CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Parrotfish

Scarus vetula

Parrotfishes are the reason tropical beaches are white. They scrape algae and endolithic cyanobacteria from dead coral rock with a beak formed from fused teeth, grind the rubble in a pharyngeal mill …

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Scaridae
Habitat: Coral reefs
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 5-7 years
Weight: 1-20 kg
Scientific name: Scarus vetula

Did you know?

- A single large parrotfish can produce hundreds of kilograms of sand each year just by eating and excreting bits of coral.
- Parrotfish are not eating live coral for the polyps — they are after the algae in and on the skeleton, though bumphead parrotfish do bite live coral …

What I learned

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