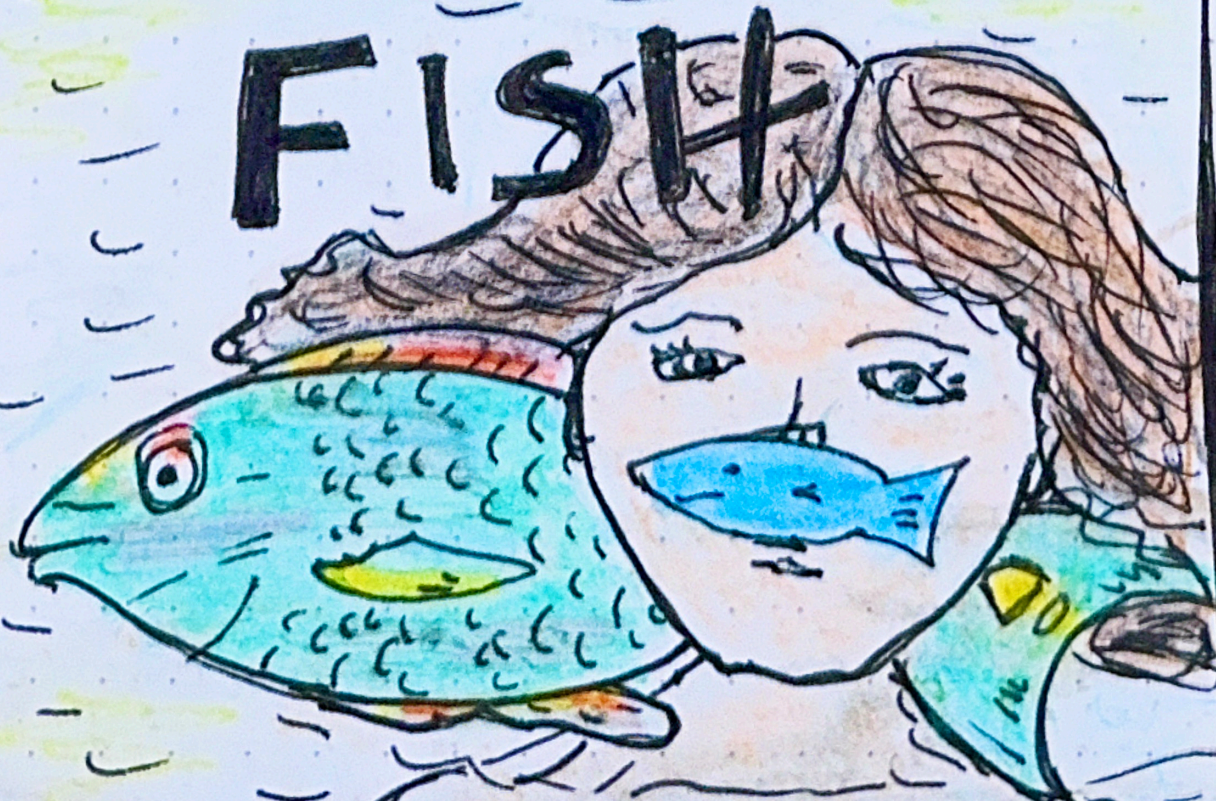


BEING

WITH

FISH



ANSE COCHON - ST. LUCIA

LORI DIPRETE BROWN

JANUARY

2025

Being With Fish

Saint Lucia

© 2025 Lori DiPrete Brown

pintano
Abudefduf saxatilis
DAMSELFISH



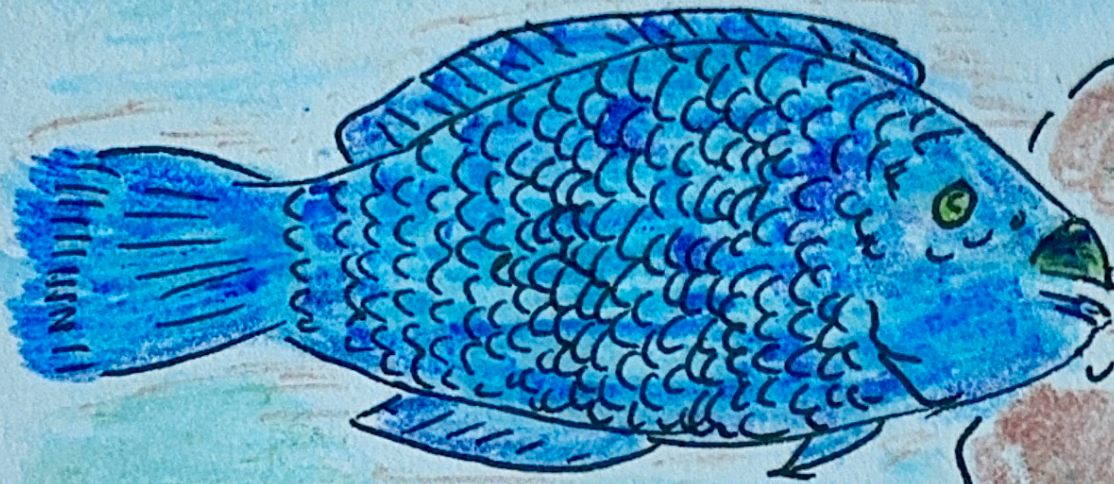
THE "PINTANO" has a wide range in the Atlantic.
Can live on the waste and vomit of spinner
dolphins when necessary. Like to clean
green turtles + let gobies clean me. "Community"
means a shoal of several hundred. Hates to
be called "Sargeant Major" or "Damsel." Why
the need for labels? And nothing against
zebras - - - - but no.

YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER
Ocyurus chrysurus



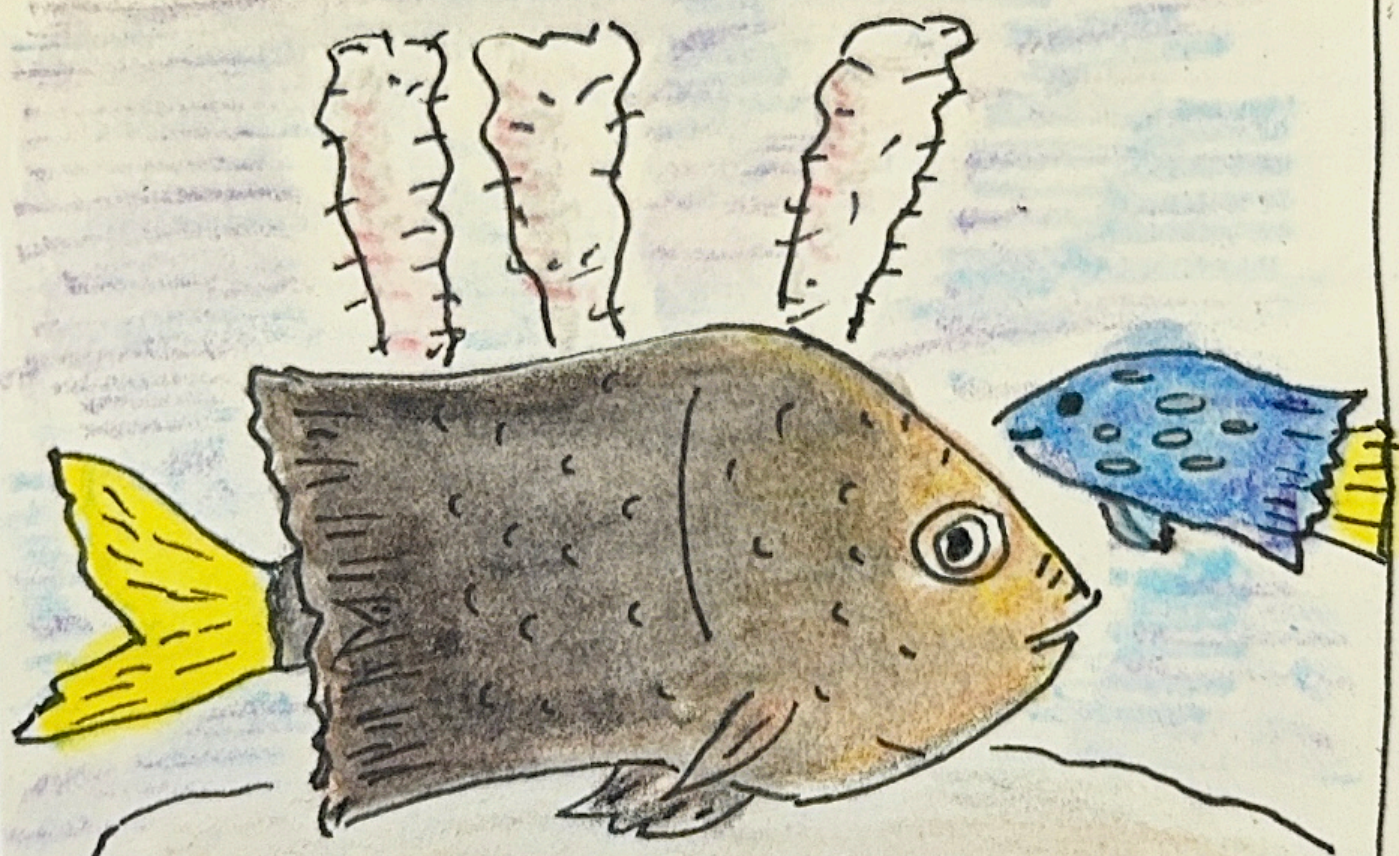
MY SCIENTIFIC NAME suggests that I am
"golden" + "birdlike" - but yellow snapper is
what's for dinner nowadays. I'm trapped for
fishtanks + grown for dinner - so predation
everywhere, yeah it makes me snappy. At a
certain point, I bite.

MIDNIGHT PARROTFISH
scarus coelestinus



YOU HUNGER FOR A GLIMPSE OF ME
AND I THINK IT'S MAINLY MY INDIGO
HUES. I HAVE 1000 TEETH + CLEAN CORAL WITH
THEM. I HIDE IN SCHOOLS OF BLUE TANG, AND
SOMETIMES PILLAGE THE NESTS OF DAMSELFISH
FOR THEIR PURPLE EGGS. SO I GIVE AND TAKE
IN THIS LIFE THAT HAS EVOLVED FOR ME. LIKE YOU

YELLOWTAIL DAMSELFISH
Microspathodon chrysurus

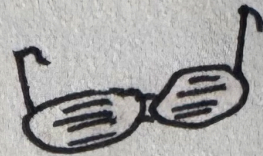


If by "TERRITORIAL" you mean that I will defend the algae garden where I live, and that I like to stay home, "guilty as charged." I can change colors and start life with light blue spots. The yellow tail has been a blessing as a curse. Yes, the cortex males eat their young but that's not all damselfish. That's not me!

BANDED BUTTERFLY FISH

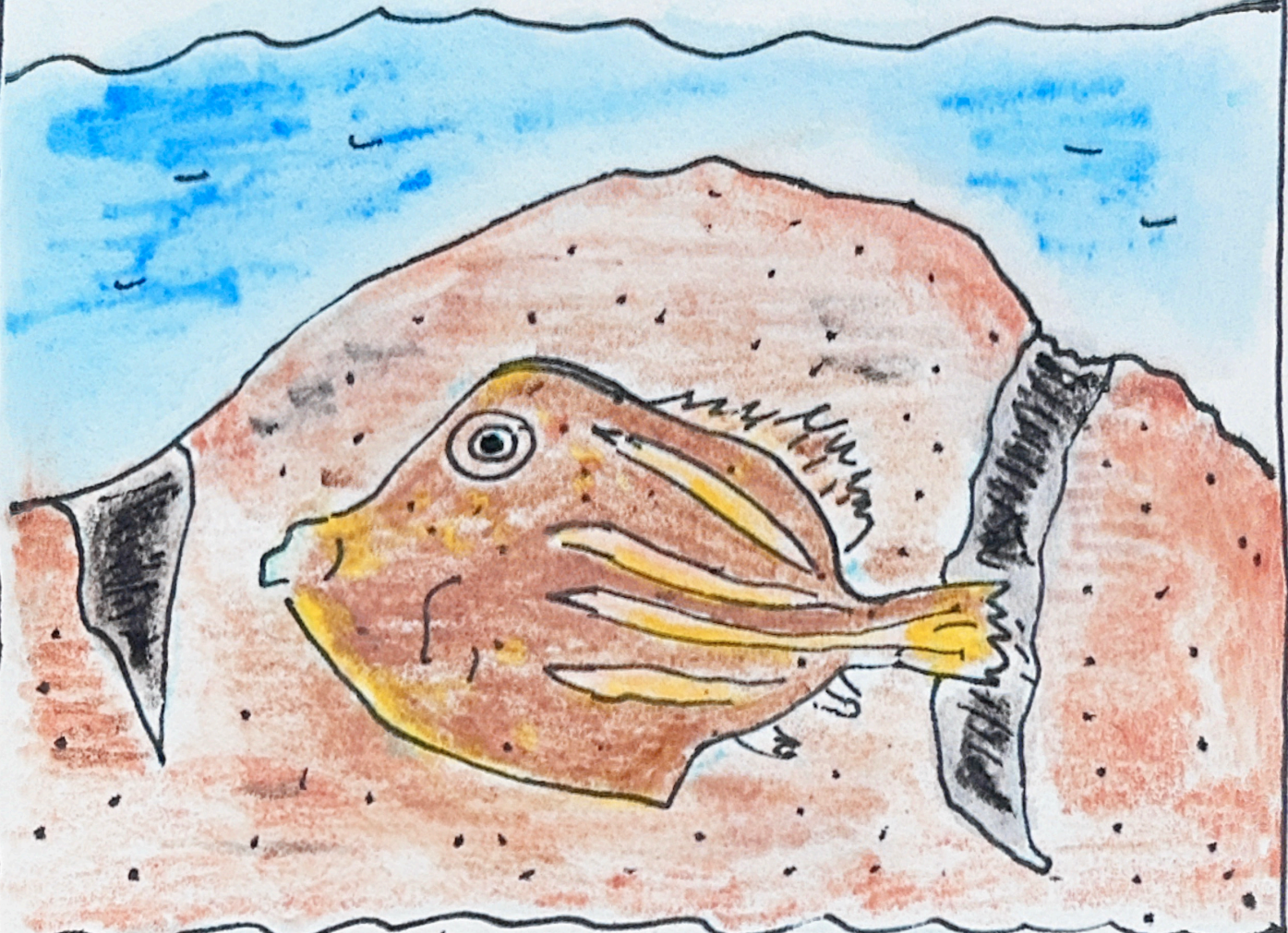
Chaetodon

also BANDED MARIPOSA



NOT SURE IF IT'S OUR HEARTS OR SOME
DEEPER INSTINCT, BUT WE BANDED
BUTTERFLY FISH LIKE TO TRAVEL IN
PAIRS - IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT THE
STRIPE S PASS THROUGH OUR EYES. THAT
BY DESIGN... INCOGNITO, BUT TOGETHER.

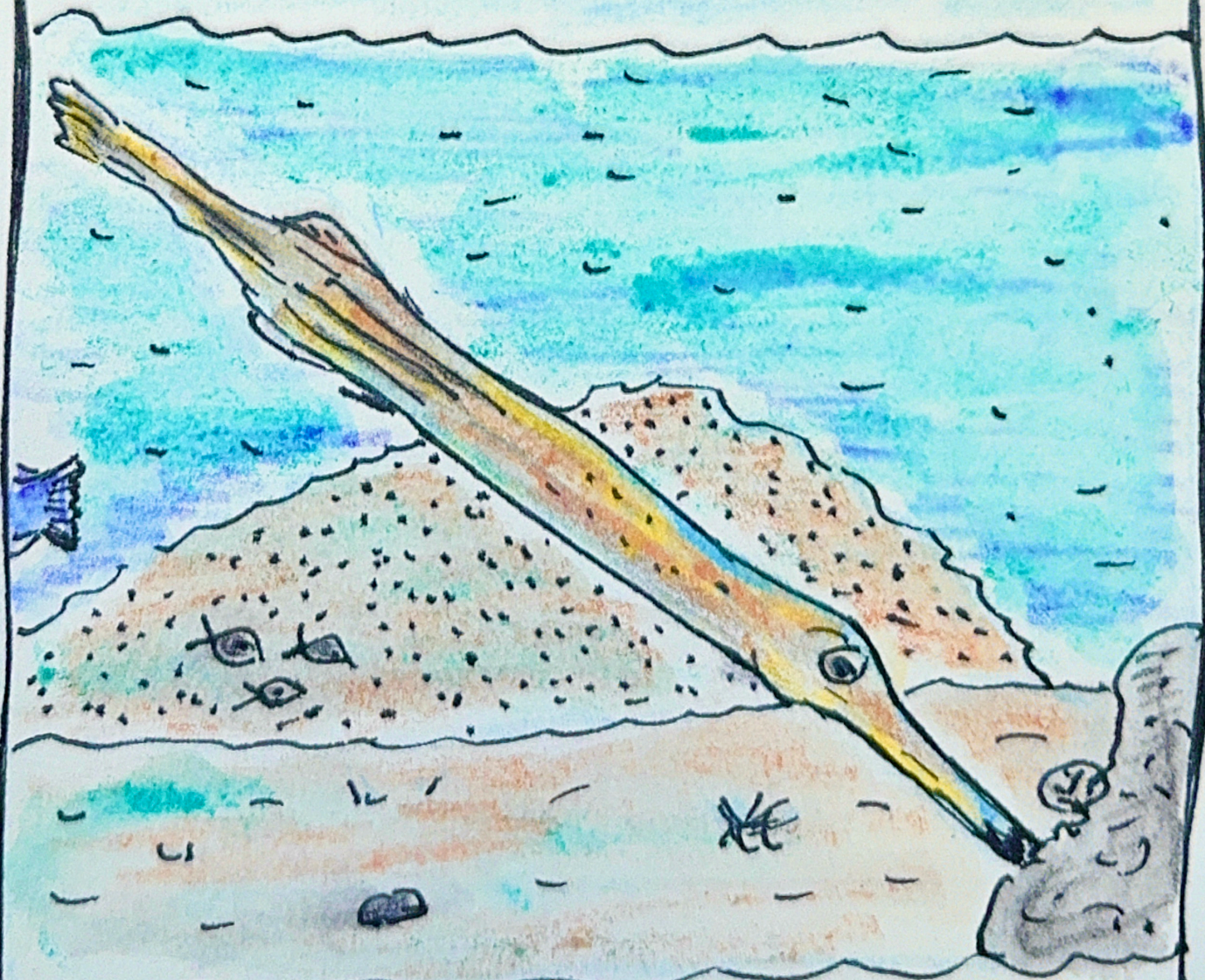
ORANGE-SPOTTED FILEFISH
Cantherhines pullus



I SAY YES TO "CAMO," YES TO BLENDING IN,
YES TO HIDING IN THE CRACKS. AS A CHILD
I WAS WATCHED OVER BY MY FATHER WHILE
I HID IN THE SEAWEEED OF THE TUNA AND
DORADO WHO WANTED TO EAT US, SO I SWAM
AWAY... ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE LIFE ...

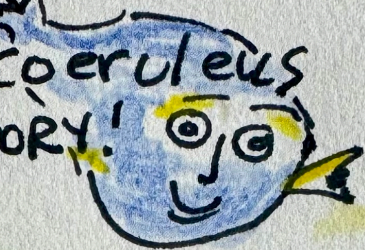
TRUMPET FISH

Aulostomus "flute mouth"



NO I AM NOT A BARRACUDA, AND IF YOU HAD EVER SEEN ONE YOU WOULD KNOW THAT AND I WOULD NOT MAKE YOU SO UNEASY. THINK "FLUTE MOUTH." THERE NOW. I FLOAT IN REEDS AND I GET VERY STILL BEFORE I POUNCE. BY THE TIME I SUCK THEM IN IT'S TOO LATE.

BLUE TANG
Acanthurus coeruleus
Doctorfish, DORY!

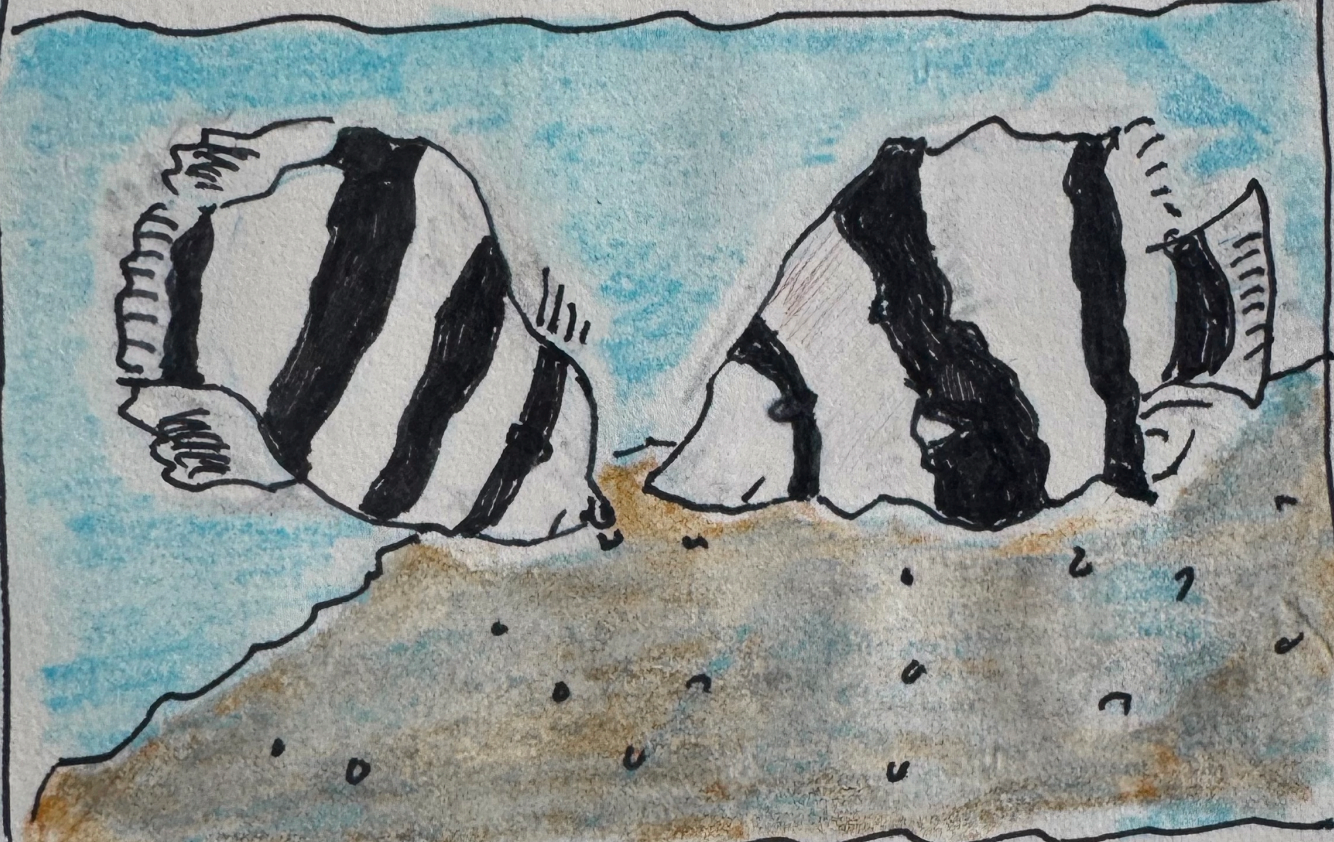
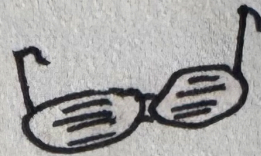


I HAVE AN INTERESTING LIFE - FEEDING ON
TURTLES TO CLEAN THEM, AND LETTING SMALL
GOBY FISH FEED ON ME. I START OUT YELLOW
+ RAVENOUS, TURN BLUE, AND I CAN EXIT A
BIOFLUORESCENT GREEN. SO WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?
THE STENCH, AND SHARP FINS. ... I AM WHAT I AM...

BANDED BUTTERFLY FISH

Chaetodon

also BANDED MARIPOSA



NOT SURE IF IT'S OUR HEARTS OR SOME
DEEPER INSTINCT, BUT WE BANDED
BUTTERFLY FISH LIKE TO TRAVEL IN
PAIRS - IT'S NO ACCIDENT THAT THE
STRIPE S PASS THROUGH OUR EYES. THAT
BY DESIGN... INCOGNITO, BUT TOGETHER.

MAHOGANY SNAPPER
Lutjanus mahogoni
"OTANCO" for those big eyes
(juveniles)



I SEE MYSELF AS
PART OF THE COLLECTIVE ... WE ROAM
THE SANDY SHALLOWS ... NEARLY TRANSPAR-
ENT AT TIMES... CASTING RED SHADE AT
OTHERS. WEARING OUR BLACK DOTS LIKE THOSE
SCHOOL UNIFORMS THAT YOU OUTGROW.

PALOMETA

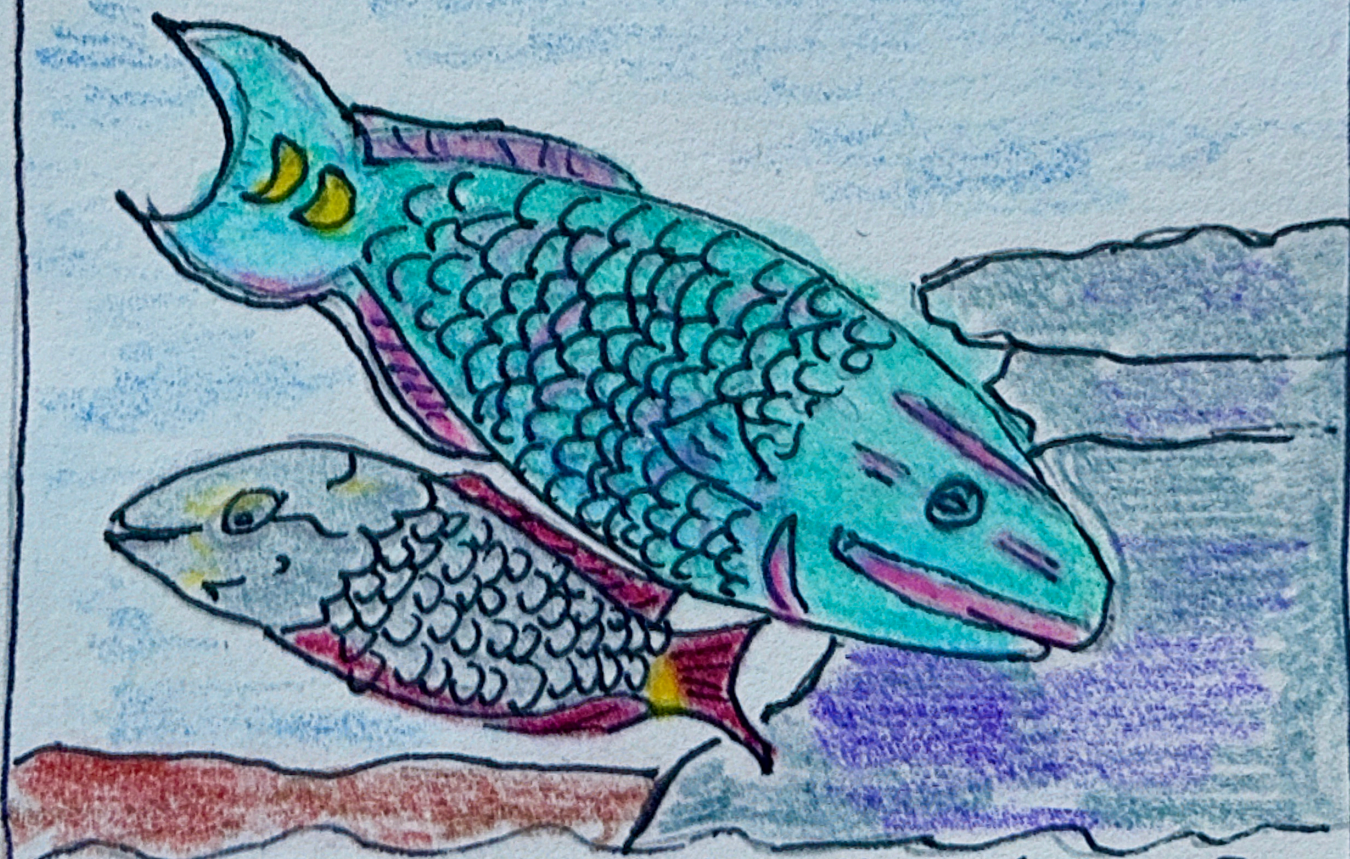
Trachinotus goodei

POMPANO, gaff topsail, old wife, ...



I'M FRIENDLY AND ELEGANT - NOT THE
ANGEL YOU THINK I AM, NOT A "PIRAHNA"
AND NOT THAT CAFFISH... AND DON'T
CONFUSE ME WITH PESKY BAR JACKS
EITHER. I'M JUST GLIDING HERE KEEPING
MY PEACE, AND THANKING MY CREATOR THAT
I CAN TOUCH MY TOES.

STOPLIGHT PARROT FISH
Sparisoma Viride



WHO SAID IT FIRST? I CONTAIN MULTI-
TUDES - MANY COLORS BUT ALSO I TAKE
ON FEMALE AND MALE FORMS DURING
MY LIFE COURSE - AND THEY LOOK
VERY DIFFERENT. HERE I AM IN MY
EARLIER FEMALE STAGE + LATER MALE
STAGE. CAN YOU TELL WHICH IS WHICH?

