

# Discovery Reef 2026

*The aquatic animals in the aquarium changes with new animals being added, removed or moved. This is a general guide to help you feel comfortable working the reef and will not include all the animals as the collection changes.*

Discovery Reef opened in 1993 and was modeled after the Indo-Pacific region. The large tank consists of 85,000 gallons (65 feet long, 20 feet wide and 13 feet deep) of saltwater created by using a salt mix called Instant Ocean. Being from a tropical region, the fish require warm water kept between 76-78 degrees Fahrenheit. Currently there are about 350 individuals representing roughly 35 species in the main tank. There are an additional 200 species, including 1,000's of invertebrates in the rest of the building. All of the coral in the large tank is artificial, however, Discovery Reef has live corals in the tanks near the front of the building. It would be very difficult to grow this much coral because of the amount of sunlight required. Coral is also a slow-growing colony of animals, and it would be detrimental to collect coral of this size and magnitude from the wild. SCORE (SEXual CORal REproduction) is one of the conservation programs supported by CZA that specifically helps coral restoration.

**Zebra Shark:** The zebra shark gets its name from its young/juvenile pattern when its body is striped rather than spotted. Unlike many sharks, the zebra shark can pump water across its gills without moving. Because of this, you will often see this shark lying stationary. Our zebra sharks are target trained. Each of them has their own target of different color and pattern. The keepers use these targets to call the sharks back into the holding/medical pool for feeding or exams.

**IUCN:** *Endangered (currently the only endangered species in our tank)*



## Discovery Reef

---

### **Shark Egg Case: Aka Mermaid's Purse:**

The zebra sharks in our main tank periodically lay egg cases. These cases may or may not have an egg inside. If there is an egg, it is most likely infertile, we have no males. The egg cases are left in the tank for a few days, then removed by the diver, some are sent to a facility for research purposes.



**Blacktip Reef Shark:** Blacktips are swift, energetic piscivores. Blacktip sharks are known to make spinning leaps out of the water while attacking schools of small fish. Their demeanor has been described as "timid" compared to other large requiem sharks. Both juveniles and adults form groups of varying size. Young blacktip sharks spend the first months of their lives in shallow nurseries, and grown females return to the



nurseries where they were born to give birth themselves. In the absence of males, females are also capable of asexual reproduction. **IUCN: *Near threatened***

### **White Margin Unicorn Tang:**

Blue, gray fish with protrusion off the front of its face. This protrusion is *thought* to be used for light detection but has not been confirmed or studied enough to be confirmed.



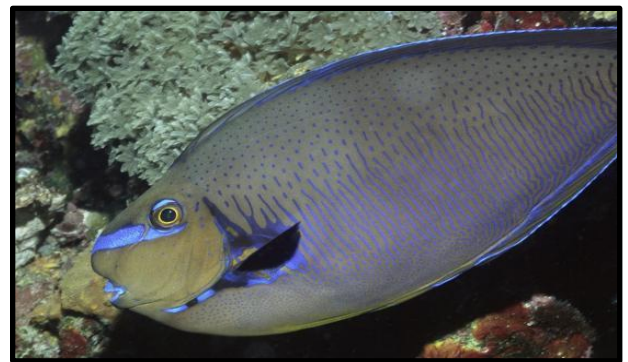
## Discovery Reef

---



**Orbicular Batfish:** Closely related to angelfish, these fish have high, rounded laterally compressed bodies, allowing them to access crevices to seek shelter. They are often very curious, sometimes referred to as the “puppy dogs” of the ocean.

**Big nose Unicorn Tang:** Relatively large fish compared to others in the family at roughly 23 inches. As a juvenile, the coloration is a dingy green with blue spots and lips later changing to a bluer fish with purple markings. However, while the fish sleeps, or is frightened, it turns a muddy brown as camouflage. It is mostly herbivorous but will eat small crustaceans.



**Sohal Tang:** Named for 1, 2, or 3 sharp spines at base of the tail (the part of a knife blade that goes into handle is called a “tang.”) This is true for ALL tangs. Oftentimes, the names tang and surgeonfish are interchangeable.

## Discovery Reef

---

### **Black and White Damselfish: Aka-3 Stripe**

**Damselfish:** Damsels tend their own algal gardens, clearing the area of debris and allowing only certain types of algae to grow. They defend these gardens vigorously against all intruders – sometimes even divers. They will even chase sea urchins away. They are most aggressive with other damselfish, chasing and biting those that threaten the garden.



**Orange spot Surgeonfish:** Also known as Orange Shoulder Tang, Orange band Surgeonfish and Orange-epaulette Surgeonfish. Each of these names mentions the distinct and interesting feature that makes this species stand out--the bright orange horizontal band with a broad blue edge on its side. It also goes through a fascinating color change as it matures. A juvenile is solid yellow with a hint of blue edging. The front half of a mature Orange spot Surgeonfish is light gray and the back half is dark gray-blue, and its caudal fin becomes lyre shaped. In each case, it still retains its shoulder marking, but the orange spot becomes more brilliant with age.



**Threadfin/Sailfin Snapper:** Also known as Blue and Gold Striped Snapper, Spot tail Threadfin Snapper, Blue-lined Seabream, and Blue-lined Sea-perch. Coloration is yellow with blue stripes along the sides, a large, dark spot (red to brown) on the base of the tail and two orange bars running vertically over the eyes and behind the head.



**Fox face Rabbitfish/Spine fish:** They get their common name, rabbitfishes, from their peaceful temperament, rounded blunt snout, & rabbit-like appearance of the jaws. They are quite colorful and can be easily identified during daylight hours. However, at night or when threatened, they change drastically as color fades and dark blotches appear. Although there are no significant differences between the sexes in this group, females are larger than males in some, if not all, species. Have many strong spines with venom glands in dorsal and anal fins

that contain a painful toxin.



**Bluering Angelfish**



**Pakistani Butterflyfish-aka Redtail butterflyfish**



**rabian Angelfish**



**Clown Anemonefish**



**Pyramid Butterfly**



**Raccoon Butterflyfish**



**Powder Blue Surgeonfish**



**Yellow-mask/Yellowface Angelfish**



**Vagabond Butterflyfish**



**Emperor Angelfish**



**Sailfin Tang**



**Orange spine Surgeonfish**



**Clown-lined Surgeonfish**



**Yellow Tang**



**Palette Surgeonfish**



**Yellowfin Surgeonfish  
Flagtail Kuhlia**



**Clown Triggerfish**



**Yellowback Fusilier**



**Yellow banded Angelfish**



**Pearlscale Butterflyfish  
Tide Pool**



**Rainford's Butterflyfish**



**Pennant Coralfish**



**Six Bar Angelfish**



**Black Finned Triggerfish**



**Diamond Fish**



**Mandarin Fish  
Battelle sub tank**



**File Fish**



**Flagtail Kuhlia**



**Leopard Moray Eel**