

Tropical Ecology
Assignment #4
Marine Fish of Australia

While we're snorkeling the coral reefs around Lizard Island, you will see many different types of fish. Coral reef fish come in a huge variety of colors, shapes, and sizes. They inhabit every possible habitat and are active at different times of the day. Some are constantly swimming, while others stay in one area or drift with the currents. Some are carnivores, some are herbivores. Different species respond differently to the presence of humans - some are curious, some are aggressive, some run away, and a lot don't pay much attention at all.

So with all this variety, how can you ever hope to identify the fish that you see? The best thing you can do is learn to identify the most common fish families. The purpose of this assignment is to help you do that, and to get you to practice identifying common Australian fish.

Your assignment

Go to [this page](http://www.westminster.edu/staff/athrock/Australia/Assignments/Fish.htm) (<http://www.westminster.edu/staff/athrock/Australia/Assignments/Fish.htm>). You will see pictures of 10 groups of fish. Click on the images to enlarge them. Use the following resources to identify those groups of fish:

- Lambertini's book, pp. 178-181
- Berra's book, pp. 100-108
- The [Fish Family Finder](#) from the Australian Museum

If you're having trouble, I have some books you can borrow.

I've chosen 11 commonly-encountered groups of fish for you to identify:

- Angelfish
- Boxfishes
- Butterflyfish
- Damselfish
- Groupers
- Moray eels
- Parrotfish
- Pipefish
- Squirrelfish and cardinalfish
- Surgeonfish
- Wrasses

Once you've identified the fish, fill in the table on the following page. List the name of the group, the habitat in which they are commonly found, what they eat, and one other interesting fact about the fish.

This assignment is due before class next Wednesday, May 5th.

Group	habitat	food	Interesting fact
#1			
#2			
#3			
#4			
#5			
#6			
#7			
#8			
#9			
#10			
#11			