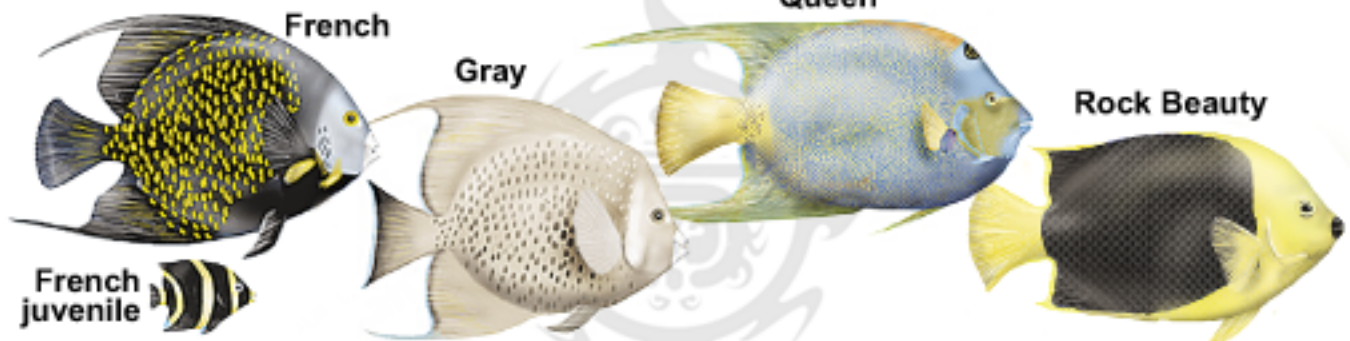


cancun area fish

Illustrations, Perry McFarlin
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angelfish family

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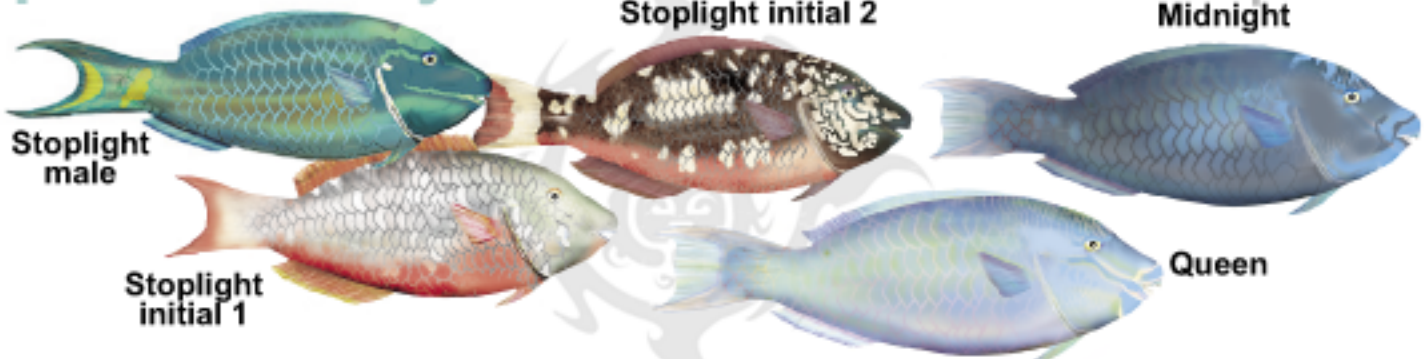


The French Angel, Gray Angel, and Queen Angel, are a very common sight in this area. You won't be as likely to see a Rock Beauty, especially in its adult size.

These adult fish all have bodies about the size of a dinner plate with flowing dorsal fins. Coloring of the French Angel is dramatically different in the juvenile stage (see small fish).

parrotfish family

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The Parrot fish is one of the most interesting in the sea. Most parrotfish begin life as females, and become male as they grow to a larger size. Their coloring changes along with this sex change and is most dramatic in the Stoplight Parrotfish as it progresses from grays and deep reds to a beautiful green, striped male.

Parrotfish have sharp teeth that they use to tear algae from coral. They grind up the coral and the finely ground waste becomes beautiful, soft, sand.

At night parrot fish wrap themselves in a cocoon that hides their sent from predators. You'll most often see the stoplight parrotfish and queen parrotfish when snorkeling.

slender fish

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The Barracuda, with its razor sharp teeth is commonly seen while snorkeling. It often hunts in shallow water looking for smaller fish to feed on.

The needlefish will usually be seen near the surface of the water and is often mistaken for

an infant barracuda. If you get close enough you'll see the needle-like nose that gives this fish its name.

The Trumpetfish hides in seagrass, most often nose down so it is camouflaged by the blades of grass as shown above.