

# The Pier Aquarium presents the Celebrity Critter of the Week!



<http://magnumreef.com>

## Picasso Triggerfish

Scientific Name: *Rhinecanthus aculeatus*

Description: Easily recognized by its creamy grayish tan and white colored body splashed with many distinctive bright blue and yellow lines, as well as golden, black and white band markings.

Habitat: Extends from Hawaii and the Marquesas westward through central Polynesia, Micronesia and Philippines to the coast of China, through the East Indies and across the Indian Ocean to the coast of Africa and the Red Sea.

## Top 10 Facts:

1. This fish is known in Hawaiian as the Humuhumunukunukuapau'a which roughly translated means "fish with a pig-nosed face." Many people call them "Humu-humu" for short.
2. This fish will rearrange the landscape and rocks as it swims in and out of its habitat.
3. In the wild, the Picasso triggerfish will feed on algae, detritus, mollusks, crustaceans, worms, sea urchins, fishes, corals, tunicates, forams and eggs.
4. Triggerfish have a double dorsal fin with a large spine just forward of the first fin. They use this spine to lock themselves into crevices where they sleep for the night. Picasso triggerfish have been known to sleep on their sides.
5. Picasso Triggerfish are very territorial and, in the wild, will defend a cone-shaped section of space above their home territory.
6. This species is also known as the whitebanded triggerfish, blackbar triggerfish, lagoon triggerfish, painted triggerfish or humuhumu triggerfish.
7. Adult Picasso triggerfish can grow up to 12" in length.
8. Triggerfish blow jets of water from their mouths to help them find benthic invertebrates that may be buried in the substrate. Triggerfish are often seen spitting sand from their mouths, sifting through the material in search of edible pieces.
9. Triggerfish are known to make grunting noises when being pursued or caught by predators.
10. Triggerfish are egg layers. The female digs pits in the substrate in which to lay the eggs.