

Snorkellers Guide to Marine Life at Anse Chastenet prepared by **Dr. Nigel Thomas**





Anse Chastenet

St. Lucia



Redlip Blenny. Ophioblennius macclurei.

This guide is intended to let you know about some of the many marine species you can see in the waters off Anse Chastenet.

The first point, however, is your safety. Snorkelling is safe in all locations within the marked buoys and to the north of the bay (Areas 5-7). However please remain vigilant with respect to vessel activity which can get very busy to the south of the bay (Area 3). It is recommended that you do not swim beyond the buoys at the southern headland.

The species you can see have been grouped together into different types, with an indication of where you can best see them. Nearly all of these images were collected while snorkelling at Anse Chastenet in 2014, so you should be able to see most of them yourself.

Elkhorn Coral. Acropora palmata.

All common names are in bold while Latin are in italic. An indication of size is given: L = Large, M = Medium, S = Small and V = Very. 😕 = Don't touch! 1, 2, 3, etc. indicates where you are most likely to see them. A = all sites. ? = species name unsure!

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Coral and coral like species. Included within this group are stony corals, soft corals, fire corals and sponges



Branched Finger Coral Porites furcata, S-M. 1-2. Surrounded by Star Coral Monastraea sp.





Yellow Pencil Coral. Madracis mirabilis. M-L, 2



Blade Fire Coral. Millepora complanata. S-M, 1-3 and 5-7, 😕



Green Finger Sponge. Iotrochota birotulata. M, 3.



Interwoven with the Green Finger Sponge is the Golden Zoanthid. Parazoanthus swifti. VS, 3.



Giant Barrel Sponge. Xestospongia muta. L-VL, 1-3 and 7





L, 1-3 and 5-7







Yellow Tube Sponge. Aplysina fistularis. M-



Elkhorn Coral. Acropora palmata. M-L, 1-2



Mountainous Star Coral. Montastraea faveolata. L, 1



Orange Elephant Ear Sponge. Agelas clathrodes. M, 1 & 2.



Venus Sea Fan. Gorgonia flabellum. M-L, 1 and 5-7.



Porous Sea Rod. Pseudoplexaura spp. M-L, 5-7



Sea Plumes. Pseudopterogorgonia spp. L-VL, 6 and 7.

Fish species. May be found in shoals (Sh), swimming singly/pairs/small groups (Si) in open water (Ow), associated with sea grass (Sg), sand (Sa) or reef features (Rf), sometimes hidden (H) as well as fast moving in shallow water (Sw).



Cero. Scomberomorus regalis. M-L. 1. Si, Ow



Yellowfin Mojarra. Gerres cinereus. S-M. 3-5. Si, Sa, Sw



The introduced Lion fish, Pteriosis sp. S-M. 2. Si, Rf, T.<mark>8</mark>



Ow



Seargeant Major. Abudefduf saxatilis. S. 2,3 & 5-7. Sh & Si, Rf



Sand Diver. Synodus intermedius. S-M. 2 & 3. Si, Sa near Rf.



Peacock Flounder, Bothus lunatus. M. 2-5. Si, Sg, Sa,



Trumpetfish. Aulostomus maculatus. M. 3, 5-7. Si, Rf, H. Often hides amongst Sea Rods



Ballonfish. Diodon holocanthus. S-M. 3-5. Si, Sg, Rf, H. Note iridescent specs in the eyes



Porcupinefish. Diodon hystrix. M-L. 1. Si, Rf, H. Prefers caves and overhangs



Chub. Kyphosus spp. M. 1. Sh, Ow



Brown Chromis. Chromis multilineata. VS-S. 1-3, 5-7. Sh, Ow & Rf



Well camouflaged Spotted Scorpionfish. Scorpaena plumieri. S-M. 2 &3, 5-7. Si, Sa, Rf. 😕



Smooth Trunkfish. Lactophrys triqueter. S-M. 2, 3, 5-7. Si, Rf.



Spotted Moray. Gymnothorax moringa. S-L. 1 & 2. Si, Rf. H.



Blue Tang. Acanthurus coerleus. M. 1-3. Si-Sh, Rf. Shoals with Surgeon and Doctorfish.





French Grunt. Haemulon flavolineatum. M. 2, 3, 6, 7. Sh, Rf.

Banded Butterflyfish. Chaetodon striatus. S. 1-3 & 5-7. Si, Rf. Frequently in pairs

Invertebrates, including Crustacea, Mollusca, Echinodermata and Polychaeta.



Caribbean Spiny Lobster. Palinurus argus. S-M. 2. 3. Hides in caves and recesses.



Long-spinned Urchin. Diadema antillarum. S. 2.



Social Feather Duster. Bispira brunnea. S. 3.



S. 1 & 6. Graze on Sea Fans.



Furry Sea Cucumber. Astichopus multifidus. S-M. 2-4.



VS, 2,3 & 5,6.







White spotted Filefish. Cantherhines macrocerus. S-M. 3,4. Si, Sg, Rf.



Glassy Sweeper. Pemphris schomburgki. S. 1 & 2 in caves. Sh, Rf



Christmas Tree Worm. Spirobranchus giganteus.



Common Octopus. Octopus vulgaris. S-M. 3. Pictured attacking a giant worm Eunice aphroditois.



West Indian Sea Egg. Tripneustes ventricosus. S, 3 & 5-7. Camouflaged with algae



Bearded Fireworm. Hermidoce carunculata. S. 3, 5 & 6 😕