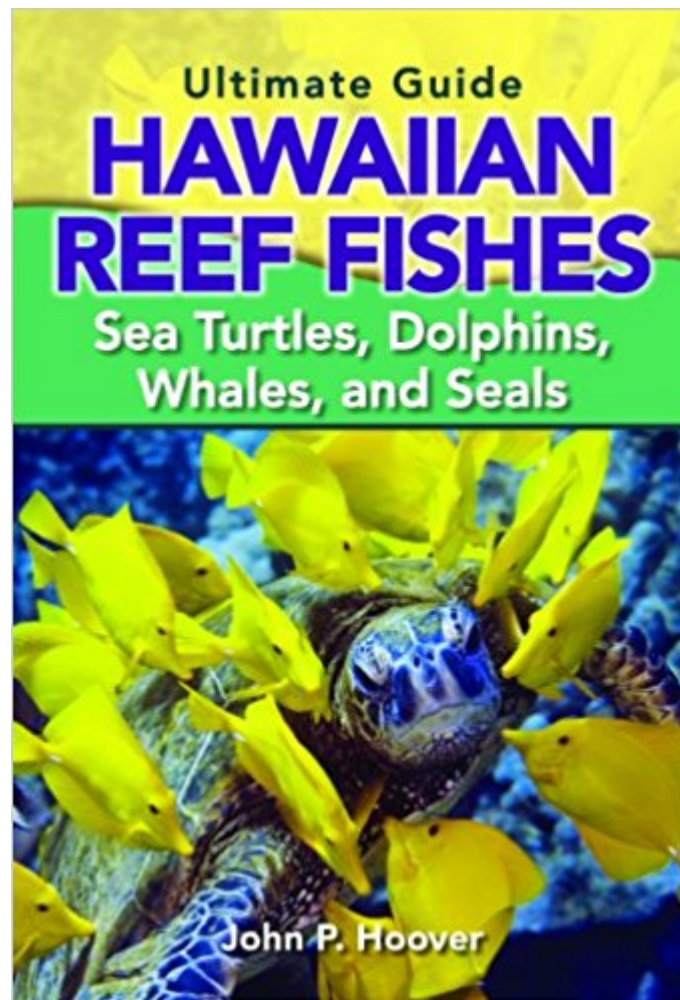




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The Ultimate Guide To Hawaiian Reef Fishes: Sea Turtles, Dolphins, Whales, And Seals



Synopsis

Features hundreds of clear underwater photographs and detailed easy-to-read descriptions of 386 fish species, as well as the whales, dolphins, and turtles most often seen in Hawaii. This is the most complete Hawaii field underwater guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This comprehensive guide to Hawaii's marine vertebrate animals is based on my bestselling book *Hawaii's Fishes, a Guide for Snorkelers and Divers*. Although *Hawaii's Fishes* remains in print and continues to satisfy the basic needs of fish watchers in the Islands, I have long wanted to create a larger, more complete reference for the serious underwater naturalist. There is so much more to say! Almost daily I get questions from readers who are seeing species not included in the original book, or who want information on marine mammals, or strange fish behaviors they have observed. To satisfy these advanced snorkelers and divers--and those who want to be--I have added over a hundred rare and unusual fish species to the original book (for a total of 386--far more than any other popular guide), plus hundreds of extra photos showing all kinds of color variations and interesting behaviors, fascinating first-hand accounts of encounters with marine animals, new chapters on Hawaii's whales, dolphins, seals, sea turtles and sea snakes, and a wealth of information on how all these animals eat, live, and reproduce.

The Ultimate Guide to Hawaiian Reef Fishes, Sea Turtles, Dolphins, Whales and Seals features

more pictures, more stories, and more species than any other softcover field guide. Clear underwater photos and scientifically up-to-date descriptions make it easy and fun to identify 386 Hawaiian reef and shore fishes. The ten whale, dolphin, and turtle species seen most often in Hawaii are included, too. Indispensable for snorkelers, divers, teachers, students, and anyone else interested in the sea, this is the ultimate identification book for Hawaiian marine vertebrate animals. But there's more. It is also a gold mine of behavioral information, legends, s trivia, and fun facts. Have you ever wondered why spinner dolphins spin? Or how manta rays mate? What does it feel like to be stung by a lionfish or attacked by a shark? Do you know the smartest fish on the reef or why eels tie themselves in knots? Crammed with stories, picture galleries, sidebars, and 965 full-color photos, this book takes the concept of a fish identification guide to a whole new level.

Excellent resource. Provides me all the extra information I wanted--beyond a simple laminated ID chart--for fish viewing/snorkeling in Hawaii. I appreciate the inclusion of helpful anecdotal stories from long-time/native snorkelers and divers; multiple photos of fish, including ones of juveniles; and the location identification of each photo. The moray eel chapter is awesome. The downside of all these glossy accurate photos and information is the book's weight. It comes with the territory, of course, but for travelers, it poses a dilemma: Does it stay or does it go? I think, in my case, it will come along with me. It's simply too valuable to leave at home. I won't bring it in the boat, but plan to look at it each night, when the wet suit is hanging to dry and I'm back in my accommodations. I'd pay extra for a Kindle version.

Pros: This is an extremely comprehensive book. It WILL contain everything you might see. Contains lots of tidbits of information and interesting anecdotes. Cons: More information than is needed for the average snorkler or diver. Much of the information isn't very helpful for identification. Information such as description, size, habitat and depth is not ordered systematically or missing entirely. Contains many fish the average person will not see. Is very long and takes a while to go through checking off fish. Bottom line; This book is best used as a supplement when a simpler guide does not contain the fish seen, or more information about the species is wanted.

For many years, there have been two excellent guides to the fishes of Hawaii -- "Hawaii's Fishes" (by John P. Hoover) and "Shore Fishes of Hawai'i" (by John E. Randall). These are invaluable to divers and snorkelers; unlike other less complete books, they document virtually every fish that you'll ever see in Hawaii. In this new book, "The Ultimate Guide to Hawaiian Reef Fishes", Hoover

has really outdone himself. Some species are illustrated with multiple photographs -- for instance, six photos of the Undulated Moray eel, including color variations and a young specimen. The other books have photos of three or five species of flounders and soles, but this one has photos of eight species. Since most of these are uncommon, this completeness could be confusing to beginners, but it's great for more advanced fish-watchers. Most fish ID books are somewhat dry -- a series of photographs, each accompanied by a brief description of the fish's appearance and behavior. This book has that information, but what really sets it apart is the many sidebars with information that will be interesting to both beginners and experts -- e.g., cooperative hunting between peacock groupers and moray eels, the feeding habits of eagle rays, and the dangers of stroking a porcupinefish or eating pufferfish. The book is full of interesting anecdotes that you won't find in other books. Even the "dry" descriptions are a bit more informative than those in other books. For instance, the description of Thompson's Butterflyfish mentions that it often aggregates with Thompson's Surgeonfish. The latter is a very nondescript fish, but this description will help you find and identify it. Finally, there is a short section about other vertebrates you might see underwater -- turtles, dolphins, whales, and seals. (For invertebrates, you need another book such as "Hawaii's Sea Creatures", also by Hoover.) The only drawback is that this book weighs twice as much as the other fish books mentioned above. If weight is an issue, you might prefer to pack one of the other fish books in your luggage, but you'll want to look at this one before and after the trip.

It has Excellent photos and write-ups about reef fishes, dolphins, turtles and sharks. I really enjoy the extra stories as find much more detail there about behaviors, habitat, activities and other trivia than you would from a standard identification book.

Excellent resource. My only reason for not giving it 5 stars is the organization is a little hard to work with. I am going to put tabs on it.

Of the several books out there on this topic, this one has the best photos, making positive identifications easier. It is also printed on nice quality paper and the binding is sturdy enough to withstand frequent use as a reference book. Shore Fishes of Hawaii by Randall is also a nice companion book because of the textual content, but the photos are definitely inferior to those in this book by Hoover. The waterproof pocket guide by Hoover, Reef Fish of Hawaii, is also a great little reference book to take with you for quick look-ups.

I was recently on the Big Island of Hawai'i, staying at a home across the street from some of the best snorkeling in the islands, and saw everything from eels to octopus. I spent many hours every day exploring and snapping pictures of the sea creatures, challenging myself to get the best picture possible of every species I saw. Back at the house, they had a copy of Hoover's older guide book, which allowed me to identify some, but not all of the animals in my pictures. Back home on the mainland, I ordered this book to hopefully identify a few more of the fish... and found nearly every one. Hoover has included multiple pictures of many of the fish, showing variations based on gender, age, and even mood (e.g. chubs - a large greyish fish - have spots only when "aroused"). I would highly recommend this title to anyone interested in the biodiversity of Hawaii, or snorkelers/divers who want to know what it is they saw.

I have been snorkeling off many beaches on Maui and Oahu and off Molokini over the past few years, and love taking underwater photos. I have another great book for fish identification but I still had several fish pictures I couldn't identify, even when searching images on the internet. This book had high reviews so I bought it, and I must say it cleared up my "mystery fish"! highly recommend!

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