

# Hanauma Bay Education Program's Creature Feature

Hawaiian Name: **Manini**

Common Name: **Convict Tang, Convict Surgeonfish**

Scientific Name: ***Acanthurus triostegus***



## Indigenous

**Family:** Acanthuridae

**Name Origin:** In Hawaiian, manini refers to this specific surgeonfish.

**Size:** Can grow up to 10 in.

**Stages of Growth:**

- 'ōhua liko – size of a postage stamp.
- 'ōhua kani'o – stripes appear when the fish is about a day old.
- 'ōhua pala pohaku or 'ōhua ha'ekaeka – at this stage they begin to nibble at fine pala pahaku seaweed and the skin begins to darken.
- kakala manini or maninini – half grown.
- manini – adult size.

**Current Fishing Regulations:** Minimum size 5 in.

**Description:** Manini is light gray/green in color with white underneath. It has six vertical black stripes. The first strip passes through the eye, four on the body area, and the last stripe is short and located on the upper side of the tail. The Hawaiian population (subspecies *sandvicensis*) has an oblique black bar under the pectoral fin. As manini is a part of the surgeonfish family, they have a sharp razor-like spine on their caudal peduncle. They form large feeding aggregations that can overwhelm territorial herbivorous damselfishes.

**Habitat:** Manini are found in shallow oxygen rich waters, about 30 ft. deep. They like turbulent shores and remain below the surge zone. They avoid areas where coral cover is heavy and usually prefer areas with little amounts of coral and lots of rocks and stones. These types of areas allow algae to grow well with good sunlight exposure.

**Diet:** They feed on fine filamentous algae growing on rock and stones.

**Cultural Significance:** They were favored in old Hawai'i.

### 'Ōlelo No'eau:

He manini ka i'a mai hō'ā i ke ahi. *The fish is just a manini, so do not light a fire.* Said to one who suffers defeat in a practice session: "This occasion is a mere manini, a small fish, so do not let your temper be kindled."

He naho manini mai kēia e loa'a ai kalmia i kōkala. *This is a ledge under which the manini hides [and one should not be hasty lest] the hand be poked by the sharp points on the dorsal fin.* A boast. Also a warning not to make trouble.

Ka i'a a ke kualau i lawe mai ai. *The fish brought in by the rain at sea.* The spawn of the manini fish that came to the islands by the millions during the summer months. They were said to come after a shower at sea, in the early morning.