TAUTOG (*Tautoga onitis*)

**COLOR:** Green-brown blotched. White chin.

**FINS:** Dorsal fin terminates in soft lobe.

**HEAD:** Blunt head with terminal mouth. Teeth irregular; protruding.

MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Cunner (pg. 95).

PHOTO CREDIT: MBL / Flescher Collection

PORGIES, SPADEFISH, WRASSES, & GRUNTS

BASSES

SNOWY GROUPER (*Epinephelus niveatus*)

**COLOR:** Gray-brown with white spots that continue onto dorsal fin. Dark saddle on caudal peduncle in juveniles.

MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Warsaw grouper (pg. 98), wreckfish (pg. 99).

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / SEFSC / Pasca-goula Laboratory; Collection of Brandi Noble
WARSAW GROUPER (*Epinephelus nigritus*)

**COLOR:** Brown. Dark saddle on caudal peduncle in juveniles.

MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Snowy grouper (pg. 97), wreckfish (pg. 99).

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / SEFSC / Pascagoula Laboratory; Collection of Brandi Noble

BASSES

WRECKFISH (*Polyprion americanus*)

**COLOR:** Gray-brown. White trailing edge on caudal fin.

**FINS:** Convex caudal fin.

**HEAD:** Rough head. Ridge on opercle.

MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Snowy grouper (pg. 97), warsaw grouper (pg. 98).

PHOTO CREDIT: Pedro Niny Duarte © ImagDOP
BLACK SEA BASS (*Centropristis striata*)

**COLOR:** Variable olive-gray coloration with white spots Horizontal white bands on dorsal fin.

**FINS:** Spiny dorsal fin. Three-lobed caudal fin.

**HEAD:** Large mouth. Adult males have projecting forehead.

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BLACKMOUTH BASS (*Synagrops bellus*)

**COLOR:** Body, mouth, and gill cavity black.

**BODY:** Scales chafe easily in gear.

**FINS:** Two dorsal fins.

**HEAD:** Prominent fang-like teeth. Large eyes.
STRIPED BASS (*Morone saxatilis*)

**COLOR:** Olive-gray dorsal surface. 7-8 dark horizontal stripes on lateral sides.

**FINS:** Forked caudal fin.

**HEAD:** Large mouth

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PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / Cooperative Research

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BASSES

LATERALLY COMPRESSED

OPAH (*Lampris guttatus*)

**COLOR:** Blue dorsal surface. Pink ventral surface. Many small white spots. Fins, lips, and eyes bright red.

**HEAD:** No teeth.

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PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / PIRO