

The authors make a very relevant plea to their readers to document new records whenever possible, by preserving and depositing specimens in museums and citing them by museum number, and/or providing good photographs and diagnostic information. Such practices enable records to be checked and revised by future researchers.

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Shore Fishes of Hawai'i. J. E. Randall, 1996, Natural World Press, USA. x+216 pp. ISBN 0-939560-22-4

This excellent and compact guide book is filled with superb colour photographs of Hawai'ian tropical marine fishes, all of which were taken by the author himself. These pictures, obtained largely in the field and of live fishes, are important aids for quick and accurate identification, provided the subjects in the pictures are accurately identified. This should not be a problem here for the author is a well-known and highly experienced ichthyologist who specialises in tropical reef fishes, and has published widely and prolifically on this subject.

Some 342 species are featured in the book. These are fishes most likely to be encountered on coral reefs or adjacent habitats, including a few species endemic to the Hawai'ian Islands. Concise species accounts accompany the photographs. They highlight important diagnostic characters of each species, and includes size attained, and notes on biology, ecology, economic use and geographical range. As many of the species treated have differing colour patterns and body shape at different stages of their growth, or exhibit sexual dimorphism, the author has wisely opted to portray these variations on extra illustrations for each of these species

When available, Hawai'ian vernacular names are printed for the species. There is a short but extremely useful paragraph within the Introduction that provides instructions on the proper pronunciation of these local names. In addition, there is an alphabetical list of fish names for fish watchers to check against. Although intended primarily as an identification guide for snorklers and divers, this handy little book is an attractive and useful acquisition for any nature lover.

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