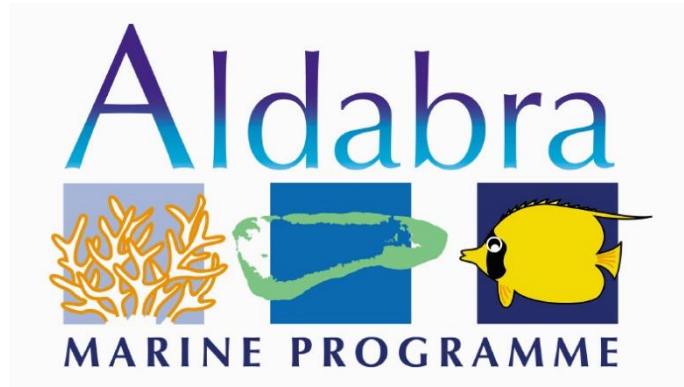




Aldabra Marine Programme

# **Preliminary Report on Check Lists of Reef Fishes at Aldabra, December 2021**

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*Cover photo: Snapper – Lutjanus gibbus (Ben Stobart)*

## Introduction

From 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 a series of dives were carried out on the outer reef of Aldabra along the north and west sides of the atoll. The purpose was to identify non-cryptic reef fish species between the approximate depths of 10m and 20m at a series of locations specified by Seychelles Island Foundation (SIF) researchers based at Aldabra. These locations did not necessarily coincide with the permanent survey sites (Sites 1 – 8) originally established in 1999 by the Aldabra Marine Programme (AMP; Teleki et al. 1999). The identifications were carried out by the senior author who has the experience of carrying out a number of quantitative reef fish surveys at fixed sites on Aldabra's outer reef from 1999 to 2008 (Buckley et al. 2004, 2005; Downing et al. 2003; Stobart et al. 2001, 2002, 2021; Teleki et al. 1999). The data from the December 2021 surveys will allow for a comparison of changes in species composition over two decades, not only with reference to the original AMP work, but also with any similar surveys by other researchers carried out between 2009 and 2021.

## Method

Each dive was approximately one hour in duration. At most locations a GPS fix was taken just before entering the water and another on exit. The exit point of Anse Var was just after the AMP Site 6. At the western location, close to the research station, only the area in the immediate vicinity of Site 1 was surveyed and the dive was curtailed to 30 minutes. On all dives fish identification began immediately on entering the water and the survey was considered complete when no more new fish were identified. In every case, with the exception of Site 1 the duration of the dive was sufficient to achieve this. Immediately after the dive the entire list was carefully checked to verify the identifications. Only positive identifications were then listed.

## Results

Eight separate locations were surveyed and are detailed in Table 1, including the GPS entry and exit points of each dive. The locations are also shown in Figure 1.

**Table 1.** List of the locations surveyed with GPS coordinates at point of water entry and water exit

Location	Point of Entry	Point of Exit
W of Passe Houareau	S9° 22.206' E46° 26.008'	S9° 22.175' E46° 25.529'
Anse Malabar	S9° 21.841' E46° 23.248'	S9° 21.907' E46° 22.995'
Between Sites 2 & 3	S9° 21.990' E46° 19.928'	S9° 22.034' E46° 19.738'
Au Parc	S9° 22.006' E46° 19.054'	S9° 22.024' E46° 18.835'
Polymnie	S9° 22.001' E46° 15.260'	S9° 22.062' E46° 14.878'
Anse Var	S9° 22.339' E46° 12.680'	After Site 6
NW	S9° 22.552' E46° 12.470'	S9° 22.403' E46° 12.727'
Site 1	S9° 24.092' E 46° 12.061	





Figure 1. Location of fish list survey sites at Aldabra Atoll.

Appendix 1 lists all the species of fish seen on the surveys at each of the locations, grouped alphabetically by family. Appendix 2 lists the fish in order of frequency of occurrence with respect to the number of times each species was seen at a particular location (ubiquitousness).

The number of species counted at each location varied from 99 (Aldabra NW) to 69 (Site 1). Excluding Site 1, whose low count could be attributed to the short dive time, the range was 99 to 84 (Au Parc). The total number of species counted, taking all eight sites into consideration, was 202. Five percent of species counted were seen at all eight locations, while 26% of species counted were seen only at one of the eight locations.

## **Discussion**

A summary of species identified at Aldabra at the eight fixed survey sites by AMP from 1999 to 2008 is shown in Appendix 7 of Stobart et al. (2021). These lists were compiled from both the quantified surveys conducted by two divers along fixed transect lines at two depths (10m and 20m), added to any further species of fish seen in the area of the survey site. From 1999 to 2008 the total count at Aldabra varied from 200 to 228 species. (2004 is excluded from this summary because of incomplete surveys, and because no counts were done of additional species outside of the transect areas). The December 2021 count of 202 species falls within this range. However, this count is likely to be an under-estimate for the following reasons: (1) the number of divers surveying (one versus two); (2) the amount of time spent surveying at each site (typically two dives to complete the quantified surveys and the additional identifications versus one dive per location during this study); and (3) the reduced diversity of locations because no counts were taken at or in the vicinity of Site 5 (extreme east of Aldabra), Site 7 nor Site 8 (south west Aldabra). Finally (4), the quantified AMP 1999 – 2008 surveys also included cryptic species.

Further analysis of the existing data will be reported in due course. However, a more accurate picture of the changes in reef species diversity will require all eight original sites to be resurveyed in the same manner as they were from 1999 to 2008.

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## Appendix

### Appendix 1. Aldabra December 2021 fish species checklist by site sorted by family

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	Site presence count
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>leucosternon</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>nigricauda</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Acanthuridae	<i>Zebrasoma</i>	<i>scopas</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Acanthuridae	<i>Naso</i>	<i>brevirostris</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	7
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>thompsoni</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X		6
Acanthuridae	<i>Ctenochaetus</i>	<i>truncatus</i>	X		X	X	X		X	X	6
Acanthuridae	<i>Ctenochaetus</i>	<i>binotatus</i>	X	X	X	X		X			5
Acanthuridae	<i>Ctenochaetus</i>	<i>striatus</i>		X				X	X	X	4
Acanthuridae	<i>Naso</i>	<i>elegans</i>			X		X	X		X	4
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>dussumieri</i>			X		X	X			3
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>xanthopterus</i>			X		X				2
Acanthuridae	<i>Zebrasoma</i>	<i>desjardini</i>				X	X				2
Acanthuridae	<i>Naso</i>	<i>unicornis</i>						X			1
Apogonidae	<i>Apogon</i>	<i>apogonoides</i>			X		X				2
Apogonidae	<i>Cheilodipterus</i>	<i>artus</i>								X	1
Balistidae	<i>Melichthys</i>	<i>indicus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Balistidae	<i>Balistapus</i>	<i>undulatus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X		6
Balistidae	<i>Sufflamen</i>	<i>bursa</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	6
Balistidae	<i>Odonus</i>	<i>niger</i>	X	X				X	X		4
Balistidae	<i>Balistoides</i>	<i>conspicillum</i>	X			X				X	3
Balistidae	<i>Melichthys</i>	<i>niger</i>	X	X					X		3
Balistidae	<i>Sufflamen</i>	<i>chrysopterum</i>	X			X			X		3

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	Site presence count
Balistidae	<i>Balistoides</i>	<i>viridescens</i>						X			1
Blenniidae	<i>Plagiotremus</i>	<i>rhinorhynchus</i>		X	X		X		X		4
Blenniidae	<i>Plagiotremus</i>	<i>tapeinosoma</i>		X	X	X		X			4
Blenniidae	<i>Ecsenius</i>	<i>midas</i>			X		X		X		3
Caesionidae	<i>Pterocaesio</i>	<i>tile</i>	X		X	X	X			X	5
Carangidae	<i>Caranx</i>	<i>melampygus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Carangidae	<i>Caranx</i>	<i>ignobilis</i>		X					X		2
Carangidae	<i>Gnathanodon</i>	<i>speciosus</i>					X		X		2
Carangidae	<i>Trachinotus</i>	<i>blochii</i>			X						1
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>albimarginatus</i> *					X	X			2
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>amblyrhynchus</i>		X							1
Carcharhinidae	<i>Triaenodon</i>	<i>obesus</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>auriga</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>kleinii</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>lunula</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Hemitaenichthys</i>	<i>zoster</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>bennetti</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>guttatissimus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>meyeri</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		6
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>falcula</i>		X		X		X	X	X	5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>madagaskariensis</i>	X			X	X	X	X		5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>melannotus</i>		X			X	X	X	X	5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>trifasciatus</i>	X	X	X			X	X		5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Forcipiger</i>	<i>flavissimus</i>	X	X	X	X			X		5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>interruptus</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Chaetodontidae	<i>Heniochus</i>	<i>monoceros</i>	X			X	X		X		4
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>oxycephalus</i>			X		X				2
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>xanthocephalus</i>	X	X							2
Chaetodontidae	<i>Heniochus</i>	<i>acuminatus</i>		X			X				2
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>lineolatus</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>trifascialis</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>zanzibariensis</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Heniochus</i>	<i>diphreutes</i>								X	1
Cirrhitidae	<i>Paracirrhites</i>	<i>arcatus</i>	X		X	X	X	X			5
Cirrhitidae	<i>Paracirrhites</i>	<i>forsteri</i>		X	X		X	X	X		5
Cirrhitidae	<i>Cirrhitichthys</i>	<i>oxycephalus</i>	X						X		2
Dasyatidae	<i>Pateobatis</i>	<i>fai</i> *	X								1
Ephippidae	<i>Platax</i>	<i>teira</i>					X		X		2



Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	Site presence count
Ephippidae	<i>Platax</i>	<i>orbicularis</i>								X	1
Ginglymostomatidae	<i>Nebrius</i>	<i>ferrugineus</i>		X			X				2
Gobiidae	<i>Valenciennesa</i>	<i>strigata</i>		X			X	X			3
Gobiidae	<i>Amblyeleotris</i>	<i>periophthalma</i>						X			1
Gobiidae	<i>Gnatholepis</i>	<i>anjerensis</i>							X		1
Gobiidae	<i>Valenciennesa</i>	<i>puellaris</i>								X	1
Haemulidae	<i>Plectorhinchus</i>	<i>vittatus</i>		X	X	X	X		X		5
Haemulidae	<i>Plectorhinchus</i>	<i>plagiodesmus</i>	X				X	X	X		4
Holocentridae	<i>Sargocentron</i>	<i>caudimaculatum</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		6
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>berndti</i>	X	X		X			X		4
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>vittata</i>	X		X		X		X		4
Holocentridae	<i>Sargocentron</i>	<i>spiniferum</i>		X		X	X	X			4
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>adusta</i>	X							X	2
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>murdjan</i>				X					1
Holocentridae	<i>Sargocentron</i>	<i>diadema</i>								X	1
Labridae	<i>Halichoeres</i>	<i>cosmetus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>hebraicum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Labridae	<i>Gomphosus</i>	<i>caeruleus</i>	X	X	X	X	X			X	7
Labridae	<i>Halichoeres</i>	<i>hortulanus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
Labridae	<i>Pseudodax</i>	<i>moluccanus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>axillaris</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>diana</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X		6
Labridae	<i>Cirrhilabrus</i>	<i>exquisitus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X		6
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>meleagrides</i>		X	X	X	X		X		5
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>caudimacula</i>				X	X	X	X	X	5
Labridae	<i>Labroides</i>	<i>bicolor</i>		X	X	X		X		X	5
Labridae	<i>Pseudocheilinus</i>	<i>hexataenia</i>	X			X	X	X	X		5
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>amblycephalum</i>	X		X	X	X		X		5
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>anthioides</i>		X		X	X			X	4
Labridae	<i>Cheilinus</i>	<i>undulatus</i>	X		X			X		X	4
Labridae	<i>Epibulus</i>	<i>insidiator</i>	X			X			X	X	4
Labridae	<i>Hemigymnus</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>	X			X		X	X		4
Labridae	<i>Hologymnosus</i>	<i>doliatus</i>	X			X	X		X		4
Labridae	<i>Labroides</i>	<i>dimidiatus</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Labridae	<i>Labropsis</i>	<i>xanthonota</i>	X		X		X			X	4
Labridae	<i>Pseudocheilinus</i>	<i>evanidus</i>			X	X	X			X	4
Labridae	<i>Stethojulis</i>	<i>albovittata</i>		X			X	X		X	4
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>janseni</i>			X	X	X			X	4



Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	Site presence count
Labridae	<i>Cheilinus</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>		X		X			X		3
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>formosa</i>			X	X		X			3
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>hardwicke</i>	X			X		X			3
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>lunare</i>		X	X	X					3
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>lineatus</i>					X		X		2
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>bilunulatus</i>	X							X	2
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>cuvieri</i>		X			X				2
Labridae	<i>Hologymnosus</i>	<i>annulatus</i>							X	X	2
Labridae	<i>Pseudocheilinus</i>	<i>octotaenia</i>		X						X	2
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>caeruleopunctatus</i>							X		1
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>twistii</i>						X			1
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>aygula</i>	X								1
Labridae	<i>Halichoeres</i>	<i>vrolikii</i>								X	1
Labridae	<i>Macropharyngodon</i>	<i>bipartitus</i>			X						1
Labridae	<i>Pseudocoris</i>	<i>heteroptera</i>								X	1
Labridae	<i>Pseudojuloides</i>	<i>kaleidos</i>								X	1
Lethrinidae	<i>Monotaxis</i>	<i>grandoculis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Lethrinidae	<i>Gnathodentex</i>	<i>aureolineatus</i>		X		X			X		3
Lethrinidae	<i>Lethrinus</i>	<i>obsoletus</i>		X					X		2
Lethrinidae	<i>Lethrinus</i>	<i>xanthochilus</i>								X	1
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>bohar</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
Lutjanidae	<i>Aphareus</i>	<i>furca</i>	X		X		X	X			4
Lutjanidae	<i>Aprion</i>	<i>virescens</i>	X			X			X		3
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>gibbus</i>	X		X		X				3
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>kasmira</i>			X	X	X				3
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>monostigma</i>	X		X		X				3
Lutjanidae	<i>Macolor</i>	<i>niger</i>	X				X	X			3
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>bengalensis</i>								X	1
Mobulidae	<i>Aetobatis</i>	<i>narinari</i>	X					X			2
Monacanthidae	<i>Cantherhines</i>	<i>pardalis</i>				X					1
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>macronema</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>bifasciatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>cyclostomus</i>		X			X		X	X	4
Mullidae	<i>Mulloidichthys</i>	<i>vanicolensis</i>		X		X					2
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>pleurostigma</i>		X				X			2
Ostraciidae	<i>Ostracion</i>	<i>meleagris</i>					X				1
Pinguipedidae	<i>Parapercis</i>	<i>punctulata</i>				X					1
Pomacanthidae	<i>Pomacanthus</i>	<i>imperator</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	Site presence count
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>multispinis</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Pomacanthidae	<i>Apolemichthys</i>	<i>trimaculatus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6
Pomacanthidae	<i>Pygoplites</i>	<i>diacanthus</i>		X	X			X	X		4
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>acanthops</i>			X		X				2
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>debelius</i>				X	X				2
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>bispinosa</i>								X	1
Pomacanthidae	<i>Pomacanthus</i>	<i>annularis</i>								X	1
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>nigrura</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>weberi</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		6
Pomacentridae	<i>Dascyllus</i>	<i>trimaculatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>dimidiata</i>		X	X	X		X	X		5
Pomacentridae	<i>Lepidozygus</i>	<i>tapeinosoma</i>			X	X	X	X	X		5
Pomacentridae	<i>Amphiprion</i>	<i>fuscocaudatus</i>	X		X	X				X	4
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>ternatensis</i>		X	X	X				X	4
Pomacentridae	<i>Pomacentrus</i>	<i>caeruleus</i>	X	X		X		X			4
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>opercularis</i>		X			X		X		3
Pomacentridae	<i>Plectroglyphidodon</i>	<i>lacrymatus</i>	X			X			X		3
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>atripectoralis</i>				X	X				2
Pomacentridae	<i>Dascyllus</i>	<i>carneus</i>			X		X				2
Pomacentridae	<i>Plectroglyphidodon</i>	<i>johnstonianus</i>						X		X	2
Pomacentridae	<i>Amphiprion</i>	<i>akallopisos</i>				X					1
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>viridis</i>		X							1
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>xutha</i>			X						1
Ptereleotridae	<i>Nemateleotris</i>	<i>magnifica</i>					X	X	X		3
Scaridae	<i>Chlorurus</i>	<i>sordidus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>tricolor</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X		6
Scaridae	<i>Chlorurus</i>	<i>strongylocephalus</i>	X	X			X	X	X		5
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>caudofasciatus</i>	X				X				2
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>rubroviolaceus</i>						X	X		2
Scaridae	<i>Bolbometopon</i>	<i>muricatum</i>								X	1
Scaridae	<i>Hipposcarus</i>	<i>harid</i>						X			1
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>psittacus</i>								X	1
Scorpaenidae	<i>Scorpaenopsis</i>	<i>oxycephala</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Pseudanthias</i>	<i>squamipinnis</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Serranidae	<i>Variola</i>	<i>louti</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		7
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>		X	X		X	X	X		5
Serranidae	<i>Nemanthias</i>	<i>carberryi</i>	X		X		X	X	X		5
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>argus</i>	X	X				X	X		4

Aldabra Marine Programme fish checklist 2021

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	Site presence count
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>miniata</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>nigripinnis</i>		X	X	X			X		4
Serranidae	<i>Dermatolepis</i>	<i>striolata</i>	X		X	X			X		4
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>tukula</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Serranidae	<i>Gracila</i>	<i>albomarginata</i>			X		X		X		3
Serranidae	<i>Pseudanthias</i>	<i>evansi</i>	X	X				X			3
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>fuscoguttatus</i>						X	X		2
Serranidae	<i>Pseudanthias</i>	<i>cooperi</i>					X			X	2
Serranidae	<i>Aethaloperca</i>	<i>roga</i>		X							1
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>sexmaculata</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>lanceolatus</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>macrospilos</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>spilotoceps</i>							X		1
Serranidae	<i>Plectropomus</i>	<i>areolatus</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Plectropomus</i>	<i>laevis</i>			X						1
Serranidae	<i>Plectropomus</i>	<i>punctatus</i>								X	1
Siganidae	<i>Siganus</i>	<i>stellatus</i>	X		X						2
Siganidae	<i>Siganus</i>	<i>argenteus</i>							X		1
Sphyraenidae	<i>Sphyraena</i>	<i>barracuda</i>								X	1
Synodontidae	<i>Synodus</i>	<i>jaculum</i>				X		X			2
Synodontidae	<i>Saurida</i>	<i>gracilis</i>								X	1
Synodontidae	<i>Synodus</i>	<i>indicus</i>								X	1
Tetraodontidae	<i>Arothron</i>	<i>nigropunctatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		6
Tetraodontidae	<i>Canthigaster</i>	<i>valentini</i>				X	X				2
Tetraodontidae	<i>Arothron</i>	<i>caeruleopunctatus</i> *							X		1
Tetraodontidae	<i>Arothron</i>	<i>meleagris</i>						X			1
Tetraodontidae	<i>Canthigaster</i>	<i>coronata</i>								X	1
Zanclidae	<i>Zanclus</i>	<i>cornutus</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		6
<b>Totals</b>			<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>69</b>	
<b>Total Species count</b>			<b>202</b>								

**Appendix 2.** Aldabra December 2021 fish species checklist by site sorted by number ubiquitousness and family.

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	No. Site presence count
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>leucosternon</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>nigricauda</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Acanthuridae	<i>Zebrasoma</i>	<i>scopas</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Balistidae	<i>Melichthys</i>	<i>indicus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Carangidae	<i>Caranx</i>	<i>melampygus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Labridae	<i>Halichoeres</i>	<i>cosmetus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>hebraicum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>macronema</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Pomacanthidae	<i>Pomacanthus</i>	<i>imperator</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Acanthuridae	<i>Naso</i>	<i>brevirostris</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>auriga</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>kleinii</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>lunula</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X		7
Chaetodontidae	<i>Hemitaurichthys</i>	<i>zoster</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
Labridae	<i>Gomphosus</i>	<i>caeruleus</i>	X	X	X	X	X			X	7
Labridae	<i>Halichoeres</i>	<i>hortulanus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
Labridae	<i>Pseudodax</i>	<i>moluccanus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>bohar</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>bifasciatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>multispinis</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Serranidae	<i>Pseudanthias</i>	<i>squamipinnis</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Serranidae	<i>Variola</i>	<i>louti</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>thompsoni</i>	X	X		X	X	X			6
Acanthuridae	<i>Ctenochaetus</i>	<i>truncatus</i>	X		X	X	X		X	X	6
Balistidae	<i>Balistapus</i>	<i>undulatus</i>	X		X	X	X	X			6
Balistidae	<i>Sufflamen</i>	<i>bursa</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	6
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>bennetti</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>guttatissimus</i>		X	X	X	X	X			6
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>meyeri</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		6
Holocentridae	<i>Sargocentron</i>	<i>caudimaculatum</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		6
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>axillaris</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>diana</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X		6
Labridae	<i>Cirrhilabrus</i>	<i>exquisitus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X		6
Lethrinidae	<i>Monotaxis</i>	<i>grandoculis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Pomacanthidae	<i>Apolemichthys</i>	<i>trimaculatus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>nigrura</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	No. Site presence count
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>weberi</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		6
Pomacentridae	<i>Dascyllus</i>	<i>trimaculatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		6
Scaridae	<i>Chlorurus</i>	<i>sordidus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		6
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>tricolor</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X		6
Tetraodontidae	<i>Arothron</i>	<i>nigropunctatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		6
Zanclidae	<i>Zanclus</i>	<i>cornutus</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		6
Acanthuridae	<i>Ctenochaetus</i>	<i>binotatus</i>	X	X	X	X		X			5
Caesionidae	<i>Pterocaesio</i>	<i>tile</i>	X		X	X	X			X	5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>falcula</i>		X		X		X	X	X	5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>madagaskariensis</i>	X			X	X	X	X		5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>melannotus</i>		X			X	X	X	X	5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>trifasciatus</i>	X	X	X			X	X		5
Chaetodontidae	<i>Forcipiger</i>	<i>flavissimus</i>	X	X	X	X			X		5
Cirrhitidae	<i>Paracirrhites</i>	<i>arcatus</i>	X		X	X	X	X			5
Cirrhitidae	<i>Paracirrhites</i>	<i>forsteri</i>		X	X		X	X	X		5
Haemulidae	<i>Plectorhinchus</i>	<i>vittatus</i>		X	X	X	X		X		5
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>meleagrides</i>		X	X	X	X		X		5
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>caudimacula</i>				X	X	X	X	X	5
Labridae	<i>Labroides</i>	<i>bicolor</i>		X	X	X		X		X	5
Labridae	<i>Pseudocheilinus</i>	<i>hexataenia</i>	X			X	X	X	X		5
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>amblycephalum</i>	X		X	X	X		X		5
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>dimidiata</i>		X	X	X		X	X		5
Pomacentridae	<i>Lepidozygus</i>	<i>tapeinosoma</i>			X	X	X	X	X		5
Scaridae	<i>Chlorurus</i>	<i>strongylocephalus</i>	X	X			X	X	X		5
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>		X	X		X	X	X		5
Serranidae	<i>Nemanthias</i>	<i>carberryi</i>	X		X		X	X	X		5
Acanthuridae	<i>Ctenochaetus</i>	<i>striatus</i>		X				X	X	X	4
Acanthuridae	<i>Naso</i>	<i>elegans</i>			X		X	X		X	4
Balistidae	<i>Odonus</i>	<i>niger</i>	X	X				X	X		4
Blenniidae	<i>Plagiotremus</i>	<i>rhinorhynchos</i>		X	X		X		X		4
Blenniidae	<i>Plagiotremus</i>	<i>tapeinosoma</i>		X	X	X		X			4
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>interruptus</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Chaetodontidae	<i>Heniochus</i>	<i>monoceros</i>	X			X	X		X		4
Haemulidae	<i>Plectorhinchus</i>	<i>plagiodesmus</i>	X				X	X	X		4
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>berndti</i>	X	X		X			X		4
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>vittata</i>	X		X		X		X		4
Holocentridae	<i>Sargocentron</i>	<i>spiniferum</i>		X		X	X	X			4
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>anthioides</i>		X		X	X			X	4



Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	No. Site presence count
Labridae	<i>Cheilinus</i>	<i>undulatus</i>	X		X			X		X	4
Labridae	<i>Epibulus</i>	<i>insidiator</i>	X			X			X	X	4
Labridae	<i>Hemigymnus</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>	X			X		X	X		4
Labridae	<i>Hologymnosus</i>	<i>doliatus</i>	X			X	X		X		4
Labridae	<i>Labroides</i>	<i>dimidiatus</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Labridae	<i>Labropsis</i>	<i>xanthonota</i>	X		X		X			X	4
Labridae	<i>Pseudocheilinus</i>	<i>evanidus</i>			X	X	X			X	4
Labridae	<i>Stethojulis</i>	<i>albovittata</i>		X			X	X		X	4
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>janseni</i>			X	X	X			X	4
Lutjanidae	<i>Aphareus</i>	<i>furca</i>	X		X		X	X			4
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>cyclostomus</i>		X			X		X	X	4
Pomacanthidae	<i>Pygoplites</i>	<i>diacanthus</i>		X	X			X	X		4
Pomacentridae	<i>Amphiprion</i>	<i>fuscocaudatus</i>	X		X	X				X	4
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>ternatensis</i>		X	X	X				X	4
Pomacentridae	<i>Pomacentrus</i>	<i>caeruleus</i>	X	X		X		X			4
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>argus</i>	X	X				X	X		4
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>miniata</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>nigripinnis</i>		X	X	X			X		4
Serranidae	<i>Dermatolepis</i>	<i>striolata</i>	X		X	X			X		4
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>tukula</i>	X	X	X		X				4
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>dussumieri</i>			X		X	X			3
Balistidae	<i>Balistoides</i>	<i>conspicillum</i>	X			X				X	3
Balistidae	<i>Melichthys</i>	<i>niger</i>	X	X					X		3
Balistidae	<i>Sufflamen</i>	<i>chrysopterum</i>	X			X			X		3
Blenniidae	<i>Ecsenius</i>	<i>midas</i>			X		X		X		3
Gobiidae	<i>Valenciennesa</i>	<i>strigata</i>		X			X	X			3
Labridae	<i>Cheilinus</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>		X		X			X		3
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>formosa</i>			X	X		X			3
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>hardwicke</i>	X			X		X			3
Labridae	<i>Thalassoma</i>	<i>lunare</i>		X	X	X					3
Lethrinidae	<i>Gnathodentex</i>	<i>aureolineatus</i>		X		X			X		3
Lutjanidae	<i>Aprion</i>	<i>virescens</i>	X			X			X		3
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>gibbus</i>	X		X		X				3
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>kasmira</i>			X	X	X				3
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>monostigma</i>	X		X		X				3
Lutjanidae	<i>Macolor</i>	<i>niger</i>	X				X	X			3
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>opercularis</i>		X			X		X		3
Pomacentridae	<i>Plectroglyphidodon</i>	<i>lacrymatus</i>	X			X			X		3

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	No. Site presence count
Ptereleotridae	<i>Nemateleotris</i>	<i>magnifica</i>					X	X	X		3
Serranidae	<i>Gracila</i>	<i>albomarginata</i>			X		X		X		3
Serranidae	<i>Pseudanthias</i>	<i>evansi</i>	X	X				X			3
Acanthuridae	<i>Acanthurus</i>	<i>xanthopterus</i>			X		X				2
Acanthuridae	<i>Zebrasoma</i>	<i>desjardini</i>				X	X				2
Apogonidae	<i>Apogon</i>	<i>apogonoides</i>			X		X				2
Carangidae	<i>Caranx</i>	<i>ignobilis</i>		X					X		2
Carangidae	<i>Gnathanodon</i>	<i>speciosus</i>					X		X		2
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>albimarginatus</i> *					X	X			2
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>oxycephalus</i>			X		X				2
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>xanthocephalus</i>	X	X							2
Chaetodontidae	<i>Heniochus</i>	<i>acuminatus</i>		X			X				2
Cirrhitidae	<i>Cirrhitichthys</i>	<i>oxycephalus</i>	X						X		2
Ephippidae	<i>Platax</i>	<i>teira</i>					X		X		2
Ginglymostomatidae	<i>Nebrius</i>	<i>ferrugineus</i>		X			X				2
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>adusta</i>	X							X	2
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>lineatus</i>					X		X		2
Labridae	<i>Bodianus</i>	<i>bilunulatus</i>	X							X	2
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>cuvieri</i>		X			X				2
Labridae	<i>Hologymnosus</i>	<i>annulatus</i>							X	X	2
Labridae	<i>Pseudocheilinus</i>	<i>octotaenia</i>		X						X	2
Lethrinidae	<i>Lethrinus</i>	<i>obsoletus</i>		X					X		2
Mobulidae	<i>Aetobatis</i>	<i>narinari</i>	X					X			2
Mullidae	<i>Mulloidichthys</i>	<i>vanicolensis</i>		X		X					2
Mullidae	<i>Parupeneus</i>	<i>pleurostigma</i>		X				X			2
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>acanthops</i>			X		X				2
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>debelius</i>				X	X				2
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>atripectoralis</i>				X	X				2
Pomacentridae	<i>Dascyllus</i>	<i>carneus</i>			X		X				2
Pomacentridae	<i>Plectroglyphidodon</i>	<i>johnstonianus</i>						X		X	2
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>caudofasciatus</i>	X				X				2
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>rubroviolaceus</i>						X	X		2
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>fuscoguttatus</i>						X	X		2
Serranidae	<i>Pseudanthias</i>	<i>cooperi</i>					X			X	2
Siganidae	<i>Siganus</i>	<i>stellatus</i>	X		X						2
Synodontidae	<i>Synodus</i>	<i>jaculum</i>				X		X			2
Tetraodontidae	<i>Canthigaster</i>	<i>valentini</i>				X	X				2
Acanthuridae	<i>Naso</i>	<i>unicornis</i>						X			1

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	No. Site presence count
Apogonidae	<i>Cheilodipterus</i>	<i>artus</i>								X	1
Balistidae	<i>Balistoides</i>	<i>viridescens</i>						X			1
Carangidae	<i>Trachinotus</i>	<i>blochii</i>			X						1
Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>amblyrhynchos</i>		X							1
Carcharhinidae	<i>Triaenodon</i>	<i>obesus</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>lineolatus</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>trifascialis</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Chaetodon</i>	<i>zanzibariensis</i>								X	1
Chaetodontidae	<i>Heniochus</i>	<i>diphreutes</i>								X	1
Dasyatidae	<i>Pateobatis</i>	<i>fai</i> *	X								1
Ephippidae	<i>Platax</i>	<i>orbicularis</i>								X	1
Gobiidae	<i>Amblyeleotris</i>	<i>periphthalma</i>						X			1
Gobiidae	<i>Gnatholepis</i>	<i>anjerensis</i>							X		1
Gobiidae	<i>Valenciennesa</i>	<i>puellaris</i>								X	1
Holocentridae	<i>Myripristis</i>	<i>murdjan</i>				X					1
Holocentridae	<i>Sargocentron</i>	<i>diadema</i>								X	1
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>caeruleopunctatus</i>							X		1
Labridae	<i>Anampses</i>	<i>twistii</i>						X			1
Labridae	<i>Coris</i>	<i>aygula</i>	X								1
Labridae	<i>Halichoeres</i>	<i>vrolikii</i>								X	1
Labridae	<i>Macropharyngodon</i>	<i>bipartitus</i>			X						1
Labridae	<i>Pseudocoris</i>	<i>heteroptera</i>								X	1
Labridae	<i>Pseudojuloides</i>	<i>kaleidos</i>								X	1
Lethrinidae	<i>Lethrinus</i>	<i>xanthochilus</i>								X	1
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus</i>	<i>bengalensis</i>								X	1
Monacanthidae	<i>Cantherhines</i>	<i>pardalis</i>				X					1
Ostraciidae	<i>Ostracion</i>	<i>meleagris</i>					X				1
Pinguipedidae	<i>Parapercis</i>	<i>punctulata</i>				X					1
Pomacanthidae	<i>Centropyge</i>	<i>bispinosa</i>								X	1
Pomacanthidae	<i>Pomacanthus</i>	<i>annularis</i>								X	1
Pomacentridae	<i>Amphiprion</i>	<i>akallopisos</i>				X					1
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>viridis</i>		X							1
Pomacentridae	<i>Chromis</i>	<i>xutha</i>			X						1
Scaridae	<i>Bolbometopon</i>	<i>muricatum</i>								X	1
Scaridae	<i>Hipposcarus</i>	<i>harid</i>						X			1
Scaridae	<i>Scarus</i>	<i>psittacus</i>								X	1
Scorpaenidae	<i>Scorpaenopsis</i>	<i>oxycephala</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Aethaloperca</i>	<i>roga</i>		X							1

Family	Genus	Species	Aldabra (Au Parc)	Aldabra (Anse Malabar)	Aldabra (Anse Var)	Aldabra (between Sites 2&3)	Aldabra (NW)	Aldabra (Polymnie)	Aldabra (Houareau)	Aldabra (Site 1)	No. Site presence count
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis</i>	<i>sexmaculata</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>lanceolatus</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>macrospilos</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus</i>	<i>spilotoceps</i>							X		1
Serranidae	<i>Plectropomus</i>	<i>areolatus</i>								X	1
Serranidae	<i>Plectropomus</i>	<i>laevis</i>			X						1
Serranidae	<i>Plectropomus</i>	<i>punctatus</i>								X	1
Siganidae	<i>Siganus</i>	<i>argenteus</i>							X		1
Sphyraenidae	<i>Sphyraena</i>	<i>barracuda</i>								X	1
Synodontidae	<i>Saurida</i>	<i>gracilis</i>								X	1
Synodontidae	<i>Synodus</i>	<i>indicus</i>								X	1
Tetraodontidae	<i>Arothron</i>	<i>caeruleopunctatus</i> *							X		1
Tetraodontidae	<i>Arothron</i>	<i>meleagris</i>						X			1
Tetraodontidae	<i>Canthigaster</i>	<i>coronata</i>								X	1
<b>Totals</b>			<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>69</b>	
<b>Total Species count</b>	<b>202</b>										