



Photo Courtesy of the "Volusia County Reef Research Dive Team"

Jackknife-Fish

Equetus lanceolatus

Range: Western Atlantic Ocean, from North Carolina all the way south to Brazil, including parts of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. Often inhabit bays, sounds, even deeper coral reefs.

Similar Species: Spotted Drum, *E. punctatus*, and juvenile Cubbyu, *E. umbrosus*, are sometimes misidentified as Jackknife Fish. The Spotted Drum differs by having black fins with white spots and on their caudal and second dorsal fins.

Juvenile Spotted Drum lack the white spots and therefore are more commonly confused with the Jackknife-Fish but can be distinguished by a black smudge on its nose. Juvenile Cubbyu have more stripes running down their body and a shorter dorsal fin.



Juvenile Cubbyu

Identification: An elongated dorsal fin with a black band that runs from the tip of the dorsal fin to the end of the tail help identify this exotic looking fish. There are also two other black bands on the jackknife's body; one on the head that runs through the eye, and one that extends onto the pelvic fin.