

# NEWS RELEASE

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# BUTTERFLYFISH of the Samoan Reef



There are 116 known species of the Butterflyfish family and they are among the coral reefs' most colourful inhabitants. Their highly compressed bodies covered in small scales feature a single continuous dorsal and their mouths hold a band of small brush-like teeth. Butterflyfish are typically diurnal, resting among the

corals on the bottom or close to the surface at night and actively patrolling a home ground during the day, often in pairs. Most dwell in depths of less than 30

metres although a few species can be found at depths up to 200 metres. They feed mainly upon algae, coral tissue and mucus.

Although this species can be found as far as far to the west as the Indian Ocean islands of Cocos-Keeling and Sri Lanka, and to the east as far as the Pitcairn Islands.

The issue consists of:

**50s Meyer's Butterflyfish** *Chaetodon meyeri* Growing to 180mm, this fish has distinctive camouflage markings, and can be found as far as East Africa.

**90s Spot-Banded Butterflyfish** *Chaetodon punctatofasciatus* Common on outer reef slopes this species grows to 110mm in length and has distinctive black spot on its forehead.

**\$1 Saddled Butterflyfish** *Chaetodon ephippium* Found as far north as the Hawaiian Islands, this butterflyfish reaches 230mm in length and has an identifying filament on its upper dorsal fin reaching back over its tail.

**\$4 Dusky Butterflyfish** *Chaetodon flavirostris* Mostly black in colour with yellow face and tail, the species is identified by a black bump on the forehead. Grows to 200 mm in length.

The issue is available from SamoaPost or its appointed worldwide agents from 29 September, 2004.

## Collectors Notes:

Designer: Sue Wickison, Wellington, New Zealand  
Printer: Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, New Zealand  
Process: Offset Lithography  
Perforation Gauge: 14.4 x 14 cms  
Stamp Size: 50mm x 25mm, 2 horizontal, 2 vertical  
Miniature Sheet size: 100mm x 60mm  
Paper: 103gsm, yellow-green gummed stamp paper  
Denominations: 50s, 90s, \$1.00 and \$4.00  
Period of Sale: 29 September, 2004, for a period of one year.

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