

***Zebrasoma desjardinii* (Bennett 1836)**  
**Desjardin's Sailfin Tang**



*Photos by J. Randall, Bishop Museum*

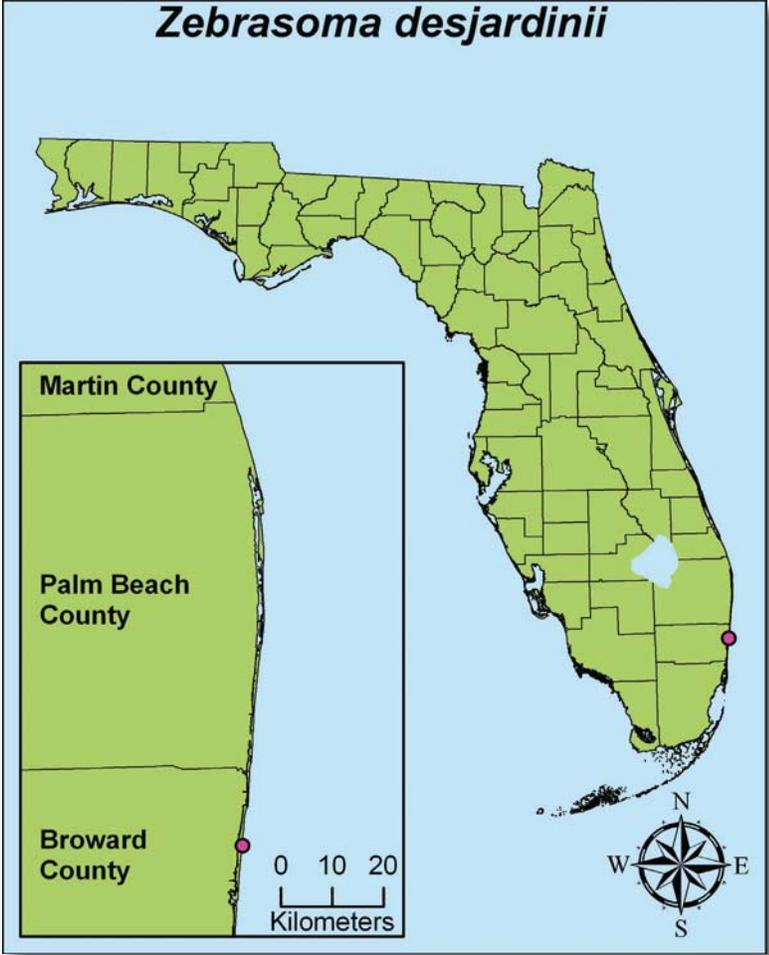
**Identification:** Highly variable in color and banding patterns. Strongly marked with colors ranging from bright yellow to black. Large dorsal and anal fins with pale yellow lines. Caudal fin dark with blue spots. Juveniles (photo on right) are similar in banding but appear yellow-gold. Grows to about 40 cm TL. Dorsal fin VI (28-33), anal fin III (22-26). From Allen et al. (2003).

**Similar Species:** No Atlantic surgeonfish has white spots on the face or the very tall dorsal fin of the *Zebrasoma* species.

**Native Range:** The species is distributed in the Indian Ocean from the Red Sea and East Africa to Andaman Sea and north Sumatra, Indonesia (Allen et al. 2003).

**Ecology:** The species is typically found in lagoonal areas and exposed reefs up to 30 m (Allen et al. 2003). Juveniles are prevalent in the inner reef zone. Adults can be found in pairs, but juveniles are typically solitary (Lieske and Myers 1994). The species is known to be territorial and frequently exhibits agonistic behaviors (Alwany et al. 2005).

**Nonindigenous Occurrences:** The species was observed at a commercial pier in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Broward County in 1999.



Acanthuridae (surgeonfishes, tangs, unicornfishes)