

There are 15 species of puffer fish found in Florida:

- sharpnose puffer: *Canthigaster rostrata*
- brindled burfish: *Chilomycterus antennatus*
- spotted burfish: *Chilomycterus atluga*
- striped burfish: *Chilomycterus schoepfi*
- balloon fish: *Diodon holocanthus*
- porcupine fish: *Diodon hystrix*
- smooth puffer: *Lagocephalus laevis*
- oceanic puffer: *Lagocephalus lagocephalus*
- marbled puffer: *Sphoeroides dorsalis*
- northern puffer: *Sphoeroides maculatus*
- southern puffer: *Sphoeroides nephelus*
- blunthead puffer: *Sphoeroides pachygaster*
- least puffer: *Sphoeroides parvus*
- bandtail puffer: *Sphoeroides spengleri*
- checkered puffer: *Sphoeroides testudineus*

There are 100+ species worldwide.

Marine biologists are working hard to find the cause of saxitoxin in puffer fish. **Until we know more, anyone who consumes puffer fish is at risk for illness.**

For more information about pufferfish in your area, please contact the environmental health specialist at your local county health department.

More information on puffer fish in Florida can be found at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Marine Research Institute website: www.floridamarine.org

Copies of Department of Health press releases may be found at: www.doh.state.fl.us under "Press Releases."

Pufferfish may contain a dangerous toxin called "saxitoxin."



Southern Puffer
Sphoeroides nephelus
Collected from the Indian River Lagoon, Florida

Saxitoxin cannot be removed by cleaning or cooking. Saxitoxin has no taste, color or smell.

Contact your personal physician immediately for diagnosis and treatment if you have eaten pufferfish and have any of the following symptoms:

- Tingling, burning or numbness of the mouth, tongue, lips, face, arms, fingertips and legs
- Possibly nausea or vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Incoherent speech
- Respiratory distress

Do not eat pufferfish—they may be poisonous.
¡No coma pescado "puffer," puede ser venenoso!

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION
Please contact your local health department for more information.
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission