



SCUBA LUV MAUI DIVE REPORT

KEAWAKAPU BEACH

“CRITTER OF THE WEEK”

(808) 870-2738

MOORISH IDOL—” kihikihi”



The Moorish Idol is the sole member of the family Zanclidae, which makes it literally “one of a kind”. Closely related to surgeonfishes, though it lacks scalpels and more closely resembles a butterfly fish in appearance

- The Moorish Idol has been around for a very long time...a fossil relative was found in Italy that is believed to be more than 50 million years old!
- They are living symbols of the exotic underwater world. Typically swimming in pairs, they are always a delight to see.
- Adults have a thorn-like spine in front of each eye; their larvae are planktonic, growing to about 3” before finally settling on the reef.
- As adults, they will frequently fall in with Pennant Butterfly, as they look similar from a distance. They are active , high strung and can be difficult to photograph for this reason.

DATE OF REPORT: SEPT. 23, 2012
AIR TEMP. 85 WATER TEMP. 77
DEPTH: 20’ VIZIBILITY: 80’
PHOTO BY: DIANA MADARAS

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