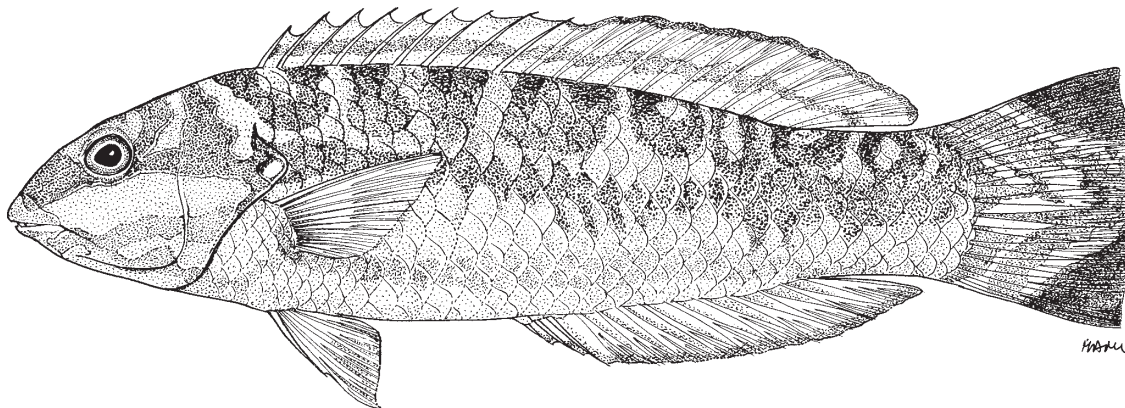


***Halichoeres bivittatus* (Bloch, 1791)**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Halichoeres maculipinna* (Müller and Troschel, 1848).

**FAO names:** En - Slippery dick.

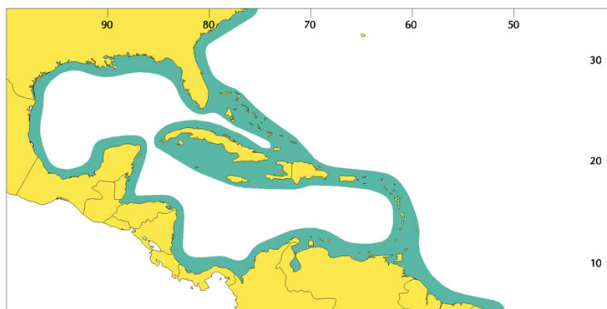


**Diagnostic characters:** Body slender, depth 3.3 to 4.6 in standard length. Head rounded and scaleless; snout blunt; 1 pair of enlarged canine teeth at front of upper jaw and a small canine posteriorly near corner of mouth; 2 pairs of enlarged canine teeth anteriorly in lower jaw. **Gill rakers on first arch 16 to 19. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 11 soft rays;** anal fin with 3 spines and 9 soft rays; caudal fin rounded; pectoral-fin rays 13. Lateral line continuous with an abrupt downward bend beneath soft portion of dorsal fin, and 27 pored scales. **Colour:** body colour variable, primarily pale green to white ground colour with a dark midbody stripe, a second lower stripe often present but less distinct; small green and yellow bicoloured spot above pectoral fin; pinkish or orange markings on the head, these sometimes outlined with pale blue; in adults, the tips of the caudal-fin lobes are black.

**Size:** Maximum length to about 20 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits a diversity of habitats from coral reef to rocky reef and seagrass beds. Any disturbance of the bottom, such as the overturning of a rock will attract a swarm of them, all hoping to find food uncovered. Feeds omnivorously on crabs, fishes, sea urchins, polychaetes, molluscs, and brittle stars. This species is not marketed for food, but is commonly seen in the aquarium trade.

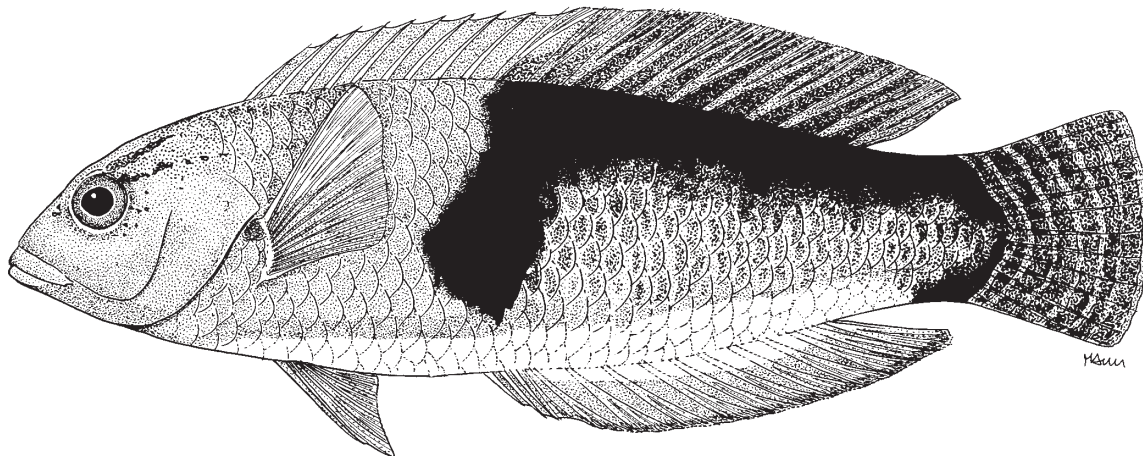
**Distribution:** Carolinas, Bermuda, Florida Keys, and south to Brazil.



***Halichoeres garnoti*** (Valenciennes, 1839)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Halichoeres radiatus* (Linnaeus, 1758).

**FAO names:** En - Yellowhead wrasse.

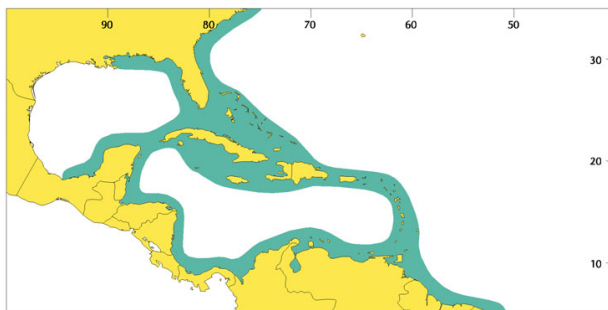


**Diagnostic characters:** Body slender, depth 3.3 to 4.6 in standard length. Head rounded and scaleless; snout blunt; 1 pair of enlarged canine teeth at front of upper jaw and a small canine posteriorly near corner of mouth; **2 pairs of enlarged canine teeth anteriorly in lower jaw. Gill rakers on first arch 15 to 19. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 11 soft rays;** anal fin with 3 spines and 12 soft rays; caudal fin rounded; **pectoral-fin rays 13.** Lateral line continuous with an abrupt downward bend beneath soft portion of dorsal fin, and 27 pored scales, anterior scales with more than 1 pore per scale. **Colour:** body primarily yellow, with yellow colour concentrated on head in large individuals and cheek in smaller fishes; small fish bright yellow with a dark edged pale blue stripe on midbody; large individuals with dark lines running diagonally upward from posterior part of eye, males with dark bar on midbody bordering a midlateral green stripe extending posteriorly to tail.

**Size:** Maximum length to about 15 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Shallow coral reefs and rocky reefs, down to a depth of about 50 m. Feeds on small invertebrates and fishes. This species is not marketed for food, and is occasionally seen in the aquarium trade.

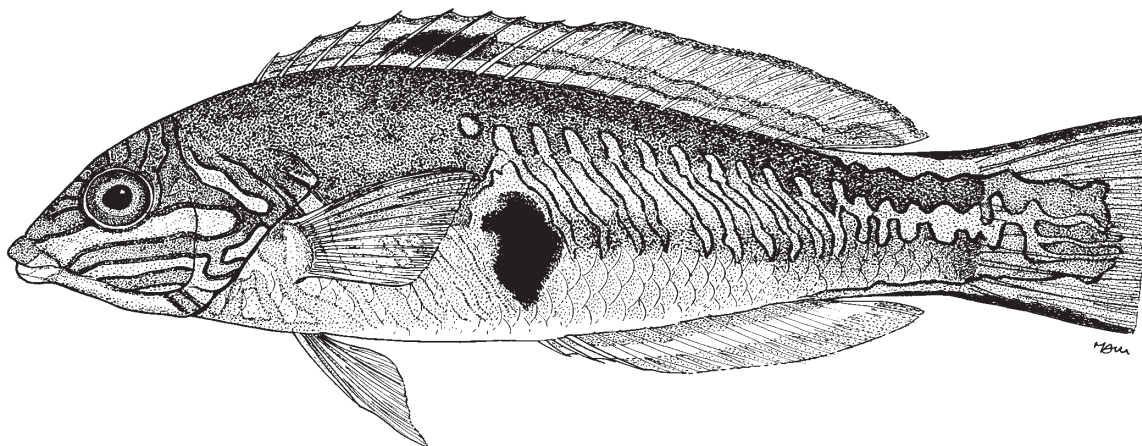
**Distribution:** Florida, Bermuda, Bahamas, and south to Brazil.



***Halichoeres maculipinna*** (Müller and Troschel, 1848)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Halichoeres bivittatus* (Bloch, 1791).

**FAO names:** En - Clown wrasse.

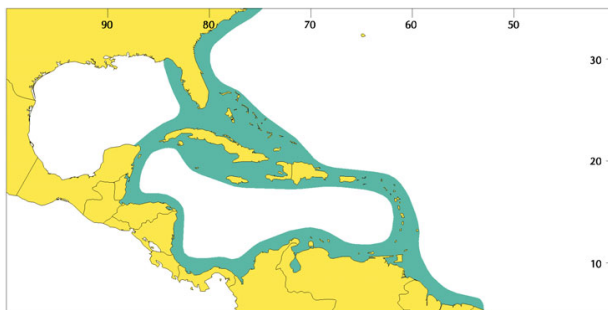


**Diagnostic characters:** Body slender, depth 3.3 to 4.6 in standard length. Head rounded and scaleless; snout blunt; 1 pair of enlarged canine teeth at front of upper jaw and a small canine posteriorly near corner of mouth; **1 pair of enlarged canine teeth anteriorly in lower jaw, anterior canine teeth outcurved, particularly the upper canines.** Gill rakers on first arch 13 to 15. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 11 soft rays; caudal fin rounded; **pectoral-fin rays 14.** Lateral line continuous with an abrupt downward bend beneath soft portion of dorsal fin, and 27 pored scales. **Colour:** body colour variable, with markings in green, blue, violet, rose, orange, and yellow; small fish with a broad dark stripe on upper side of body, white below; 3 transverse red lines across top of head and 2 U-shaped lines on snout; large adult males with a dark spot on interspinous membrane of dorsal-fin rays 4 to 7 and a prominent black spot on midside.

**Size:** Maximum length to about 12 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Shallow coral reefs and rocky reefs, down to a depth of about 25 m. Feeds on small invertebrates and fishes. This species is not marketed for food, and is rarely seen in the aquarium trade.

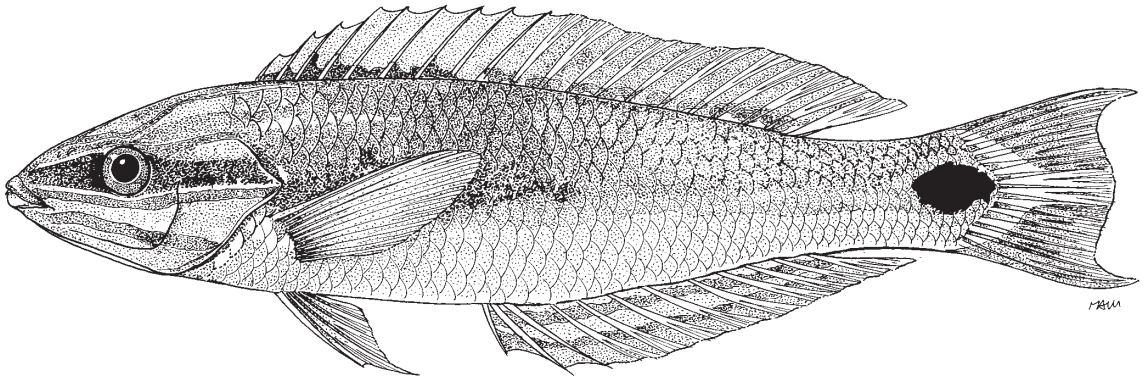
**Distribution:** North Carolina, Florida, Bermuda, Florida Keys, and south to Brazil.



***Halichoeres pictus* (Poey, 1860)**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Rainbow wrasse.

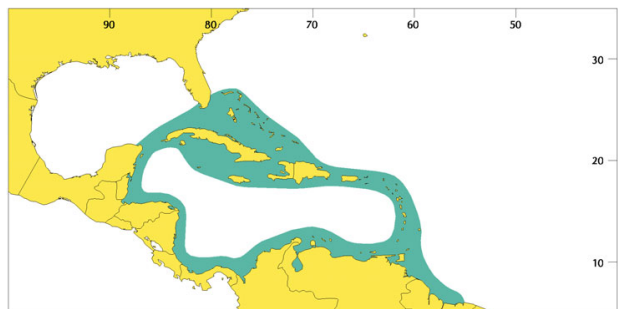


**Diagnostic characters:** Body slender, depth 3.3 to 4.6 in standard length. Head rounded and scaleless; snout blunt; **1 pair of enlarged canine teeth at front of upper jaw, slightly outcurved**; 2 pairs of enlarged canine teeth anteriorly in lower jaw. **Gill rakers on first arch 17 or 18**. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 11 soft rays; **anal fin with 3 spines and 12 soft rays**; caudal fin emarginate; **pectoral-fin rays 13**. Lateral line continuous with an abrupt downward bend beneath soft portion of dorsal fin, and 27 pored scales. **Colour:** body white, yellow, or blue-green; light coloured fish with 2 yellow-brown stripes, one along back next to base of dorsal fin and one on upper side that extends through eye to end of snout. Large adults are blue-green on upper half of body and pale blue on lower half; blue stripes on head and cheek; a large black spot at caudal-fin base with orange-yellow stripe on centre of caudal fin.

**Size:** Maximum length to about 12 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Uncommon, swims up off the bottom of reefs at depths of 5 to 25 m. This species is not marketed for food, and is rarely seen in the aquarium trade.

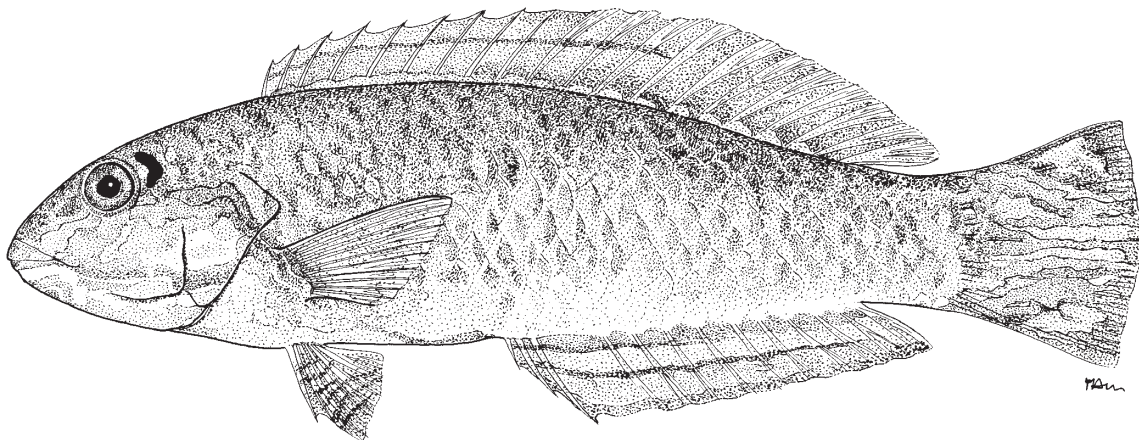
**Distribution:** Florida and Bahamas to Curacao, islands off Yucatán, and British Honduras.



***Halichoeres poeyi*** (Steindachner, 1867)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Halichoeres garnoti* (Valenciennes, 1839).

**FAO names:** En - Blackear wrasse.

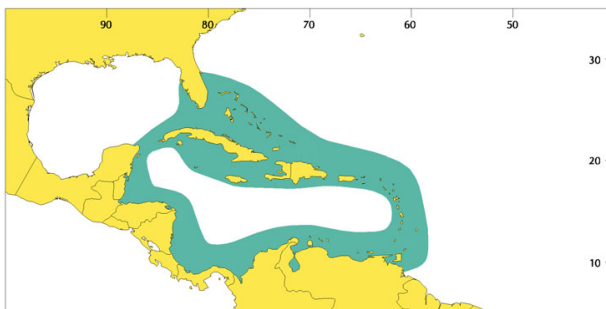


**Diagnostic characters:** Body slender, depth 3.3 to 4.6 in standard length. Head rounded and scaleless; snout blunt; 1 pair of enlarged canine teeth at front of upper jaw; 2 pairs of enlarged canine teeth anteriorly in lower jaw. **Gill rakers on first arch 17 to 20.** Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 12 soft rays; caudal fin rounded; pectoral-fin rays 13. Lateral line continuous with an abrupt downward bend beneath soft portion of dorsal fin, and 27 pored scales, **anterior lateral-line scales with more than 1 pore per scale.** **Colour:** small individuals yellow-green with red-rimmed black spot behind eye; a small black spot at rear base of dorsal fin; occasionally a spot in central membrane of dorsal fin; dark line at pectoral-fin base; large fish dull green, the centres of scales with a dull orange-red spot; purplish red bands form a V-shape on caudal fin with reddish stripe in centre of fin.

**Size:** Maximum length to about 20 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Found primarily in shallow water on seagrass beds where its colour functions as camouflage, occasionally encountered on reefs.

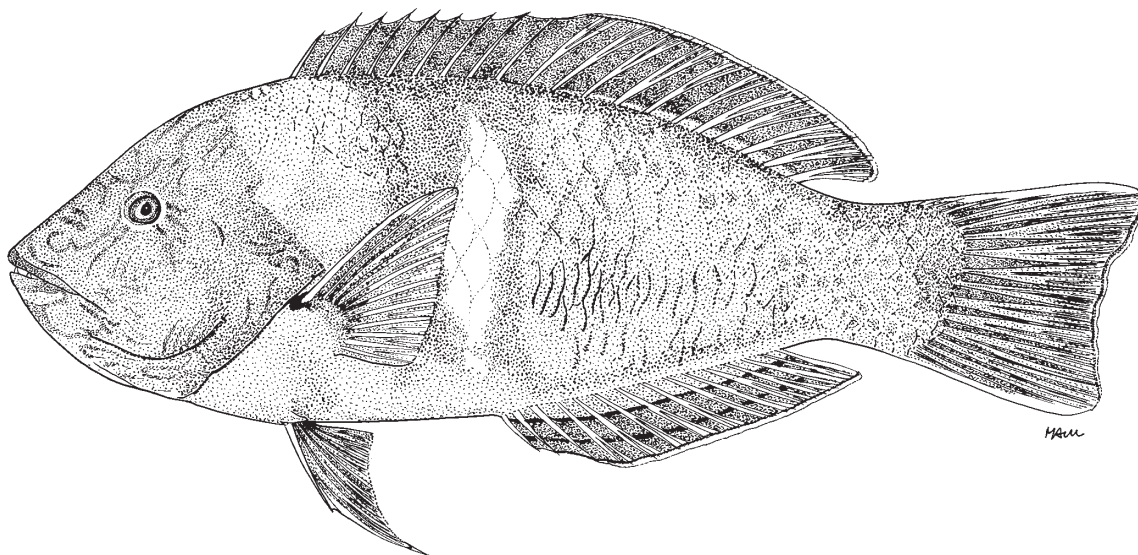
**Distribution:** Bahamas and Florida to southeastern Brazil.



***Halichoeres radiatus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** **En** - Puddingwife; **Fr** - Donzelle arc-en-ciel; **Sp** - Doncella arco-iris.



**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, depth 2.7 to 3.6 in standard length. Head rounded and scaleless; snout blunt; 1 pair of enlarged canine teeth at front of upper jaw; 2 pairs of enlarged canine teeth anteriorly in lower jaw. **Gill rakers on first arch 21 to 23.** Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 12 soft rays; caudal fin truncate; pectoral-fin rays 13. Lateral line continuous with an abrupt downward bend beneath soft portion of dorsal fin, and 27 pored scales. **Colour:** small individuals mottled or blotched, anal fin reddish; large black blotch (part on the body, part on the fin) at middorsal fin; smaller spot at the caudal-fin base above midline. Intermediate size fish with 2 orange or yellow stripes running the length of the body, with blue-green stripes between, above and below them. Large adult mostly blue and green, some with a pale blue bar at midbody, or with blue stripes, streaks, and spots; sharp black spot on the upper edge of the pectoral-fin base.

**Size:** Largest Atlantic *Halichoeres*; maximum length to about 45 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Feeds omnivorously on crabs, fishes, sea urchins, polychaetes, molluscs, and brittle stars. This species occasionally marketed for food, and is seen in the aquarium trade.

**Distribution:** Bermuda and North Carolina to Brazil.

