

Family: Gobiidae

Prepared by : Andrea Wisniewski

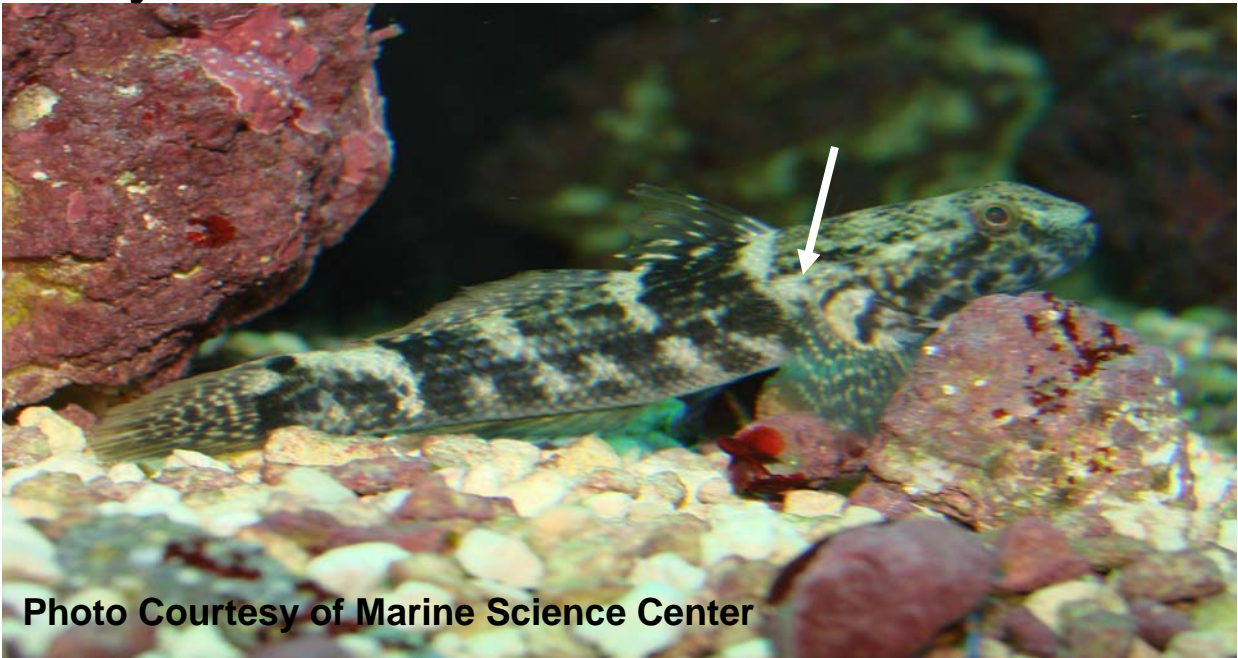


Photo Courtesy of Marine Science Center

Frillfin Goby

Bathygobius soporator

Range: Shorelines of Florida, Bahamas, and the northern Gulf of Mexico. Commonly found in rocky tidepools and coral reefs.

Similar Species: The Notchtongue Goby, *Bathygobius curacao*, occurs in similar habitat as the Frillfin Goby and is similar in coloration. The main way to tell the difference between the two species is that the tongue of *B. curacao* is more deeply notched.

Identification: Frillfin Goby coloration can vary between different shades of brown, but is usually a dark color. The dorsal side, or back, is often crossed by 5 black saddles, with the saddle below the first dorsal fin being the broadest. The upper rays of the pectoral fins also have feather-like “frills” on the very tip (shown with arrow).

Note: Some of the smallest fish in the world belong to this family. This fish is a bottom-dwelling carnivore, feeding mainly on small benthic invertebrates.