

Checkered puffer, *Sphoeroides testudineus*

(from "Reef Fish Identification" by Paul Humann)



Category: Aquatic Health and Fish Kills - Puffers (*Tetraodontidae*) of Florida

Image Title: Checkered Puffer (*Sphoeroides testudineus*)

General Range: New Jersey to Brazil; abundant from Florida to Brazil.

Florida Range: abundant along the southeast coast; rare or absent along the Gulf coast.

Habitat: shallow, often estuarine, habitats; often near mangroves.

[Gerres cinereus](#) (Walbaum, 1792)

Family:	<u>Gerreidae</u> (Mojarras)
Order:	<u>Perciformes</u>
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Yellow fin mojarra
Max. size:	41.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 7251); max.weight: 530 g (Ref. 40637)

picture (Gecin_u1.jpg) by [Patzner, R.](#)



Environment:	reef-associated; freshwater; brackish; marine ; depth range 1 - 15 m
Climate:	subtropical; 32°N - 23°S
Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial; bait: occasionally
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.60; tm=1.5)
Distribution:	Western Atlantic: Bermuda and Florida, USA; Bahamas, northern Gulf of Mexico, around Caribbean, including Antilles and south American coast (Ref. 26938) to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; including northern Gulf of Mexico and the entire Caribbean Sea (Ref. 9626). Eastern Pacific: Mexico to Peru, including the Galapagos Islands.
<u>Gazetteer</u>	
Diagnosis:	<u>Anal spines</u> : 3-3; <u>Anal soft rays</u> : 7-7. Silvery with about seven faint pinkish bars on side on body; pelvic fins yellow (Ref. 13442).
Biology:	Inhabits shallow coastal waters in open sandy and surfy areas, seagrass beds, near reefs, and mangrove channels (Ref. 7251). Enters

	brackish water, sometimes even fresh water (Ref. 3722). May occur in small aggregations (Ref. 3722). Feeds on benthic invertebrates such as worms, clams, crustaceans (Ref. 3722); also feeds on insects (Ref. 9303). Often seen feeding in sand patches among reefs by thrusting its mouth into the sediment and expelling sand from the gill openings (Ref. 13442). Easily approached (Ref. 9710). Marketed fresh but not highly esteemed; also processed into fishmeal (Ref. 3722).
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	reports of ciguatera poisoning , Dammann, A.E.. 1969
Coordinator:	Woodland, David J.
Main Ref:	Bussing, W.A.. 1995. (Ref. 9303)

STRIPED MOJARRA - Diapterus plumieri

Family Gerreidae, MOJARRAS

Description: body dark olive above; tan to silvery on side, often with a metallic sheen; conspicuous blackish stripe along center of each scale row, except toward belly; all fins except pectoral fins dusky in large adults; and anal fins sometimes dark orange; pelvic spine and first 2 anal spines pale; dorsal and anal spines long and stout; 3 anal spines.

Size: to 30 cm (1ft.).

Where found: brackish and coastal fresh waters (in limestone regions), grassy areas.

