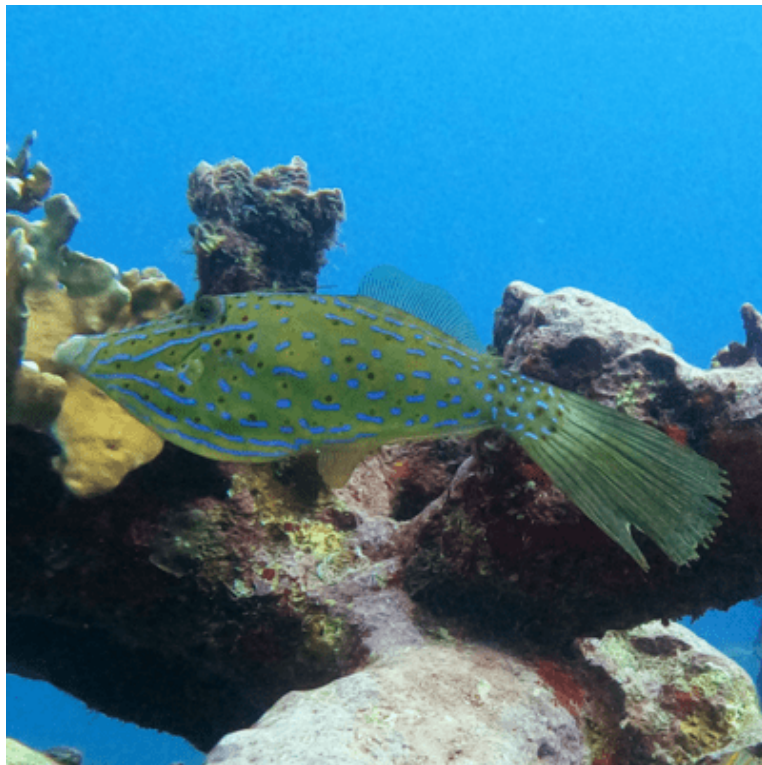


# Filefish (Monacanthidae)



scrawled filefish, *aluterus scriptus*

Filefish are a group of colorful, flat-bodied fish that are found in the shallow waters of the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. They are part of the family Monacanthidae, which includes several hundred species of fish that are known for their elongated, oblong bodies and their ability to change color to match their surroundings.



orangespotted filefish, cantherhines pullus

Filefish are typically small to medium-sized fish, reaching a maximum length of about 50 cm (20 inches). They have a thin, flat body with a small mouth and a pair of large, protruding eyes. Their body is typically brightly colored, with patterns of stripes, spots, or blotches. They are equipped with a series of small, sharp spines along their back and sides that they use for defense.

Filefish are generally non-aggressive and are not considered a threat to humans.



whitespotted filefish, cantherhines  
macrocerus