










Manatee Rescue and Rehaulitation Center Profiles







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

Species	Range/Habitat	Diet	More Info	Photo
Florida Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus latirostrus</i> 4.0 Stubby, (F) Erie (F) Redrock (F) Rosalyn (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida-West to Louisiana, north to Virginia/Carolinas Shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, bays, saltwater canals (fresh and saltwater) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Romaine lettuce, endive (some fruits & vegetables in moderation for treats & in ice blocks) Wild: 60+ species of sea grasses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subspecies of West Indian Manatee Herbivorous, aquatic, mammal Avg. size: 10-13' long, 1000-3000 lbs. Eat 6-8 hours/day Hold breath for 3-5 min., 20 min. when resting Closest living relative is an elephant Sexual maturity 5-9 years MLE: Data deficient Conservation Status: Threatened 	
Hawksbill Sea Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> Buddy (F) h. 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tropical/subtropical Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean Sea Rocky areas, coral reefs, shallow coastal areas, lagoons or oceanic islands, narrow creeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Herring, capelin, squid, mackerel & produce Wild: Sponges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average Size: 2.5-3' long, 95-165 lbs. MLE: UNK Conservation Status: Critically Endangered 	
Southern Stingray <i>Dasyatis americana</i> All females	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic: Southern U.S., Central and South America Mostly on seabed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Lake smelt, capelin, herring, sardines, anchovies Wild: Small fish, lobsters, crabs, oysters, bivalves, worms, shrimp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 6-7-foot wingspan, up to 200 lbs. Spend time buried in sand on seafloor Skeleton is cartilage, no bone Barb made from dentin-like material-venom is a protein-based toxin Reproduction is ovoviviparous Senses are very strong, use electroreception to sense prey Suck water in thru spiracles & out gills MLE: UNK Conservation Status: Near Threatened 	
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i> 1 Scoop(?) h.~2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coasts of southern North America, Central America, northern South America Shallow estuaries, bays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Capelin, lake smelt, herring, ocean smelt Wild: Fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average size: 6.5' wingspan, 4.5-11 lbs. Use throat pouch as a net to catch fish Dissipate heat through moving throat membranes Highly social Migrate seasonally MLE: UNK Conservation Status: Least Concern 	
Pompano Jack AKA Permit <i>Trachinotus falcatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Atlantic Coastal waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides Wild: Mollusks, small fish, crustaceans & other invertebrates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very fast, often leap and slap across wave tops Will follow under stingrays to grab fish they have not swallowed 	

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Bermuda Chub <i>Kyphosus secator</i> AKA Black Snapper, Brim, Beaked Chub, Rudderfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico-Florida, Bahamas, Bermuda • Shallow waters, over turtle grass, reef flats, coral reefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides • Wild: Herbivorous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools in loose formations • Inhabits shallow waters, over turtle grass, sand or rocky bottom, around coral reefs and reef flats 	
French Grunt <i>Haemulon flavolineatum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Atlantic Ocean off Bermuda to South Carolina, Gulf of Mexico to Brazil • Rocky substrate, coral reefs, under ledges or close to elkhorn coral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides • Wild: Small crustaceans, worms, and mollusks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurs in large schools that can number in the thousands • Nocturnal scavenging/feeding 	
Blue striped Grunt <i>Haemulon scirus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Atlantic Ocean from South Carolina south to Brazil, including the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and Bermuda • Common in mangroves, reefs, and seagrass beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides • Wild: Crustaceans, bivalves, and small fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes a grunt noise by grinding their teeth • Engage in "kissing-display" with others • Nocturnal feeding in mangrove and seagrass habitats • Observed opening its mouth to be cleaned by juvenile porkfish • Frequently steals the eggs of damselfish. 	
Cotton wick Grunt <i>Haemulon melanurum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Atlantic: Bermuda to SE Florida and the Bahamas to Brazil • Inshore and offshore reefs and adjacent grass beds, often in schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides • Wild: Larger crustaceans (shrimp, crabs), fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nocturnal scavenging/feeding 	
Atlantic Spadefish <i>Chaetodipterus faber</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Ocean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides • Wild: Crustaceans, small invertebrates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel in large schools of up to 500 individuals 	
Lookdown <i>Selene Vomer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Ocean-Maine to Florida • Shallow, coastal, murky waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides • Wild: Crabs, shrimp, fish, worms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually in schools, hunt like a pack of wolves • Hover over bottom in a slightly forward tilted position appearing to "look down" 	

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Porkfish <i>Anisotremus vraginicus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Ocean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides Wild: Crustaceans, mollusks, worms, echinoderms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleans parasites from other fish Nocturnal feeder 	
Blue tang <i>Acanthurus coeruleus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tropical Atlantic Ocean Reefs, rocky bottoms and grass beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides Wild: Algae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharp yellow spine on each side near the tail used to fend off predators or defend territory Plays an important role on reefs, keeping fast-growing algae from overtaking the coral 	
Doctor fish <i>Acanthurus chirurgus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Ocean Shallow reefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides Wild: Feeds on algae, organic detritus found on compacted sand/rock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharp white spine on each side near the tail used to fend off predators or defend territory 	
Needlefish <i>Strongylura marina</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater and marine water, most common in Tropics Shallow water, surface of open water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides Wild: Small fish, cephalopods and crustaceans, plankton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needlefish have no stomach-secretes an enzyme called trypsin, which breaks down food Leap out of water Closely resemble freshwater gars 	
Spanish Grunt <i>Haemulidae</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread Western Atlantic, Caribbean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides Wild: Crustaceans, sea urchins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also called "Sweetlips" because of their large rubbery lips The grunting sound is made when their flat teeth plates rub together and is amplified by their air bladders 	
Black Surgeon/ Trigger Fish <i>Melichthys Niger</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic (Bermuda to Brazil) Pacific (Hawaii to the East Indies) Lives in tropical marine water's rocky reefs and coral area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides Wild: Plankton, algae, small fish, squid, shrimp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locks its dorsal spine in crevices to deter predators They are almost entirely black with a distinct blue line along the base of their dorsal and anal fins 	

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<p>Sailor's Choice/ Grunt</p> <p><i>Haemulon parra</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Atlantic, Bahamas, Florida, Gulf of Mexico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoo: Gel diet, flake, pellets, krill, herrings, sardines, anchovies, silversides • Wild: Mollusks, fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhabits coastal reefs • Feeds at night 	