








Wrasse-cally Wrasse Cheat Sheet

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	<p>Saddle Wrasse – Most common fish. <i>Look for orange saddle.</i></p>
	<p>Bird Wrasse – <i>Look for the long hummingbird-like pointed beak.</i> Black/White with orange ‘beak’. Males are green/blue. Flit around the reef like a hummingbird.</p>
	<p>Hawaiian Cleaner Wrasse - Bright purple, black and yellow (like a gaudy Hawaiian tourist shirt). Will clean most any species – <i>look for them at a cleaning station near you!</i></p>
 <p>© Keoki Stender</p>	<p>Belted Wrasse – Look for the <i>nice orange belt</i> in the males, or the orange/yellow <i>belt buckle</i> at the base of the pectoral fin in all stages.</p>
	<p>Yellowtail Coris - Females most commonly seen. Bright yellow tail, brilliant blue spots and other colors. Think of <i>Yellowtail DORIS</i> since it’s mostly females that you see.</p>



Christmas Wrasse – Look for colored rows of ‘Christmas lights’ – red and green and blue for the males (with some blue thrown in for good luck). Looks like Christmas colored plaid design. Snorkelers will see more of these in shallow water.



Ornate Wrasse – Common on reefs at scuba depths, eye-catching neon green dotted stripes against a reddish background. Look for the STRAIGHT line under the eye.



Elegant Wrasse – Common on sandy reefs at any depth. Colors vary considerably with age and gender, with a constant being the *dark tag on upper tip of the gill cover*. Look for the ELEGANT rainbow under the eye. (not straight like in the Ornate Wrasse)



Rockmover – Adults are occasional in shallow water where they turn over rocks or rubble in search of mobile invertebrates. *Black outline to each scale looks like a bunch of rocks.*



Hawaiian Hogfish – This one looks like a package of bacon! And what do they make bacon from? Hogs! You can also think of the distinctive black spot under the rear of the dorsal fin as the *hog slop* or the *pig pen*. They are often referred to by their Hawaiian name ‘a’awa and is also locally known by the name ‘table boss’.



Eightstripe Wrasse – Pale orange in color with *eight obvious stripes on the body*. It is generally shy and seldom swims far out into the open water and is rarely seen with more than a quick glimpse as it swims between crevices.



Shortnose Wrasse – Females are orange, males brown, with rows of bright blue dots. *Shorter and not as elongate shaped as other wrasse.* Look a lot like Potter’s Angelfish.



Pearl Wrasse -- Uncommon on shallow reefs exposed to surge. Females reddish-brown with white scale rows – *looks a lot like a string of pearls,* males blue with red eyes. Seen in rocky areas close to shore (snorkeling) but also go deeper.



Ringtail Wrasse – *Look for the white ring at the base of the tail.* Also look for the stripe coming back from the eye. Both markings can fade and colors can vary.



Psychedelic Wrasse – Bizarre, trippy designs on both the male and the female. Stare at it long enough and you’ll go crazy, man! Often seen as a harem of females to one studly male. More common below 50 feet.



Fourline Wrasse – Like the name says, look for 4 blue lines, with a lighter blue line from the mouth to the pelvic fins.

Photos thanks to Pat Gunderson, Paul Humann, Marty Snyderman, Janna Nichols, Philip Bourion, Reed Grossnicklaus, Keoki Stender

Name in RED = Endemic. Only found in Hawaii