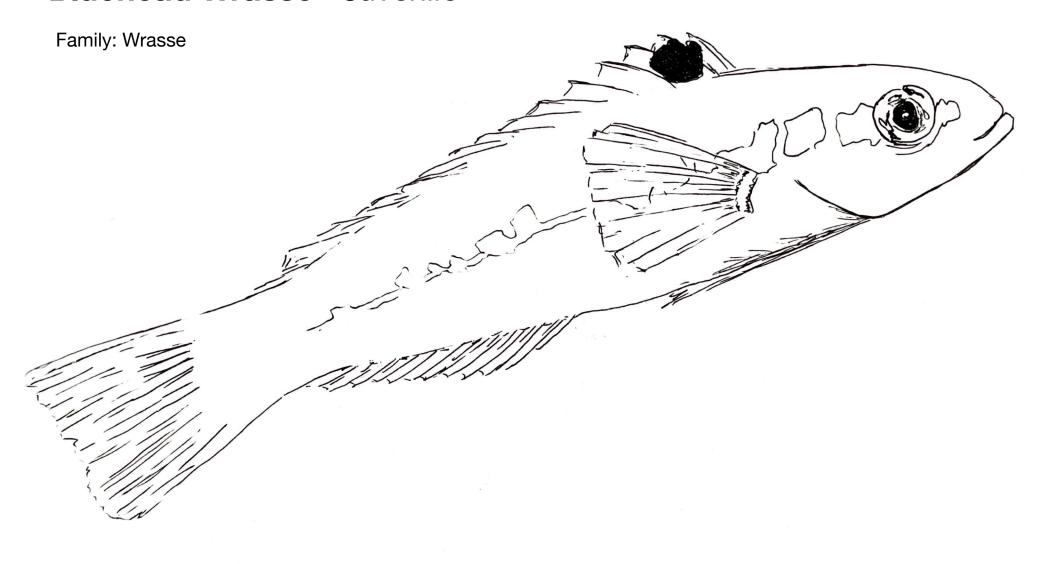
#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Black spot behind the second dorsal ray extends to base of fin
- 2. White belly
- 3. Undercolor is white with a series of broad bars ranging from yellow to greenish or dark blue

Similar to the Yellowhead wrasse, when they are young (juveniles) Bluehead wrasse also play a very important role on the reef - they are cleaner fish who help keep all the other fish clean and healthy. This works out great for everyone - the big fish get all the itchy uncomfortable parasites off of them and the juvenile wrasse get to eat all the juicy, tasty parasites.

Although many different species of fish act as cleaner fish when they are juveniles, the Bluehead wrasse are among the most common cleaner fish in the Caribbean and around Florida.

# **Bluehead Wrasse** - *Juvenile*



#### Bluehead Wrasse - Juvenile Phase

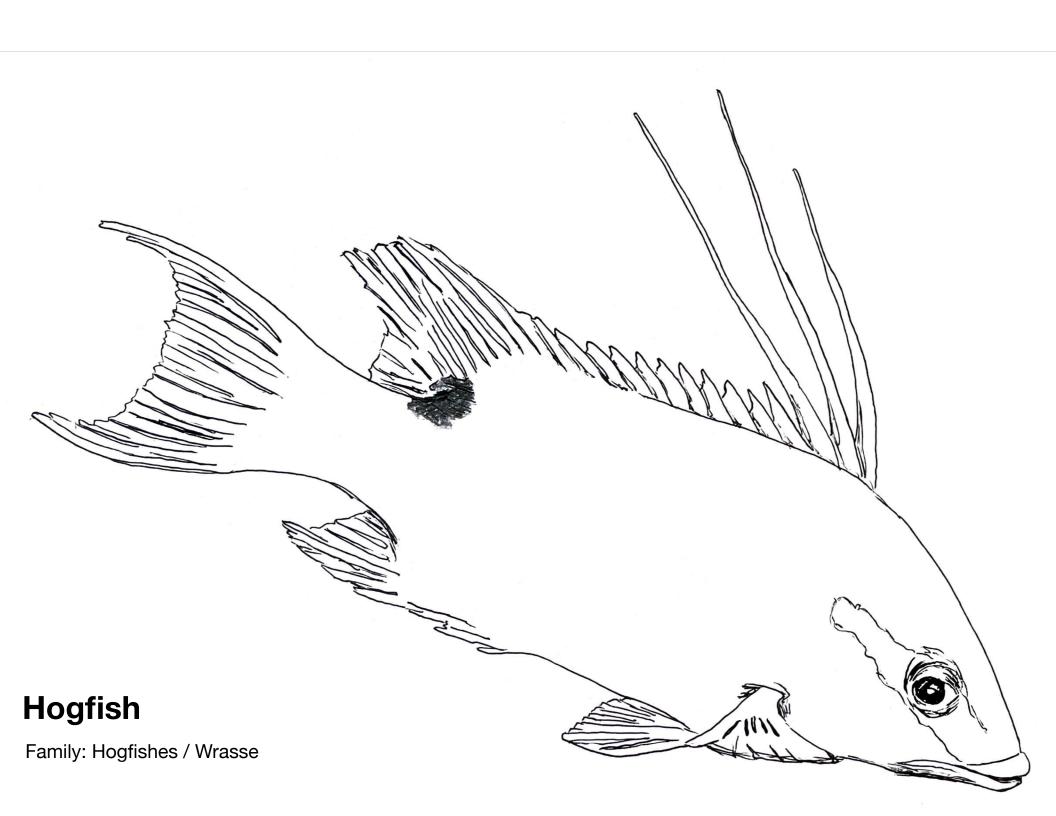
Family: Wrasse

#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Black spot behind the second dorsal ray extends to base of fin
- 2. White belly
- 3. They display one of three basic variations all with white bellies
  - a. Variation 1: yellow back with wide black stripe from snout to tail base
  - b. **Variation 2:** White back with wide black stripe from snout to tail base (common over sand)
  - c. Variation 3: Yellow head and back with white belly

Similar to the Yellowhead wrasse, when they are young (juveniles) Bluehead wrasse also play a very important role on the reef - they are cleaner fish who help keep all the other fish clean and healthy. This works out great for everyone - the big fish get all the itchy uncomfortable parasites off of them and the juvenile wrasse get to eat all the juicy, tasty parasites.

Although many different species of fish act as cleaner fish when they are juveniles, the Bluehead wrasse are among the most common cleaner fish in the Caribbean and around Florida.



## Hogfish

Family: Hogfishes/Wrasse

#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Body color varies from pearl white to mottled or banded reddish brown
- 2. First three spines on the dorsal fin are long
- 3. Large dusky or dark band runs from the snout, up the forehead and along the back and dorsal fin.

#### 4. Terminal Phase Only:

- a. Dark bar on tail and dark spot behind pectoral fin
- b. More pronounced snout

#### 5. Juvenile and Initial Phase Only:

a. black blotch on base of rear dorsal fin

Hogfish grow to be about 1-2 feet long and can get as big as three feet long. They are most often found swimming over open sandy areas and occasionally over reefs. Hogfish swim constantly searching for places to stop and dig on bottom in search of food. They use their long snout to dig in the sand for crustaceans and invertebrates similar to pigs rooting in soil - which is how they get their name "Hogfish".

Hogfish can change color very quickly - going from ghostly white to mottled dark reddish brown. They tend to display a reddish brown mottled or banded pattern when rooting at the bottom. These fish are fun to watch because they are so distinctive and unafraid - even curious about divers and snorkelers.

# Puddingwife - Terminal



## Puddingwife Wrasse - Juvenile Phase

Family: Wrasse

#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Five white bars or dots across upper back
- 2. Two yellow gold stripes down mid body with white stripes between
- 3. Large navy blue spot on mid dorsal spot on mid dorsal fin and upper back ringed with white to pale blue
- 4. Dark navy blue spot on upper tail base ringed with white to pale blue

The Puddingwife wrasse fish grows to be about one to one and a half feet long and like to cruise around the reef during the day hunting for food like crustaceans, mollusks, and algae.

The juveniles can sometimes be difficult to spot because they like to hide under coral and rocks that make up the reef. If you see an adult Pudding Wife swimming around, look closely, there's a good chance some juveniles are hiding out nearby!

# Puddingwife - Intermediate



## Puddingwife Wrasse - Intermediate Phase

Family: Wrasse

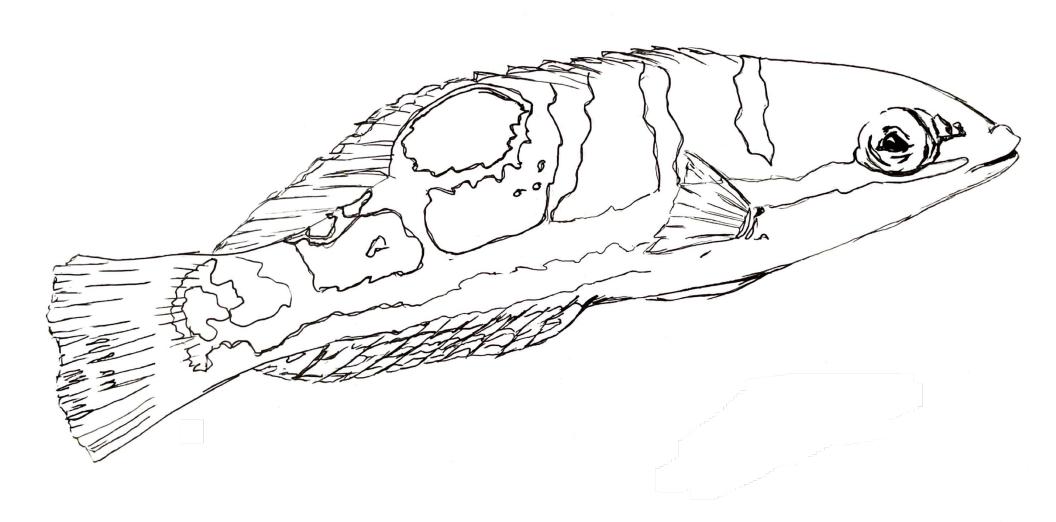
#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Body is colored in shades of green to orange occasionally with blue tints
- 2. Blue wavy lines extend from the eye
- 3. Bright yellow to greenish yellow margin on tail
- 4. Small dark spot on upper pectoral fin base
- 5. Five white bars or dots across upper back

The Puddingwife wrasse fish grows to be about one to one and a half feet long and like to cruise around the reef during the day hunting for food like crustaceans, mollusks, and algae. They mostly swim around alone but will occasionally swim in small groups.

It's always exciting to see a Puddingwife wrasse because they are somewhat shy and not as common as other wrasse species.

# Puddingwife - Juvenile



## Puddingwife Wrasse - Terminal Phase

Family: Wrasse

#### **Physical Description:**

- 1. Body is colored in shades of green to orange occasionally with blue tints
- 2. Blue wavy lines extend from the eye
- 3. Bright yellow to greenish yellow margin on tail
- 4. Small dark spot on upper pectoral fin base
- 5. Bluish to white mid body bar

The Puddingwife wrasse fish grows to be about one to one and a half feet long and like to cruise around the reef during the day hunting for food like crustaceans, mollusks, and algae. They mostly swim around alone but will occasionally swim in small groups.

It's always exciting to see a Puddingwife wrasse because they are somewhat shy and not as common as other wrasse species.