

Gag Grouper

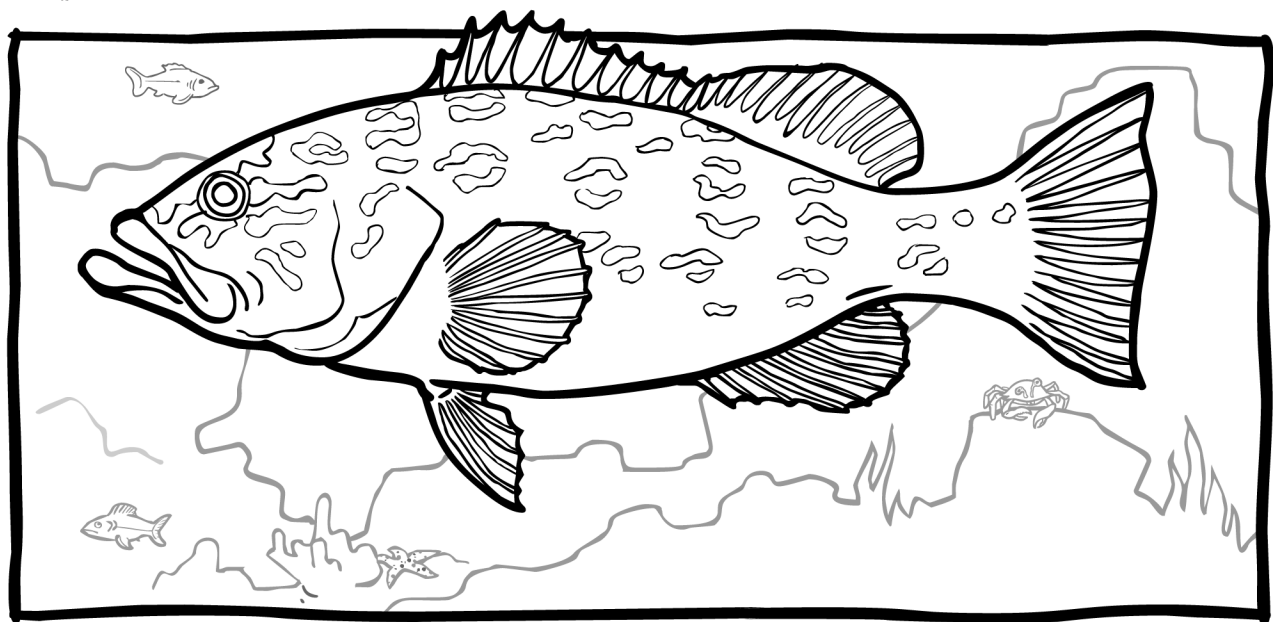
# Gag Grouper *(Mycteroperca microlepis)*

## Instant ID

- Brown-gray body with worm-like markings on the sides
- Tail fin and last fin on the belly have white edges
- Body shape similar to a largemouth bass
- Normally 10 to 20 pounds, however can grow much larger

## Native Niches

- Found in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic waters from North Carolina to Mexico
- Juveniles are found in seagrass beds and estuaries
- Adults frequent rocky seafloors over 60 feet deep and natural and artificial reefs



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## Favorite Foods

- Adults eat fish, crabs, shrimp and other similar sea animals
- Juveniles prey on small crustaceans
- Rapidly opens large mouth, creating suction to draw in prey

## Critter Characteristics

- Largest specimen, 80 pounds 6 ounces, recorded offshore of Destin, Florida
- Among the most widely distributed of Florida's groupers

## Population Protection

- Repeated fishing of large fish seems to be causing a decrease in length and weight for the grouper population
- Visit <http://myfwc.com> for limits and regulation information

