

Butterfly Fish

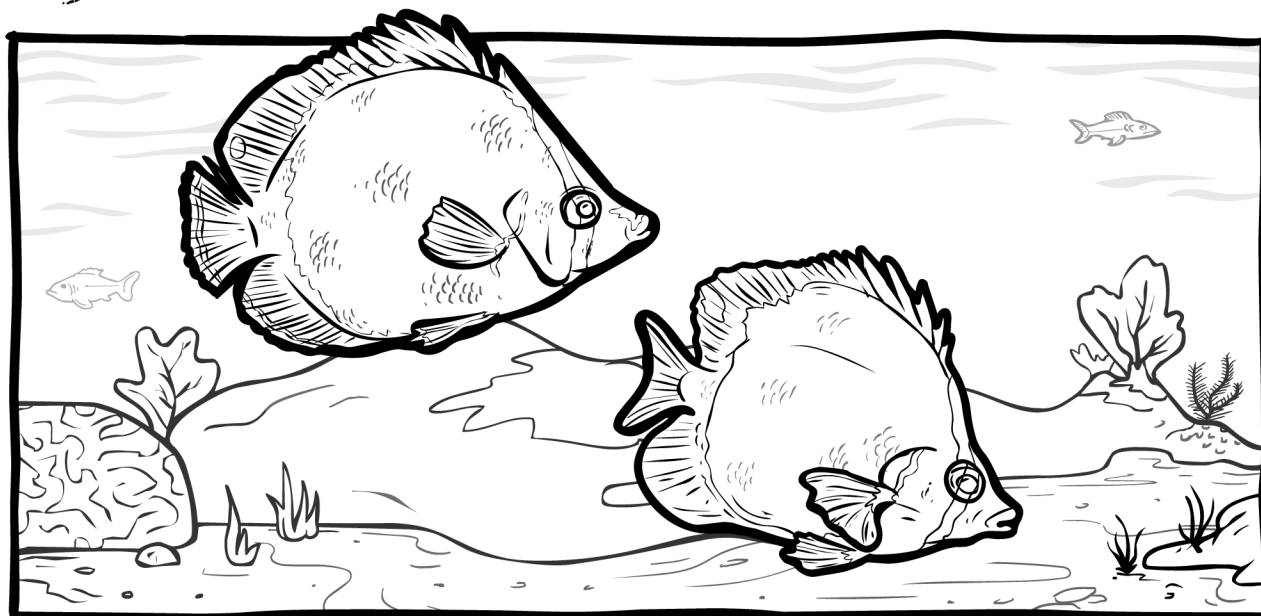
# Butterfly Fish *(Chaetodon ocellatus)*

## Instant ID

- A small, thin reef fish with a white body
- Has a black stripe through its eye and across its head
- Caudal (tail) fin and other rear fins are yellow
- Adults commonly have a black spot on the fin above the tail
- Has comb-like teeth in its small mouth

## Native Niches

- Found in shallow coral reefs with clear water
- Five species found in Florida
- Located in the western Atlantic Ocean



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# Butterfly Fish *(Chaetodon ocellatus)*

## Favorite Foods

- Eats tube worms and sea anemones
- Uses its narrow jaws to scrape out prey in hidden crevices

## Critter Characteristics

- Darker bands are seen on its body at night
- Currents can carry eggs as far north as Canada
- Forms pairs during breeding
- Other common names include butterbun, katy and school mistress

## Population Protection

- Protecting coral reefs and seagrasses supports their habitat
- Learn more at <https://floridascoralreef.org>