

GREY TRIGGERFISH

Scientific Name:
Balistes capriscus

Key Information

The Grey Triggerfish is a tough-looking fish with a diamond-shaped, flat body and strong jaws. It gets its name from the special "trigger" spine on its back — when the first spine pops up, the second spine locks it in place like a switch! These fish can grow up to 60 cm long and are usually grey or greenish-grey with rough, sandpaper-like skin. You'll often spot them alone or in small groups in warm ocean waters.

Food

These fish are not picky eaters! They use their powerful jaws and sharp teeth to crush hard-shelled prey like sea urchins, crabs, mollusks, and even barnacles. They also eat worms and small fish. Watching a Grey Triggerfish hunt is quite the show — they sometimes blow water at the sand to uncover hidden snacks!

Curoisities

Grey Triggerfish are clever builders! Females dig and guard nests in the sand on the sea floor. They even fan the nest with their fins to keep it clean and oxygenated for their eggs. If anything gets too close, they're not afraid to chase it away — even if it's bigger than them!



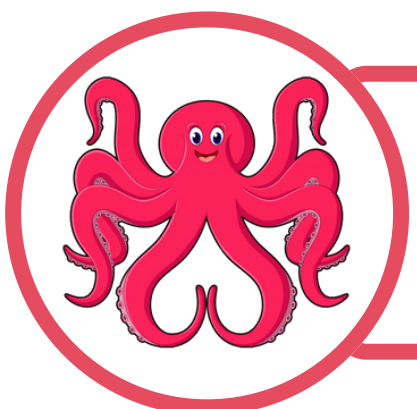
Grey triggerfish
Photo by Meet the Sea

Behaviour

Grey Triggerfish are smart and sometimes even a little grumpy! They are known to be bold and can be very territorial, especially during nesting season. When they feel threatened, they raise their trigger spine and wedge themselves into rocky crevices so predators can't pull them out. They're also excellent swimmers, using their strong fins to move in quick, sharp bursts.

Habitat

Grey Triggerfish live in warm parts of the Atlantic Ocean, including along the coasts of Europe, Africa, and the Americas. They prefer rocky reefs, wrecks, and sandy bottoms, usually at depths between 10 and 100 meters. These areas give them good hiding spots and plenty of food.



Meet the Sea
Education & Entertainment at Sea