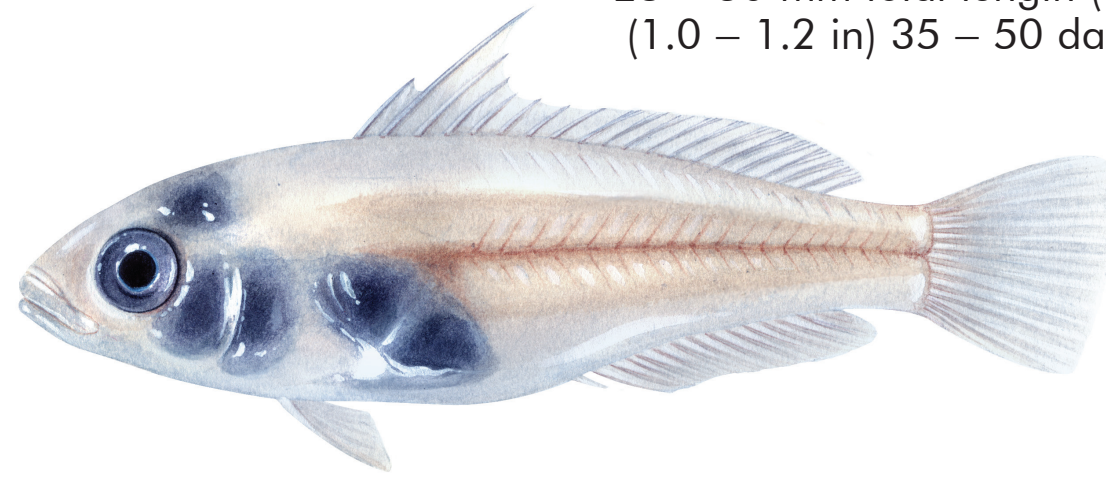


Life Cycle

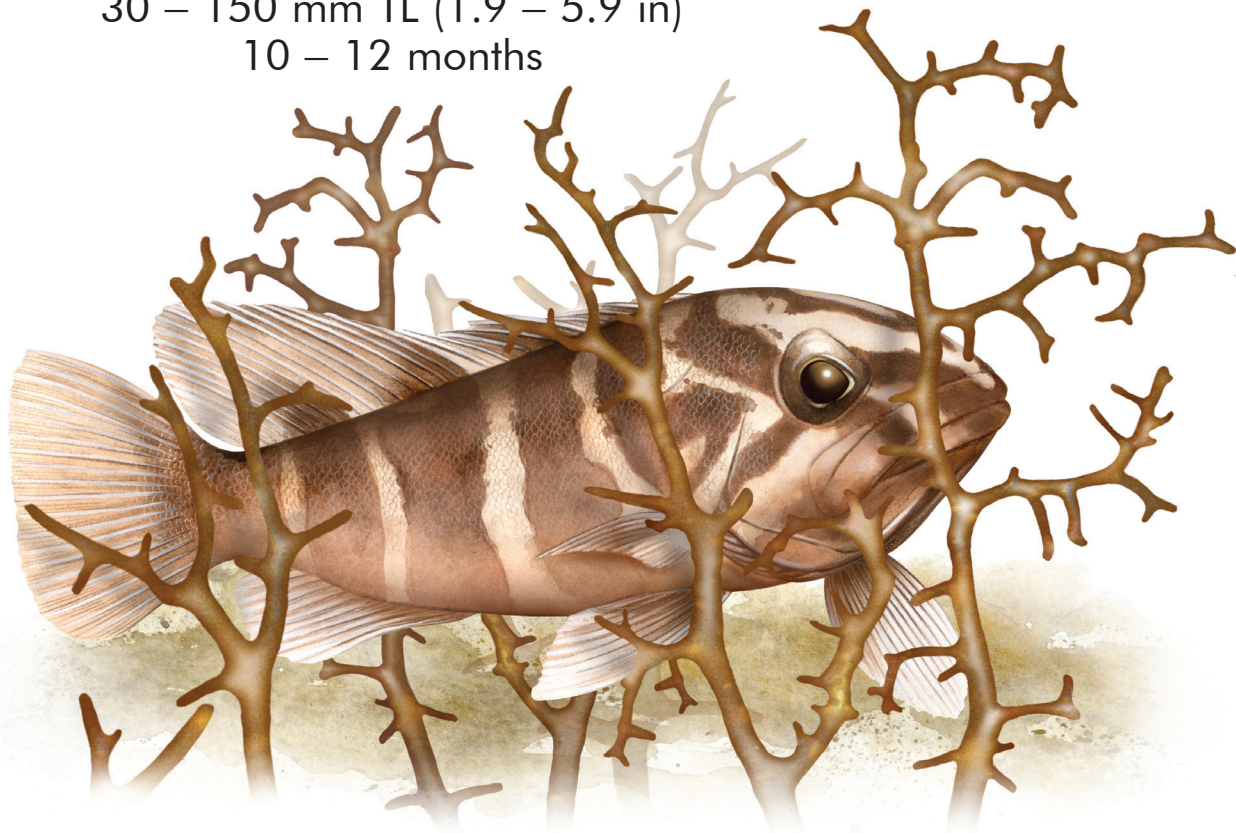
Pelagic juvenile stage
(Late larval to early juvenile)
25 – 30 mm total length (TL)
(1.0 – 1.2 in) 35 – 50 days



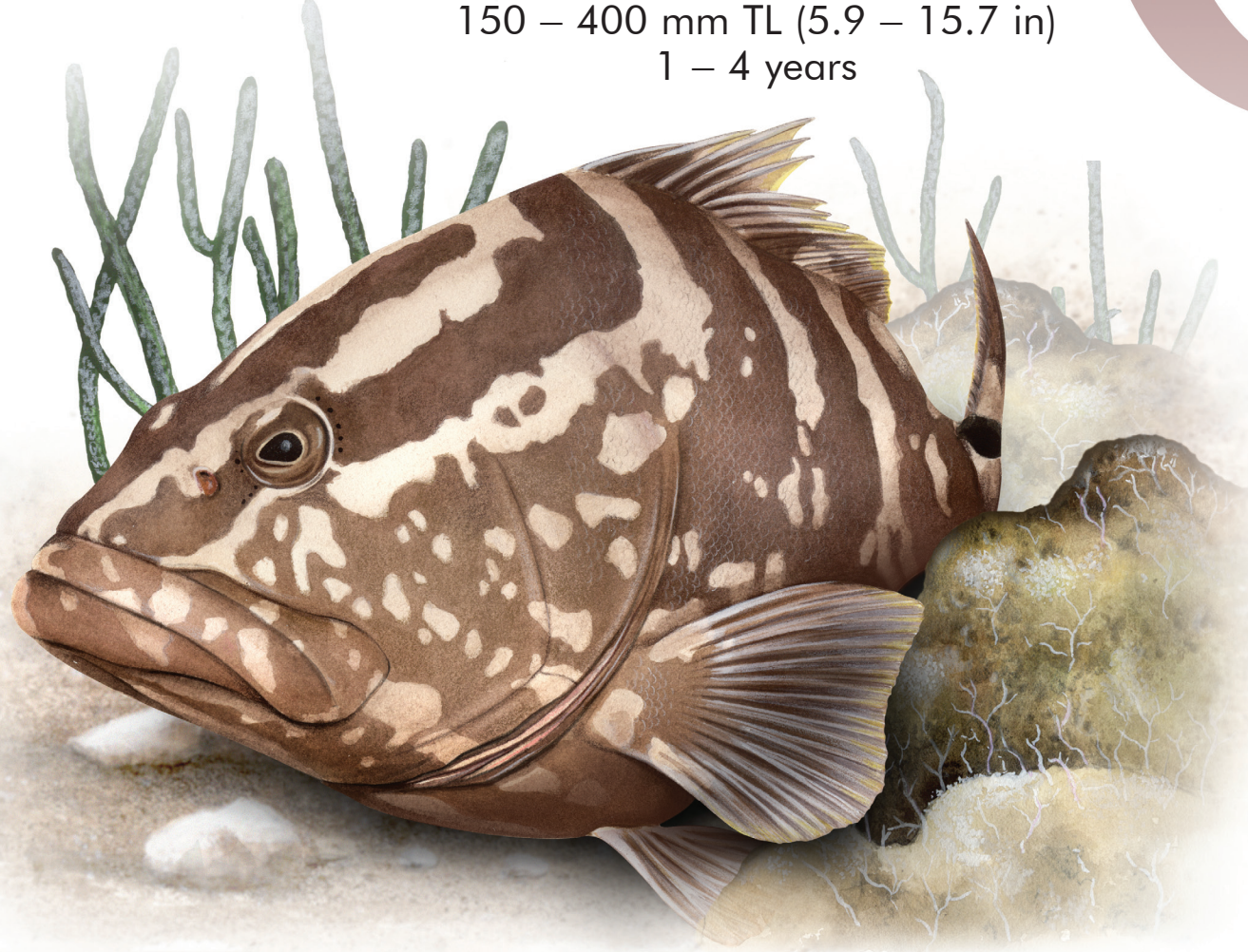
1 Fertilized pelagic eggs (up to 1 m. hatch 23 – 40 hours following fertilization.

2 Competent larvae ready to settle from the plankton are carried by night-time flood tides from the open ocean to nursery areas.

Early juvenile
30 – 150 mm TL (1.9 – 5.9 in)
10 – 12 months



Late juvenile
150 – 400 mm TL (5.9 – 15.7 in)
1 – 4 years

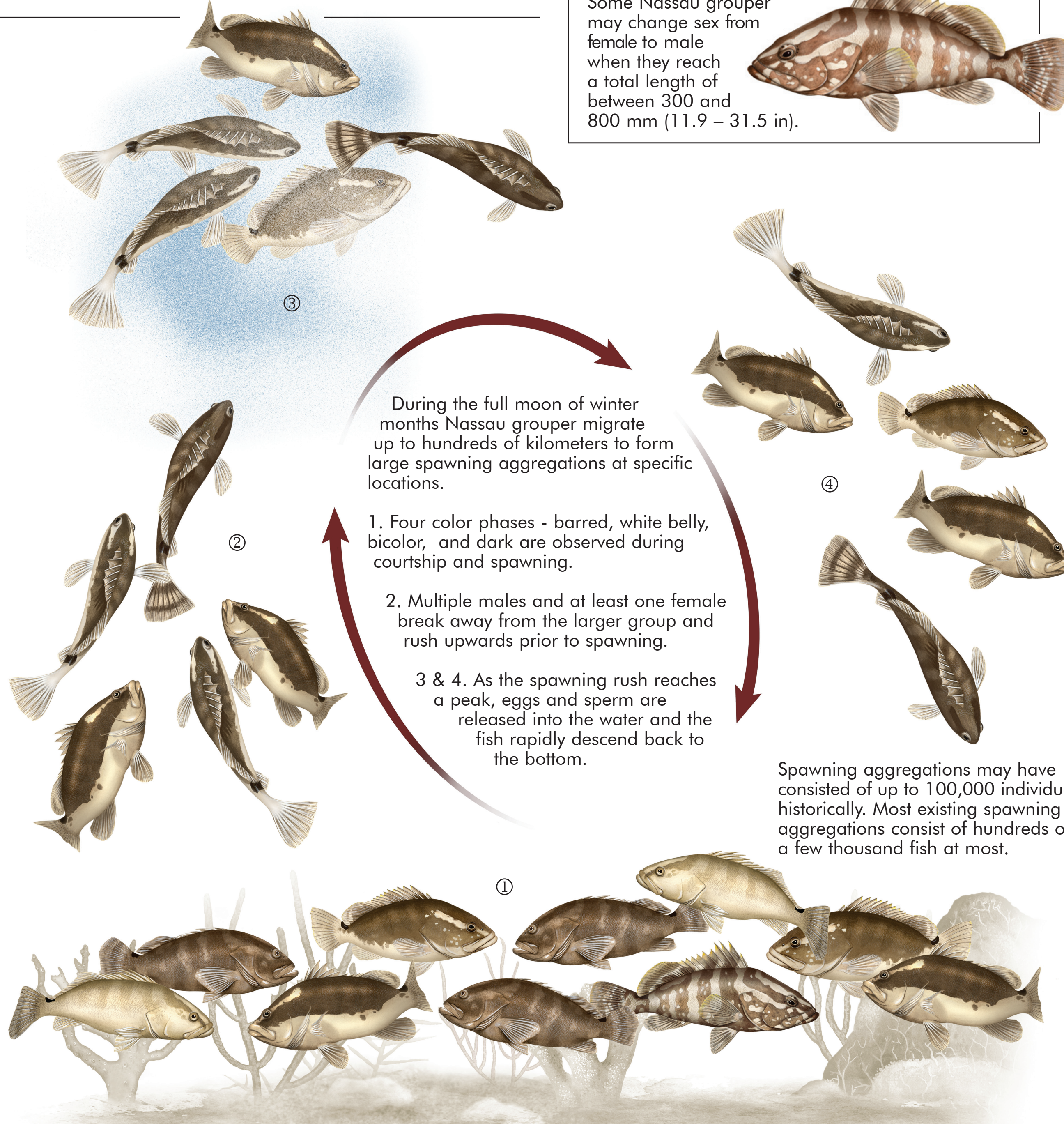


3 Early juveniles settle from the plankton into a variety of nursery areas including inshore algal beds, where they will live for up to one year.

4 At 10 – 12 months Nassau grouper move to patch reefs in shallow-water areas where they remain for several years. As they reach adulthood, Nassau grouper move to deeper reefs.

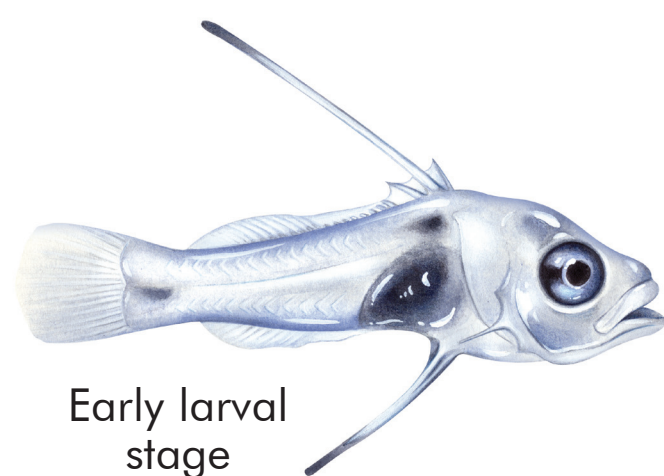
Spawning Aggregations

Some Nassau grouper may change sex from female to male when they reach a total length of between 300 and 800 mm (11.9 – 31.5 in).



On average, the Nassau grouper reaches a length of 300 - 600 mm (12 - 24 in) and weighs 4.5 - 9.0 kg (10-20 lbs). The maximum age reported for this fish is about 30 years.

Nassau grouper spawning aggregations have been overfished throughout the Caribbean. They are considered an endangered species internationally and are a candidate species in the U.S.



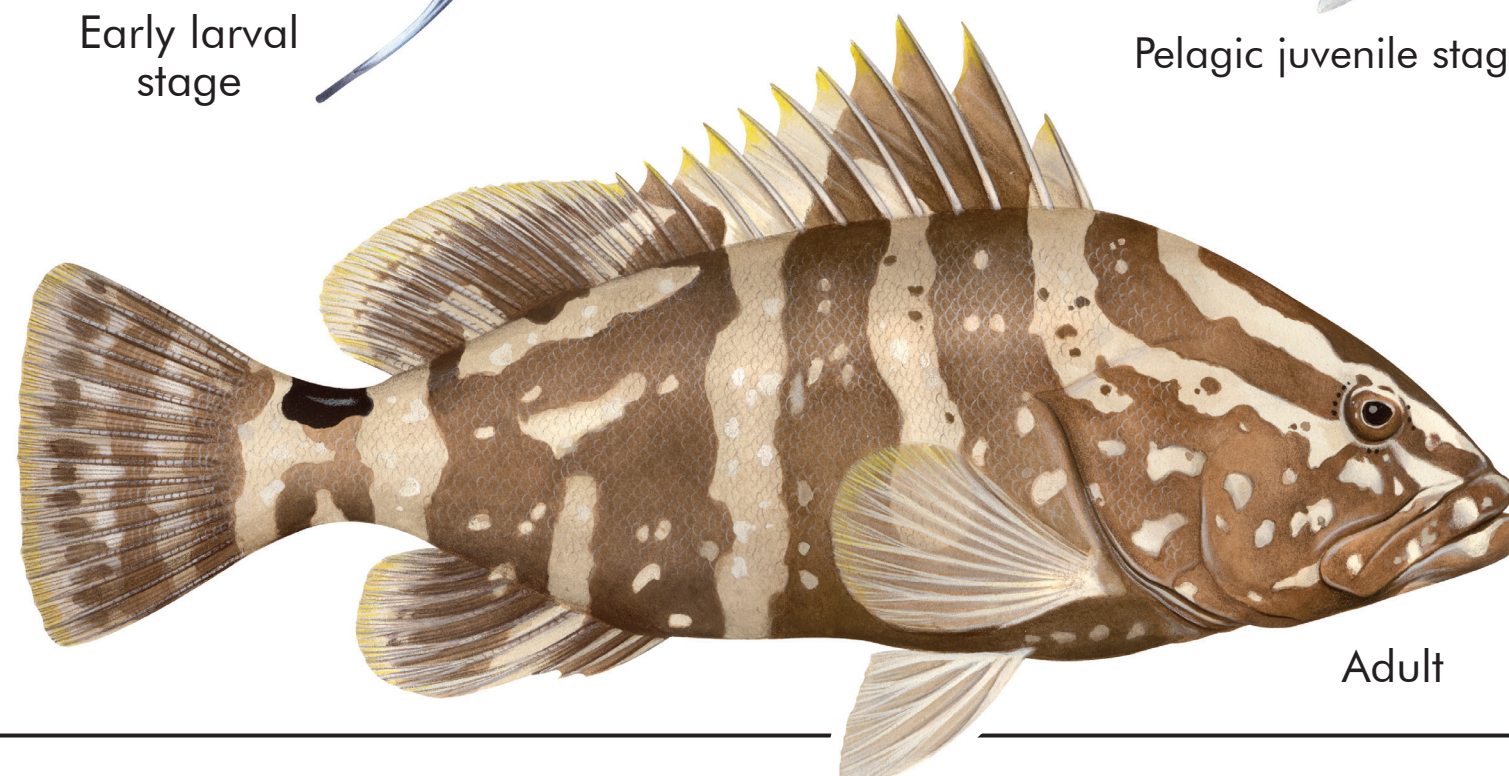
Early larval stage



Pelagic juvenile stage



Juvenile



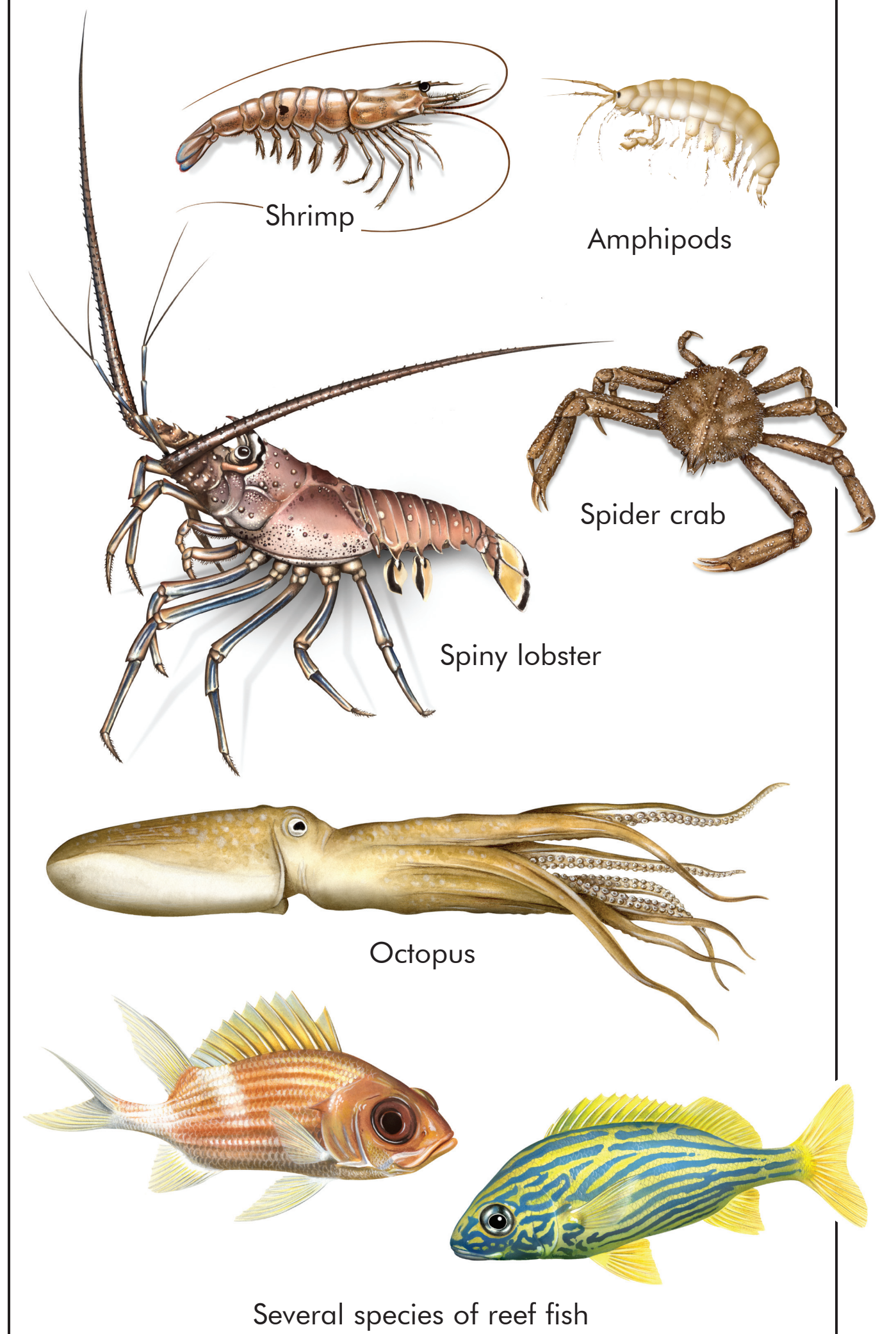
Adult

Nassau Grouper

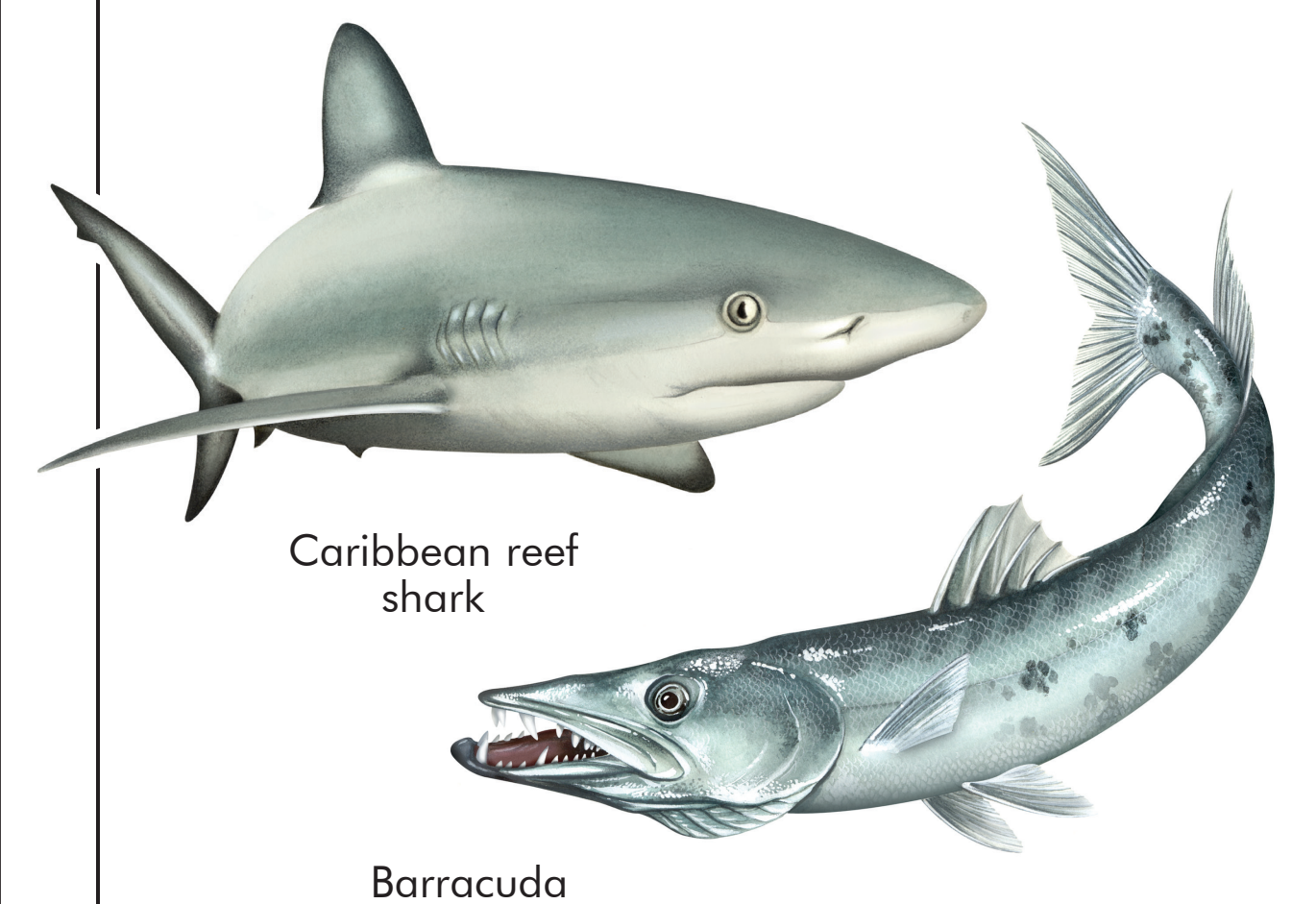
Epinephelus striatus

Natural Prey

Groupers change their diet as they grow. Juveniles feed mostly on crustaceans, while adults forage on both invertebrates and fish.



Natural Predators



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