

Blue-throat Wrasse

Notolabrus tetricus



Blue-throated Wrasse, *Notolabrus tetricus*, photo courtesy of Bill Boyle

This wrasse is the most common species on rocky reefs in Victoria. All are born female, the largest ones becoming male. Females are olive-cream in colour with a wide dark brown vertical band on the middle of the body. They are often called rockies or parrotfish. Males are dark chocolate brown with white and yellow vertical bands on the body and a blue throat. They are often called Butterfish by fishermen. Males hold set territories with a cave or ledge as their central refuge.