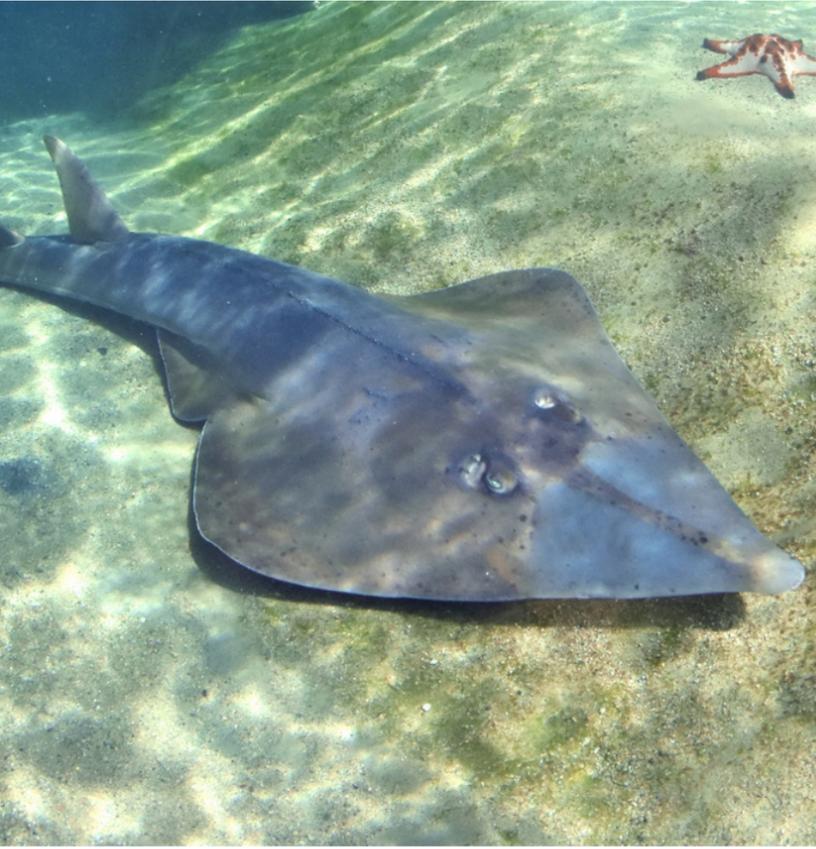


Meet our Living Reef Residents



GIANT SHOVELNOSE RAY

Glaucostegus typus

Shovelnose Rays are generally seen in sandy habitats within protected lagoons or bays. They feed mostly on fish, molluscs, and a range of crustaceans. Although usually in shallow water they have been recorded at depths below 50m. While they look like a shark because of their powerful tail and dorsal fins, they are actually classed as rays. Living reef is one of the only places in the world to have successfully bred shovelnose rays.

COACHWHIP RAY

Himantura uarnak

Also commonly known as the Brown Whipray, this species is found throughout the Whitsundays on sandy and muddy habitats.

Here they can find plenty of crustaceans and fish hiding in the sediment. Stingrays that have whipray in their name are so called because they grow long slender tails that can sometimes be over a metre long!



DIAMOND SCALE MULLET

Liza vaigiensis

These large silver fish can be found in marinas and ports all over the Whitsundays. They gulp at the surface collecting food such as algae, insects or even flowers.

They are a great help in the living reef lagoons as they control algae growth by eating it.



BENGAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Abudefduf bengalensis

The sergeant fish are most interesting because of their breeding rituals. The male will clear a patch of sand away to create a clean area. He then entices females to lay eggs in the nest. The male looks after the eggs until they hatch. You will often see the nests made by the males from the underwater observatory.



Meet our Living Reef Residents



YELLOW TAILED FUSILIER

Caesio cuning

These fish are often found around structure or in the "drop off zone" on a reef. They eat plankton and floating particles being carried in the current.

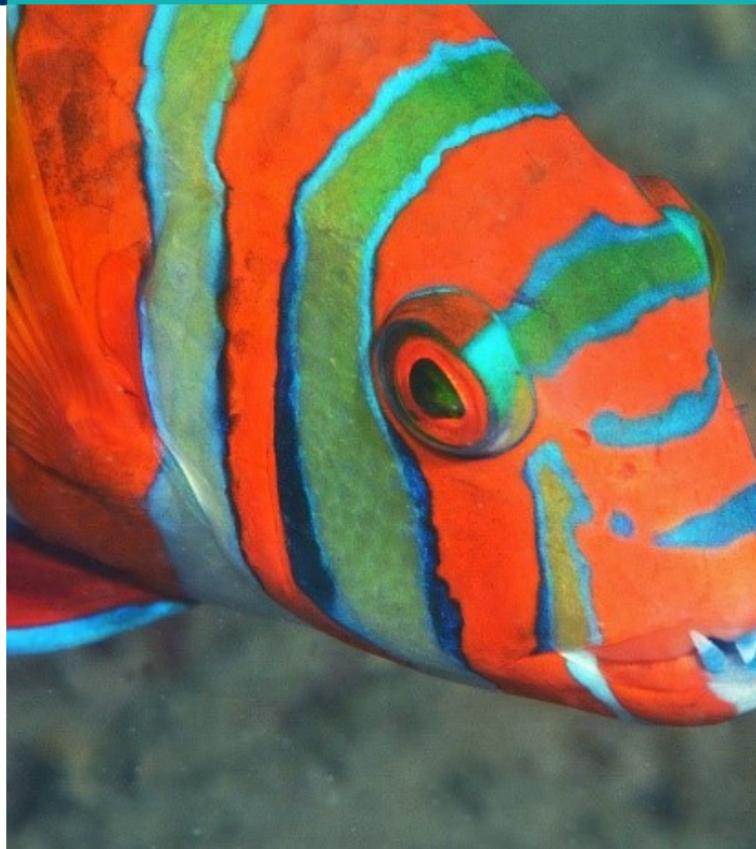
They are a schooling fish and the blue coloration allows them to be nearly invisible to a predators eye.

HARLEQUIN TUSKFISH

Choerodon fasciatus

Tusk fish are known for having large teeth that jut out from their mouths. They use these teeth for eating a variety of crustaceans and molluscs. The teeth and bones of tusk fish are blue which makes them easy to identify.

This particular species of tuskfish starts life as a female and develops into a male when it is the largest fish in the Harem.



HONEYCOMB ROCKCOD

Epinephelus merra

The honeycomb cod is easily identified by its pattern. It is an ambush predator and can often be seen sitting still, waiting for a chance to engulf a fish or crustacean.

The pattern helps them blend into their environment for protection against predators but also so unsuspecting prey are not startled by their presence.

GOLD SPOTTED ROCKCOD

Epinephelus coioides

Gold-spotted Cod are a species of rockcod commonly found in turbid coastal waters throughout tropical Australia. This species is one of the larger resident fish species that occupy reefs surrounding inshore islands such as the Whitsundays. They feed primarily on fish and crustaceans and can be found as deep as 120m. Because they are a large slimy fish, parasites attach more easily, so they can often be seen getting cleaned by cleaner wrasse to get rid of them. If it is raining you can find our resident cod (Rod, Todd and Mod) sitting in the shallows of our lagoons with their backs out of the water to let the freshwater kill the parasites!



Meet our Living Reef Residents



LONGFIN BANNERFISH

Heniochus acuminatus

The longfin banner fish is so called because of its long and extended dorsal fin. They feast primarily on plankton and small invertebrates.

They have been recorded eating parasites off other larger fish as a food source also. They have hair like teeth which makes them perfect for this.

CLEANER WRASSE

Labroides dimidiatus

The cleaner wrasse is a small fish about the size and shape of a human finger. They are one of the most important fish in the ocean when it comes to the health of the reef. These fish eat the parasites and invertebrates off other marine animals. They will even swim into the mouths and gills of larger fish which you can often see in the underwater observatory. This fish has proven that fish can have great memories! They remember and clean visiting animals before local animals as the visitors live further away and don't visit as often. The local animals can come back whenever and visit most days.



EMPEROR ANGELFISH

Pomacanthus imperator

The Emperor Angel fish is known for its beautiful pattern. As juveniles they are scribbled with blue, white and black lines and grow out of it as they mature.

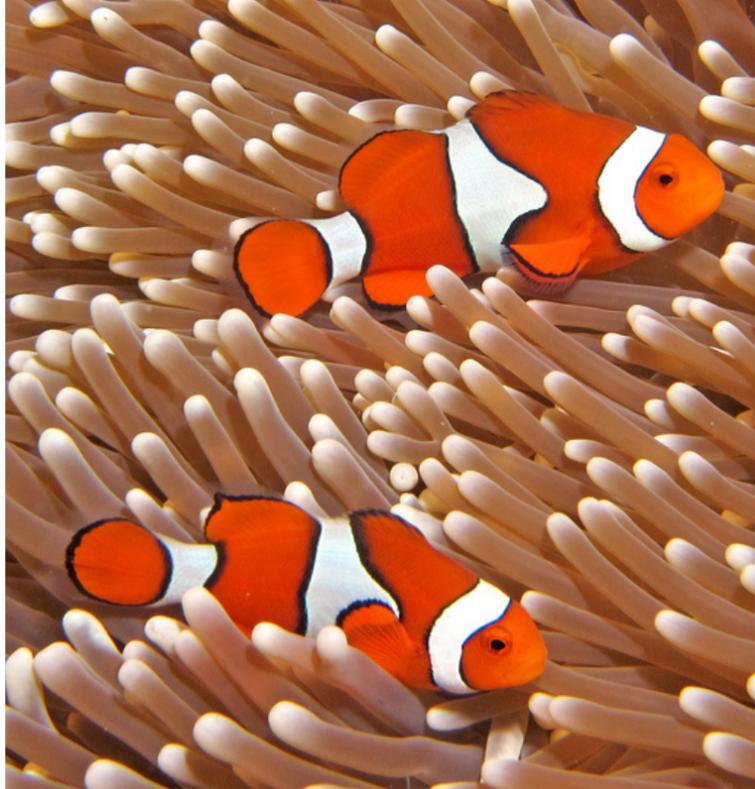
They eat encrusting organisms such as algae and sponges. They are usually solitary or seen with a mate.

CLOWN ANEMONEFISH

Amphiprion percula

Anemonefish also known as Clownfish get their name from the symbiotic relationship they share with various species of Sea Anemones. Anemone fish are coated with a mucus that allows them to live within the stinging tentacles away from any potential predators.

Like many fish, Anemonefish are hermaphrodites! All will hatch as males but only the largest fish on each Anemone will change to female. If the large female leaves for an extended time or dies, the next biggest male converts and takes her place.



Meet our Living Reef Residents



LINED RABBITFISH

Siganus lineatus

This fish is a herbivore, eating macroalgae or scraping off encrusting algae from rocks. This makes them an important fish for controlling the algae growth on coral reefs so that it does not overgrow corals and suffocate them.

They are also venomous which is injected via the spines! The scribbled pattern helps break up their outline so that predators cannot easily see them.

GIANT TREVALLY

Caranx ignobilis

Giant Trevally are a large predatory fish growing to 170cm and can be incredibly fast. They can be incredibly fast reaching speeds of over 60Km/h.

They eat large crustaceans and fish but have been documented hunting sea birds that fly too close to the surface of the water.



HORNED SEA STARS

Protoreaster nodosus

Sea stars can be found all over the living reef lagoons as they are great for eating algae and detritus.

The Crown of Thorns sea star exclusively eats coral and plagues the Great Barrier Reef, killing off entire sections.

Sea stars have great body regeneration abilities. If a section of a sea star has been eaten or damaged they can regrow it!

SPINY PULLER

Acanthochromis polyacanthus

The Damselfish are one of the smaller species we have but they are great in numbers. Damselfish occupy the cracks and crevices of a reef and can be very territorial. You may even see them chasing away the larger fish, especially if they have babies they are guarding. They can have hundreds of eggs and will look after their young after they have hatched until they are quite developed.

