

PRESENTS

PARROTFISHES

THE ARCHITECTS OF THE REEFS

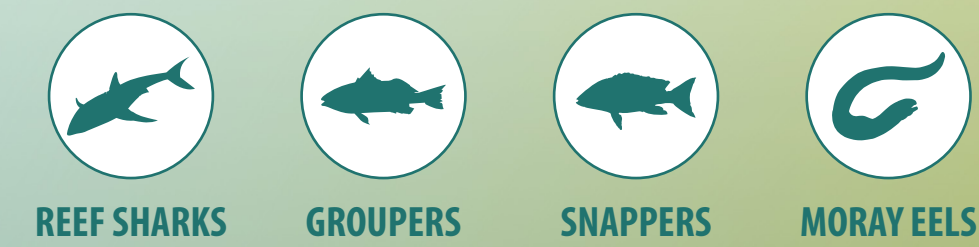
Parrotfishes live on rocky and coral reefs in tropical waters, but can also be found on seagrass prairies. They play an important role in maintaining these habitats healthy. Considered the gardeners of the reefs, they control algae cover which allows other species like corals to colonize available surfaces. This helps the reef grow and maintains healthy conditions.

Distribution: Mexican Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California.

Diet: Herbivores; 90% of their diet is composed of coralline algae.

Reproduction: Most species are sequential hermaphrodites: they are born female and transform into males later in life. Both females and males release eggs and sperm into the water column simultaneously.

PREDATORS:



ECOLOGICAL ROLE:

- Control algae coverage in reefs.
- They produce and transport sediments contributing to the formation of sandy beaches.
- Contribute to the growth of coral colonies by maintaining surfaces free of algae.

BEHAVIOR

- Active during the day, they patrol the reefs in small groups of 5-15 individuals of different sizes foraging for food.
- At night, they "sleep" in caves or crevasses in the reefs.
- They prefer shallow habitats (<30m).

42 - 290 KILOGRAMS OF SAND produced by a parrotfish in a year

10 SPECIES from the Mexican Caribbean were included in Mexico's protected species list, the NOM-059, on November 14, 2019.

Fisheries management for parrotfish fisheries must take into consideration the biological and ecological characteristics of these species since they are essential for maintaining the reef's health.

PARROTFISH LANDINGS IN MEXICO

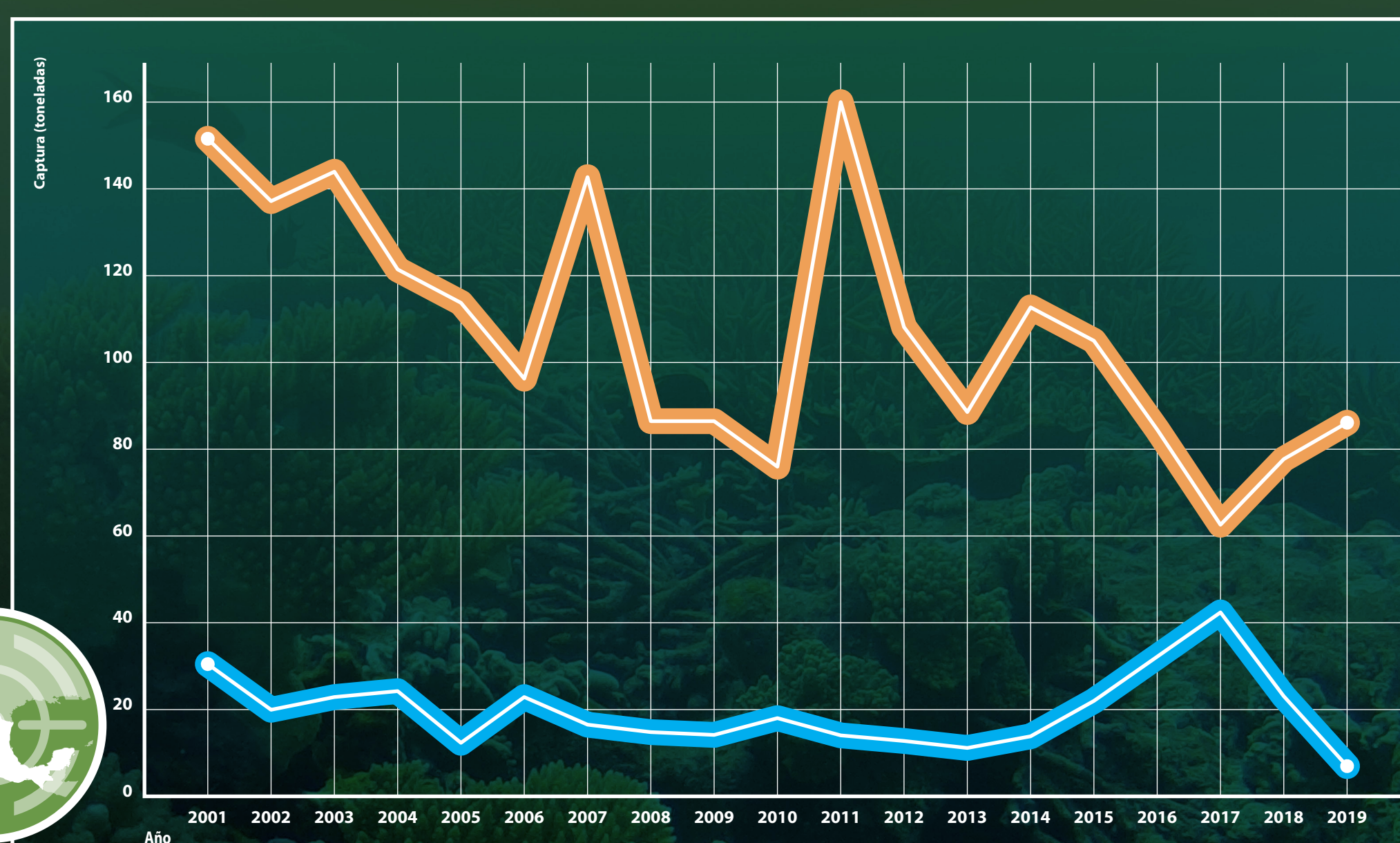
Parrotfishes are fished by the small-scale and sport fishing fleets. Volumes landed by the sport fishing fleet are unknown, as are the magnitude of illegal and unreported landings. The fisheries data that are available do not provide specific information for each species and landings are occasionally reported under a general "finfish" category, which makes estimating fishing effort directed to this group very difficult.

51% of Mexico's landings comes from Baja California Sur.

15% from Veracruz

12% from Oaxaca

REMAINING COASTAL STATES



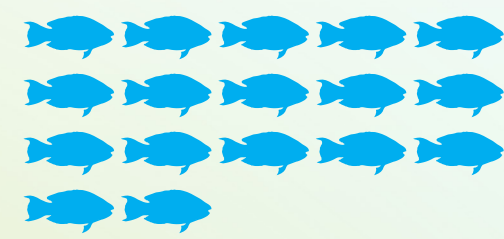
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DISTRIBUTION IN MEXICO



In Mexico, there are **22 species** of parrotfishes.

16 IN THE CARIBBEAN



6 IN THE PACIFIC

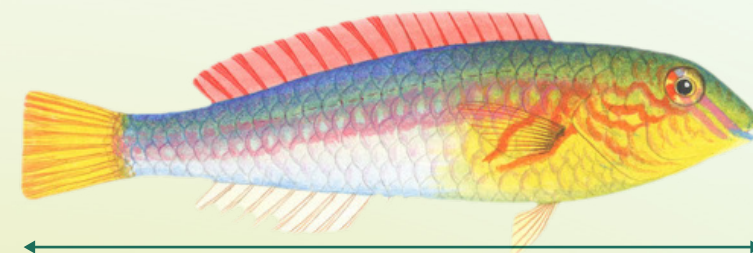


TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Labriformes
Family: Scaridae

Genus:

Bolbometopon
Calotomus
Cetoscarus
Chlorurus
Cryptotomus
Hipposcarus
Leptoscarus
Nicholsina
Scarus
Sparisoma



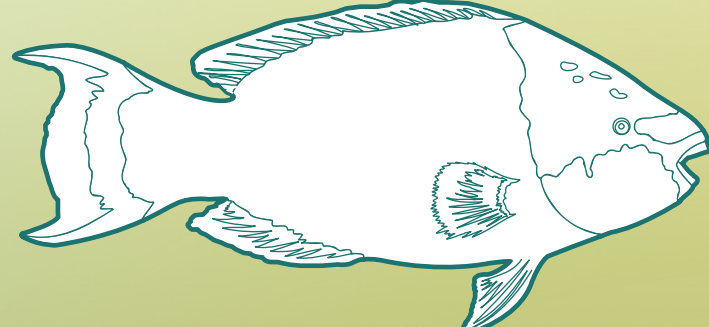
13 centimeters

Length of the smallest species, the Bluelip parrotfish (*Cryptotomus roseus*).

ANATOMY

Average size: 30 - 50 cm
Average life span: 13 - 20 years

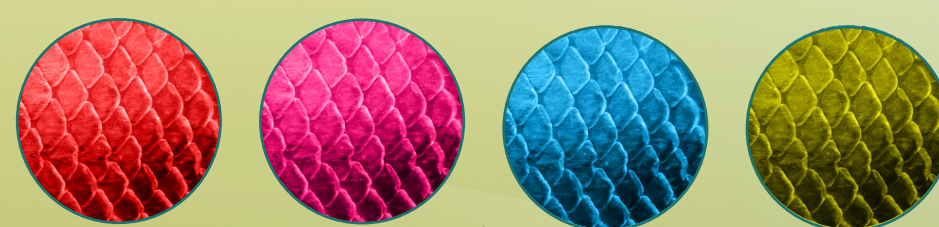
Lateral view



30-50 centimeters

COLORFUL SPECIES

Coloration patterns vary between males and females, and between juvenile and adult stages.



Some species secrete a mucus to cover themselves in at night. The mucus, which is secreted from large glands in the gill cavity, forms a cocoon that protects them from predators and parasites.

JAW STRUCTURE

Fused teeth forming a beak-like structure.

They can have canine teeth that protrude outward from the teeth plates.

