

The Pier Aquarium presents the Celebrity Critter of the Week!



<http://chemistry.csudh.edu/>

Atlantic Porkfish

Scientific Name: *Anisotremus virginicus*

Description: yellow head and fins accenting a silver-gray base with two black vertical stripes.

Habitat: Reef environments in Bermuda (introduced) and Florida, USA to Brazil including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

Top 10 Facts:

1. Porkfish are part of the Grunt family. Grunts are a group of small to midsize bass-like fishes that have deep, compressed oval-shaped bodies.
2. The Atlantic Porkfish is the only Caribbean grunt with two black vertical bars and yellow stripes.
3. Porkfish are primarily nocturnal predators, targeting benthic prey items including mollusks, echinoderms, annelids and crustaceans.
4. Juvenile Porkfish are observed symbiotically feeding on parasites found on other fish species.
5. Like all grunts, Porkfish produce grunt-like sounds via their pharyngeal teeth and swim bladder.
6. Recent NOAA studies conducted in the waters adjacent to the Florida Keys found that Porkfish were the 11th most commonly sighted species.
7. Juvenile Porkfish are occasionally found in mangrove environments.
8. In territorial contests, Porkfish will open their mouths to display the bright red lining to each other.
9. The habitat includes coral reefs, mangroves and grassy coastal waters.
10. The maximum size of an Atlantic Porkfish is 38 inches.