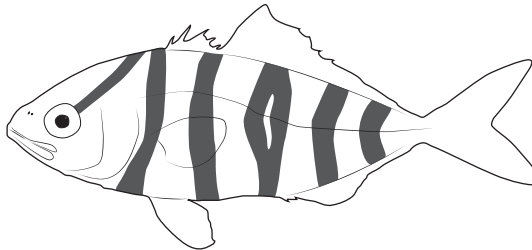


At-Sea Identification of Four Species of *Seriola* in the Western North Atlantic

Juveniles (<300 mm FL)

Species of *Seriola* experience dramatic ontogenetic changes in color pattern.
See reverse for adult coloration characters.

Greater Amberjack, *Seriola dumerili*



- Nuchal stripe + 5 irregular body bands; 1 caudal peduncle band or saddle sometimes present
- Bands do not extend onto second dorsal and anal fin membranes
- Nuchal stripe runs straight from eye to insertion of first dorsal fin
- Yellow-orange pelvic fins

Lesser Amberjack, *Seriola fasciata*



- Nuchal stripe + 7 split and irregular body bands; 1 caudal peduncle band or saddle sometimes present
- Bands extend onto second dorsal and anal fin membranes
- Nuchal stripe from eye curves upward to nape ahead of insertion of first dorsal fin
- Yellow-black pelvic fins

Almaco Jack, *Seriola rivoliana*



- Nuchal stripe + 6 irregular body bands; 1 caudal peduncle band or saddle sometimes present
- Bands do not extend onto second dorsal and anal fin membranes
- Nuchal stripe runs straight from eye to insertion of first dorsal fin
- Yellow-orange pelvic fins

Banded Rudderfish, *Seriola zonata*



- Nuchal stripe + 5 straight body bands + 1 caudal peduncle band always present
- Bands extend onto second dorsal and anal fin membranes
- Nuchal stripe runs straight from eye to insertion of first dorsal fin
- Black pelvic fins

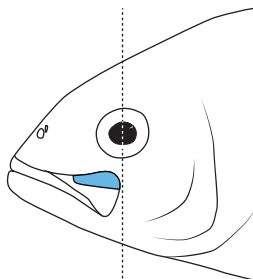
Note that meristic characters, such as number of gill rakers and 1st dorsal fin spines are diagnostic, but require examination with a microscope. See Galbraith et al. 2022 for full characters.

At-Sea Identification of Four Species of *Seriola* in the Western North Atlantic

Adult coloration (>300 mm FL)

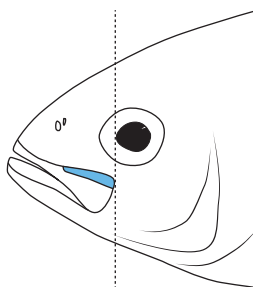
No one character separates the four species, so a combination of characters is needed for identification. *Seriola dumerili* is the most challenging to identify in field, so it is best to start by eliminating the other three species.

Greater Amberjack, *Seriola dumerili*



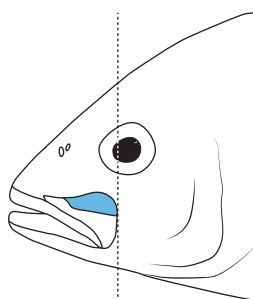
- Body color golden hue
- Supramaxilla reaches to vertical line halfway through eye
- Broad supramaxilla
- Medium eye
- Body depth medium
- Height of second dorsal fin medium
- Anal fin base > 1/2 dorsal fin base
- Maximum size 188 cm TL

Lesser Amberjack, *Seriola fasciata*



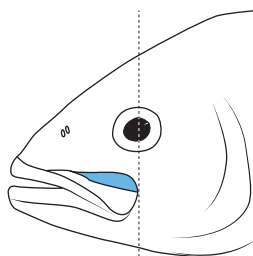
- Body color purple hue
- Supramaxilla only reaches to vertical line at anterior of pupil
- Slender supramaxilla
- Large eye
- Body depth medium
- Height of second dorsal fin medium
- Anal fin base > 1/2 dorsal fin base
- Maximum size 76 cm FL

Almaco Jack, *Seriola rivoliana*



- Body color olivaceous hue
- Supramaxilla only reaches to vertical line at anterior of pupil
- Broad supramaxilla
- Medium eye
- Body depth deep
- Height of second dorsal fin tall
- Anal fin base > 1/2 dorsal fin base
- Maximum size 155 cm FL

Banded Rudderfish, *Seriola zonata*



- Body color blue sheen
- Supramaxilla reaches to vertical line halfway through eye
- Moderate supramaxilla
- Small eye
- Body depth shallow
- Height of second dorsal fin short
- Anal fin base 1/2 dorsal fin base
- Maximum size 69 cm FL

Note that meristic characters, such as number of gill rakers and 1st dorsal fin spines are diagnostic, but require examination with a microscope. See Galbraith et al. 2022 for full characters.