

***Zebrasoma scopas* (Cuvier 1829)**
Brown Tang



Photos by J. Randall, Bishop Museum

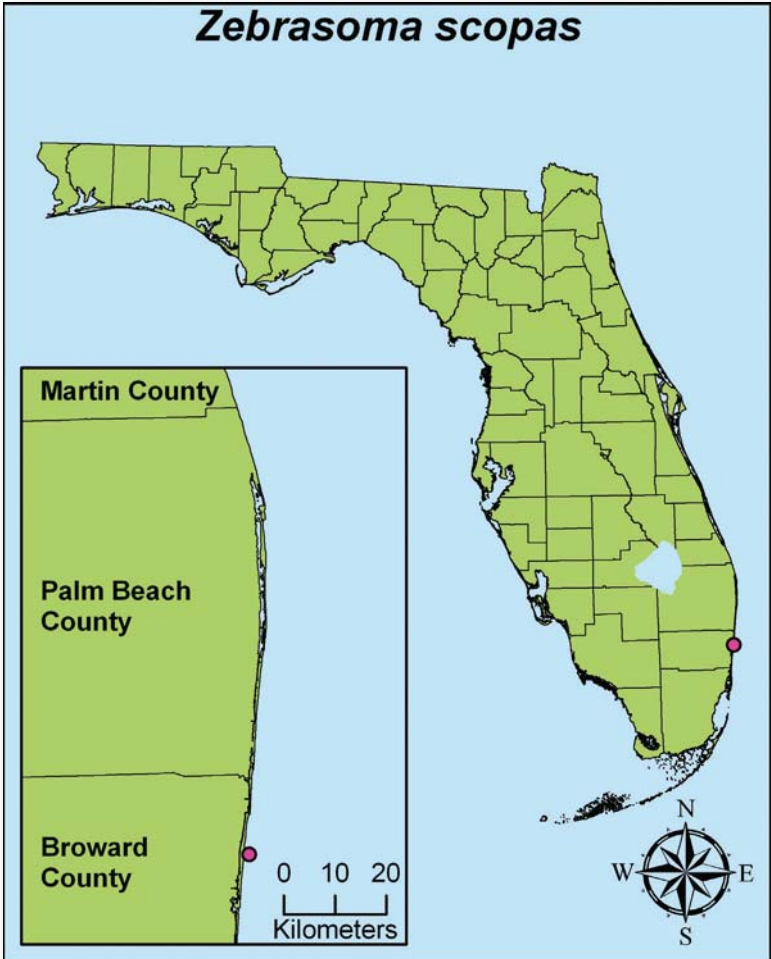
Identification: Deeply-compressed body with protruding snout. Black to brown body with pale-green longitudinal lines becoming dots towards the head and caudal fin. Juvenile coloration may be lighter with yellowish bars and whitish shading towards the head. Pectoral fin might be dull reddish-brown (Robertson 1983). Dorsal fin more elevated in juveniles than adults. White caudal spine apparent in adults. Grows to about 40 cm SL. Sometimes called Brushtail Tang or Twotone Tang. Dorsal fin IV-V (23-25) anal fin III (19-21). From Randall (2001).

Similar Species: No Atlantic surgeonfish is similarly colored.

Native Range: The Brown Tang is distributed in the Indian and Pacific oceans from East Africa to the Pitcairn Islands, north to southern Japan, south to Lord Howe and Rapa islands (Randall 2005).

Ecology: The species inhabits intertidal and subtidal reef slopes. The diet consists primarily of fleshy benthic red microalgae. Pairs of adults will defend joint feeding territories similar to other *Zebrasoma* spp. In the Pacific, the species reproduced from February to April, whereas in the Indian ocean they were observed to reproduce from August to December. Individuals change color and engage in courtship in and away from the reef edge. From Robertson (1983).

Nonindigenous Occurrences: The species was observed near Fort Lauderdale in 2008.



Acanthuridae (surgeonfishes, tangs, unicornfishes)