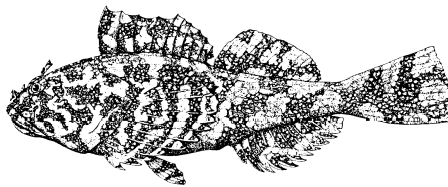




Illustrated
Guide to the Fishes
Most Commonly Caught on Southern California Shores.

Based on the research and observations of
Santa Monica High School students, 1970 - 1990,
at the Santa Monica Pier,
Santa Monica, California, USA.



*Cabezon, *Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*.*
Juveniles live among mussels on pier pilings.

Taken from:
Miller, Daniel J. and Robert N. Lea. 1972. GUIDE TO THE
COASTAL MARINE FISHES OF CALIFORNIA,
Fish Bulletin 157, California State Department of Fish and Game.
For non-commercial educational purposes only.

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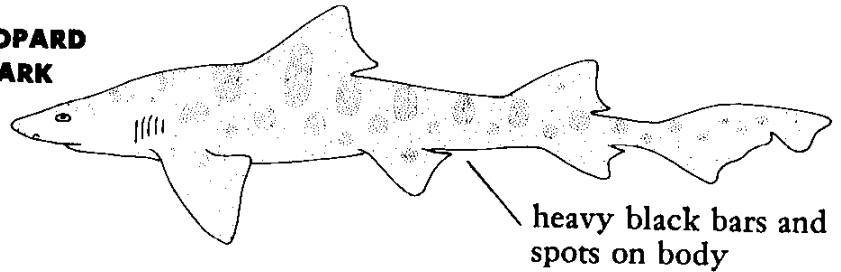
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CARTILAGENOUS FISHES: Sharks and Rays

Triakis semifasciata

Mazatlan, Mexico to Oregon, including Gulf of California. Length to 6.5 ft in bays and along beaches. Dark gray body with black crossbars and spots. Common

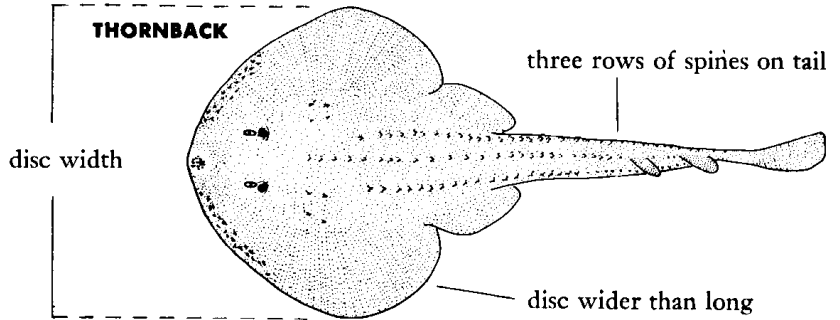
LEOPARD SHARK



Platyrhinoidis triseriata

1.5 mi. SSE of Thurloe Head, Baja California, to San Francisco. Length recorded to 2.5 ft., reported to 3 ft. Shallow to 150 ft. Brown on back, white or cream colored below. Common off southern and Baja California.

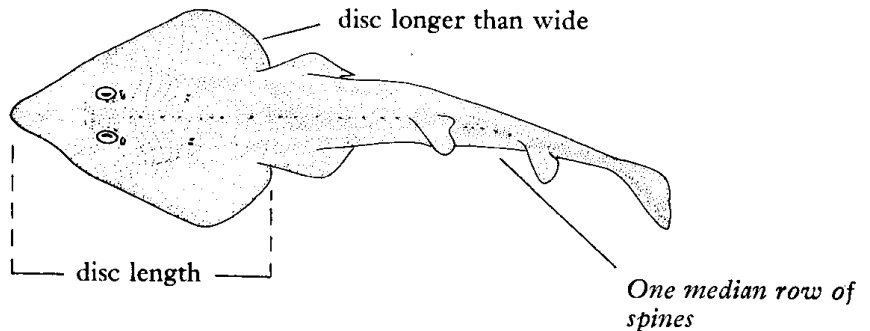
THORNBACK



Rhinobatos productus

Gulf of California to San Francisco (recent records north only to Capitola). Length to 61.5 in., and weight to 40 lbs. Depth, surface to 50 ft. Brownish-gray above, lighter below. Common off southern and Baja California.

SHOVELNOSE GUITARFISH

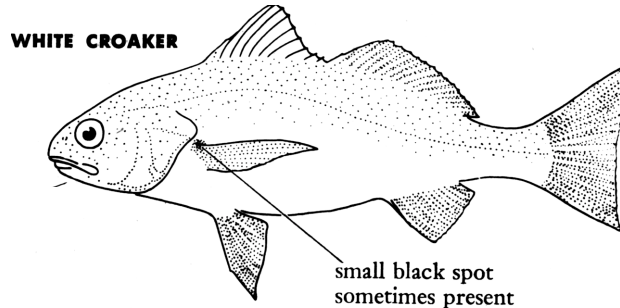


CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

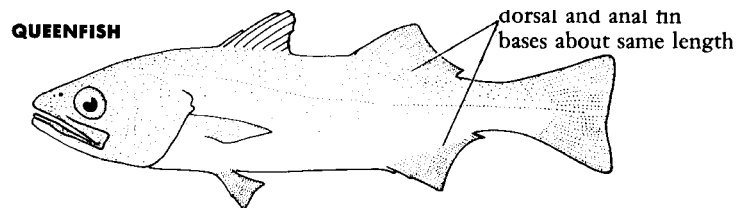
Genyonemus lineatus

Magdalena Bay, Baja California, to Vancouver Isl., B.C. Length to 15.4 in. Depth, surface to 330 ft. Incandescent brownish to yellowish on back, silver below; fins yellow to white. Common. On the Pier, aka, "tom cod."



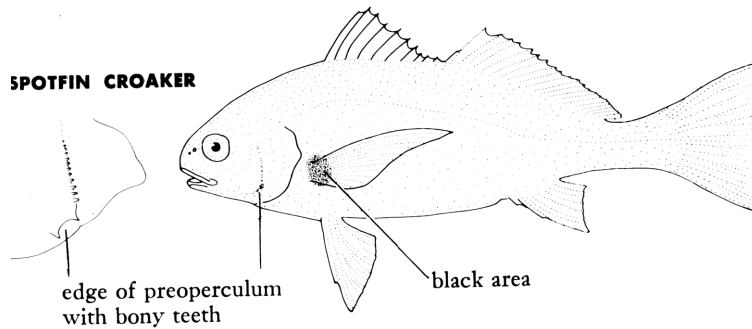
Seriphus politus

West of Uncle Sam Bank, Baja California, to Yaquina Bay, Oregon. Length to 12 in. Depth, surface to 180 ft. Bluish on back, silvery below; fins yellowish. Common. On the Pier, aka, "herring."



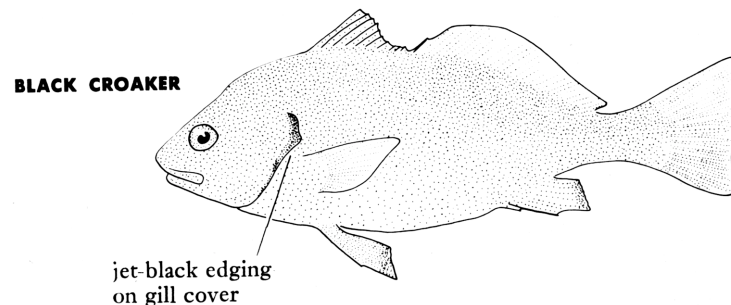
Roncador sternii

Mazatlan, Mexico, to Pt. Conception, including Gulf of California. Length to 27 in. Surf area to 50 ft. Silvery-gray above, white below; dark wavy lines on sides. Common.



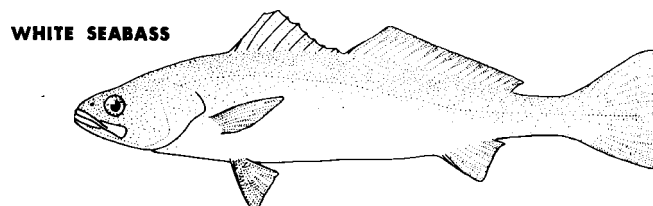
Cheilotrema saturnum

Magdalena Bay, Baja California to Pt. Conception. Length to 15 in. Depth, surface to 150 ft. Blackish with coppery reflections on back, silver below; pelvic fins black. Common.



Cynoscion nobilis

Gulf of California (isolated population), Magdalena Bay, Baja California, to Juneau, Alaska. length to 5 ft., recorded wt. 83 lbs., reported to 90 lbs. Depth, surface to 400 ft. Bluish to gray above with dark speckling, silvery below; young have several dark vertical bars. Common. Juveniles are called "sea trout."



BASS

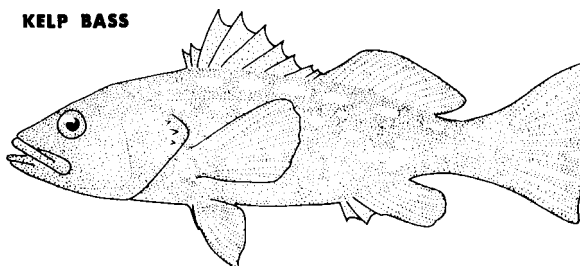
Family Serranidae

Paralabrax clathratus

Magdalena Bay, Baja California, to Columbia River, including Guadalupe Isl. length to 28.4 in., and wt. to 14.5 lbs. Depth, surface to 150 ft. Olive or brown; whitish angular blotches and spotting on back. Common.

On the Pier, aka, "calico" bass.

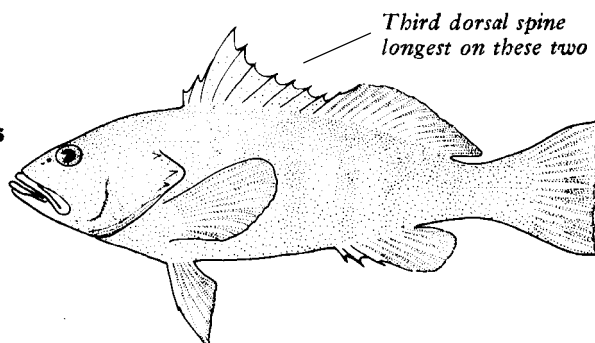
KELP BASS



Paralabrax nebulifer

Magdalena Bay, Baja California, to Santa Cruz, California, including Guadalupe Isl. length to 25.6 in. Shallow to 600 ft. Dark gray to greenish; faint crossbars on sides, bars fading after caught. Common.

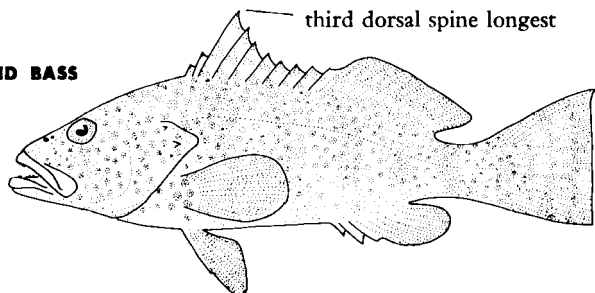
BARRED SAND BASS



Paralabrax maculofasciatus

Mazatlan, Mexico, to monterey, including Gulf of California (recorded from San Francisco in late 1800's). Length to 22 in. Shallow to 200 ft. Olive-Brown; round black spots on body and fins. Common.

SPOTTED SAND BASS

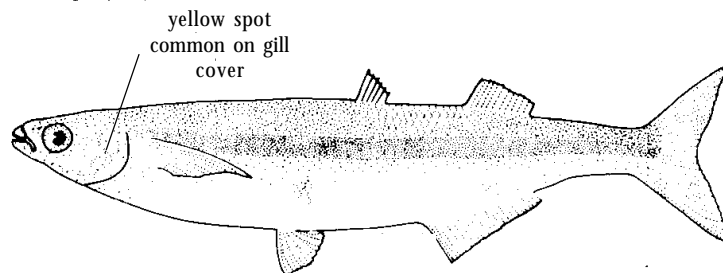


The above 3 species must be min. 12 in. to keep.

Atherinopsis californiensis

Santa Maria Bay, Baja California, to Yaquina, Oregon. Length reported to 22 in., largest measured is 17.5 in. Greenish-blue above, silvery on sides with a midline stripe. Common throughout the inshore area and in bays.

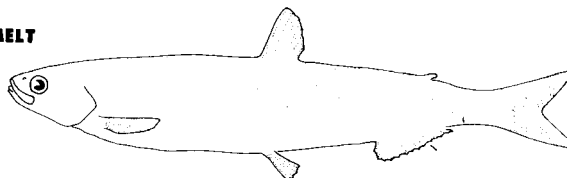
JACKSMELT



Hypomesus pretiosus

Eastern Pacific subspecies, *H. p. pretiosus*, from Long Beach to Prince Williams sound, Alaska. Length to 10 in. spawns in surf in daytime. Sides silver with purplish hue, back light green. Common.

SURF SMELT

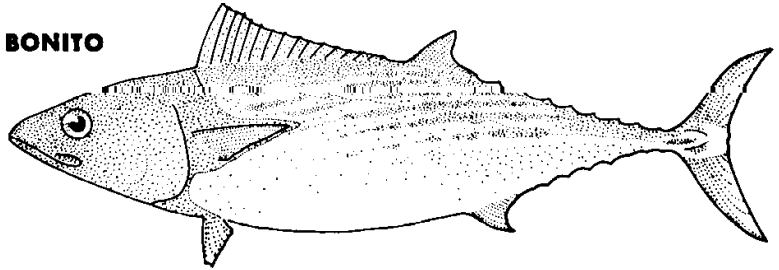


MACKERELS

Family Scombridae

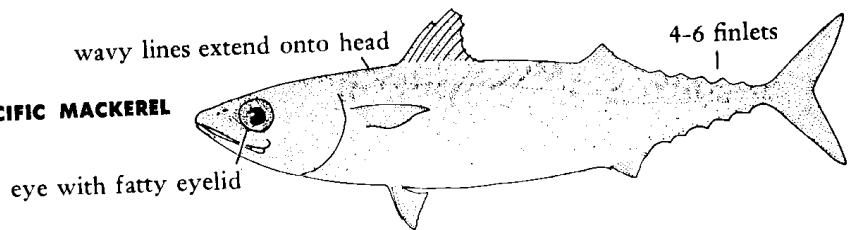
PACIFIC BONITO

Sarda chiliensis
Chile to Gulf of Alaska. Length to 40 in. epipelagic. Dark blue above, silvery below. Common.



PACIFIC MACKEREL

Scomber japonicus
Transpacific; in eastern Pacific from Chile to Gulf of Alaska. Length to 25 in., and wt. to 6.36 lbs. Depth from surface to 150 ft. Head dark blue, back with dark wavy lines, silver-green below. Common.



Scorpaena guttata

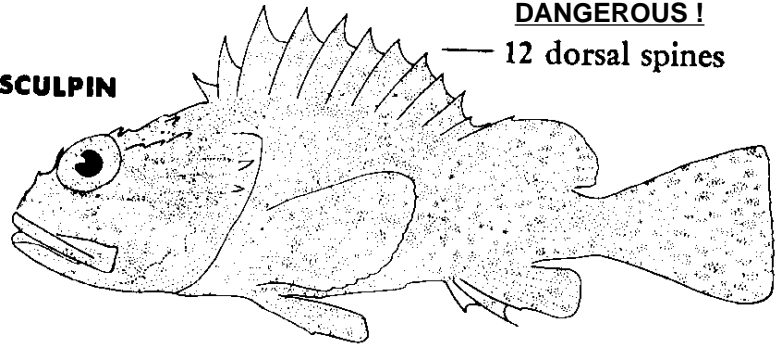
SPOTTED SCORPIONFISH or SCULPIN.

Gulf of California (isolated population); near Uncle Sam Bank, Baja California, to Santa Cruz, California, including Guadalupe Isl. Length to 17 in. Shallow to 600 ft. red to brown, with dark spotting over body and fins. common south of Pt. Conception.

SCULPIN

POISONOUS SPINES ARE DANGEROUS !

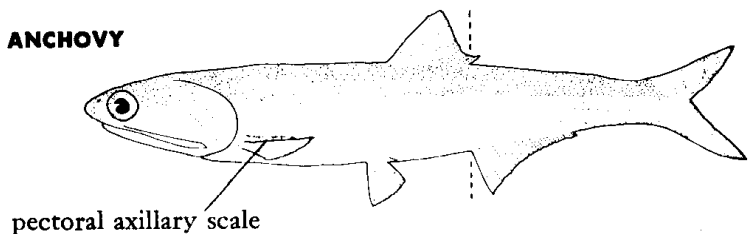
— 12 dorsal spines



Engraulis mordax

Cabo San Lucas, Baja California, (one record from La Paz, inside the Gulf), to Queen Charlotte Isls., British Columbia. Length to 9 in. but rarely over 7 in. Back metallic blue to green, silver below. Body roundish and scales easily rubbed off. By far the most abundant anchovy in California. On the Pier used as bait.

NORTHERN ANCHOVY

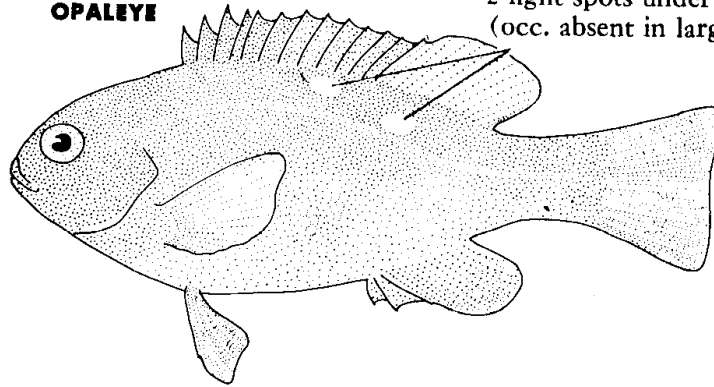


Girella nigricans

Cabo San Lucas, Baja California, to San Francisco. Length to 25.38 in. and wt. to 13.46 lbs. Intertidal to 95 ft. Dark olive-green; usually with 2 light spots at base of dorsal fin; eye brilliant opal green-blue. Common.

OPALEYE

2 light spots under dorsal fin
(occ. absent in large fish)

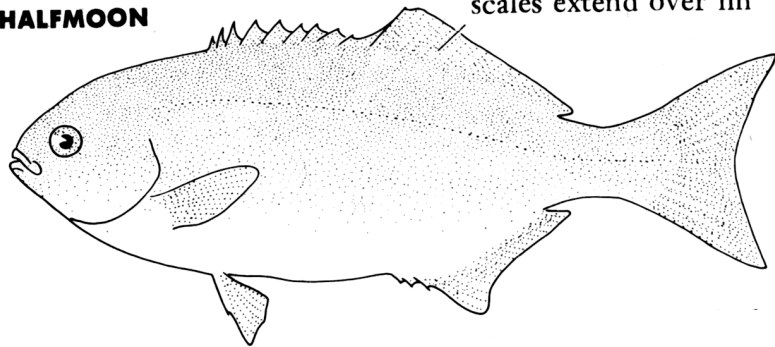


Medialuna californiensis

Gulf of California to Klamath river, including Guadalupe Isl. Length to 19 in., and wt. to 4 lbs. 12 oz. Depth, surface to 130 ft. Dark blue above, light blue below. Common.

HALFMOON

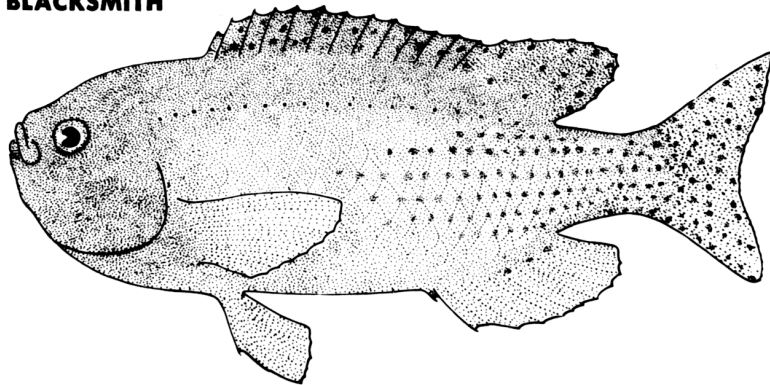
scales extend over fin



Chromis punctipinis

Pt. San Pablo, Baja California to Monterey. Length to 12 in. Depth, surface to 150 ft. Dark blue to black on back, gray-blue on sides; black spots on posterior half of body. common in southern California, uncommon north of Pt. Conception.

BLACKSMITH

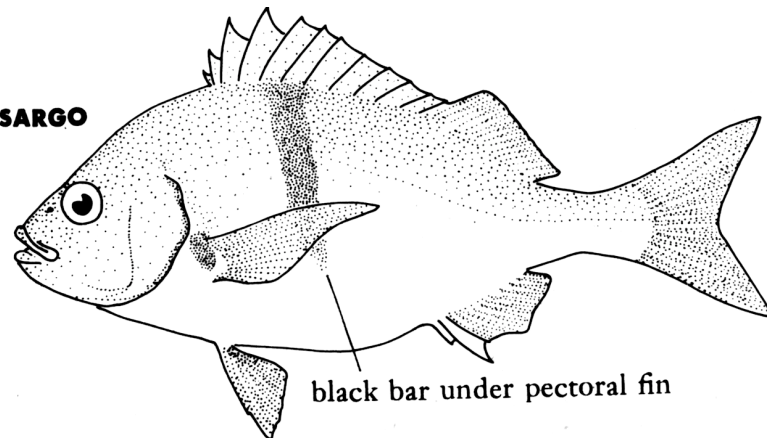


Anisotremus davidsonii

Gulf of California (isolated population), and from Magdalena Bay, Baja California, to Santa Cruz, California. Length recorded to 17.4 in, reported to 23 in. depth, surface to 130 ft. Gray above, sides and belly silver; dark vertical bar in pectoral area. Common in southern California, rare north of Pt. Conception.

SARGO

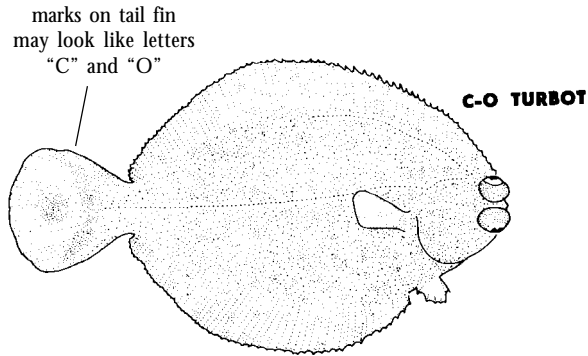
black bar under pectoral fin



FLATFISHES

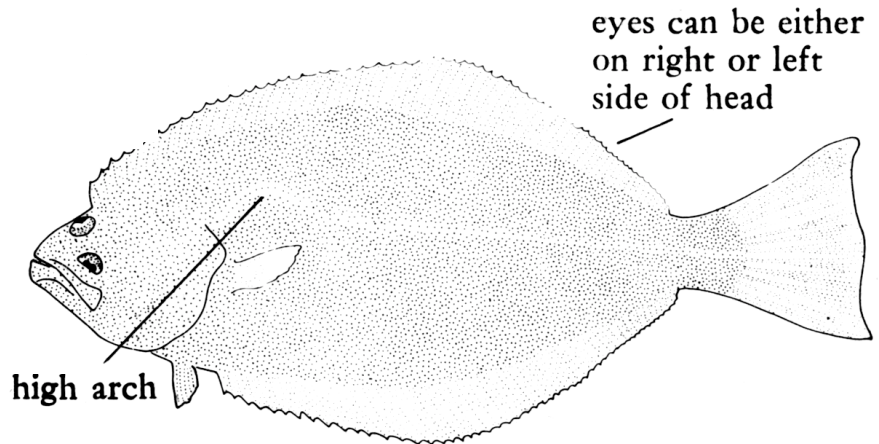
Pleuronichthys coenosus

Cape Colnett, Baja California, to S.E. Alaska. Length to 14 in. Shallow water to 210 ft. Dark brown above mottled with light brown. Common.



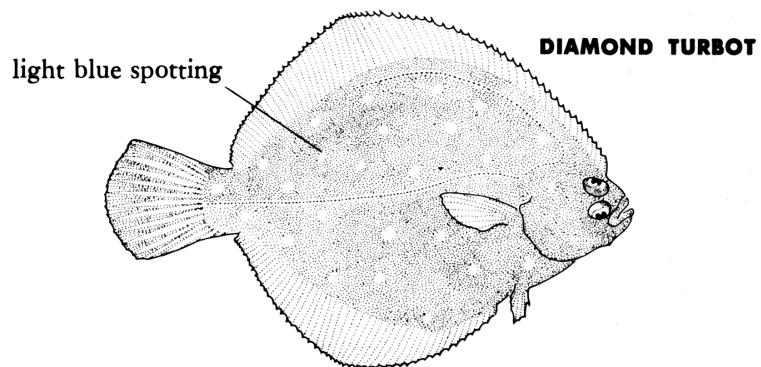
Paralichthys californicus

Gulf of California (isolated population), and from Magdalena Bay, Baja California, to Quillayute River, B.C. Length to 5 ft. and wt. to 72 lbs. Depth, surface to 300 ft. Uniform dark to black above. Common. Must be min. 22 in. to keep.



Hypsopsetta guttulata

Gulf of California (isolated population), and from Magdalena Bay, Baja California, to Cape Mendocino. Length to 18 in. Depth 5 to 150 ft. Dark gray with bright blue round spots. Common.



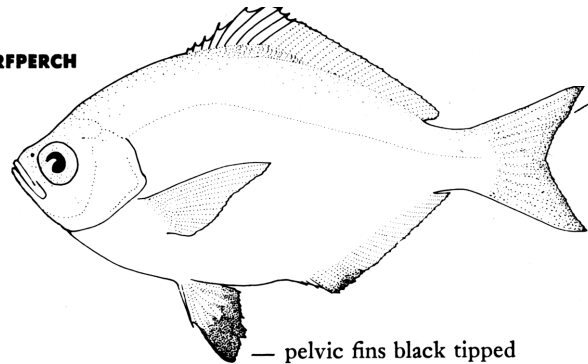
SURFPERCH

Family Embiotocidae

Hyperprosopon argenteum

Pt. San Rosarito, Baja California, to Vancouver Isl., B.C., including Guadalupe Isl. Length to 12 in. Depth, surface to 60 ft. Body silver with faint dusky on back; tips of pelvic fins black. Common.

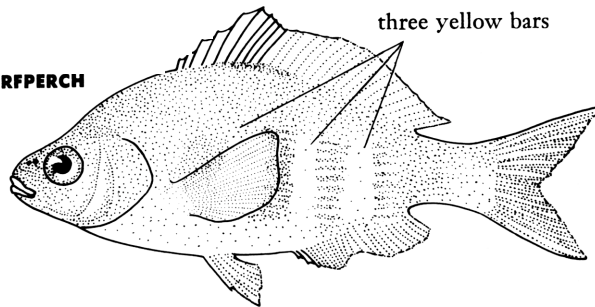
WALLEYE SURFPERCH



Cymatogaster aggregata

San Quintin Bay, Baja California, to Port Wrangell, Alaska. Length to 7 in., reported to 8 in. Depth, surface to 480 ft. Gray to greenish above, underparts silver. Female with 3 yellow bars on sides interspersed with black. Male in breeding season nearly black, the speckling covering the yellow areas. Common. On the Pier, aka “seven-eleven” perch.

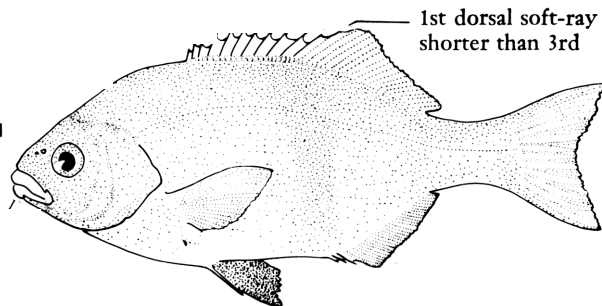
SHINER SURFPERCH



Rhacochilus toxotes

Thurloe Head, Baja California, to Russian Gulch State Beach, Mendocino Co., including Guadalupe Isl. Length to 18.5 in. depth, surface to 150 ft. Brown with brassy overtones, tan below. Common.

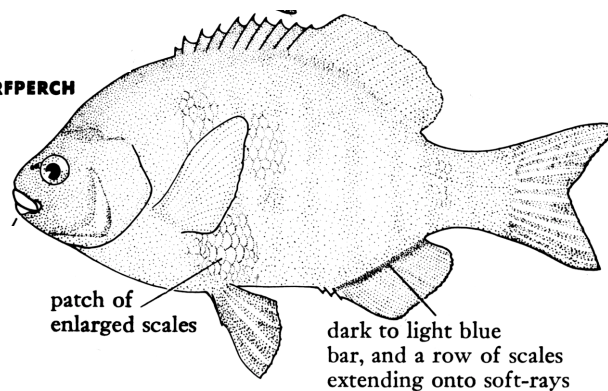
RUBBERLIP SURFPERCH



Embiotica jacksoni

Pt. Abrojos, Baja California, to Bodega Bay. Length to 17 in., and wt. to 4.5 lbs. Depth, surface to 130 ft. Black or brown to reddish; yellowish on belly, dark vertical bars on sides. Common.

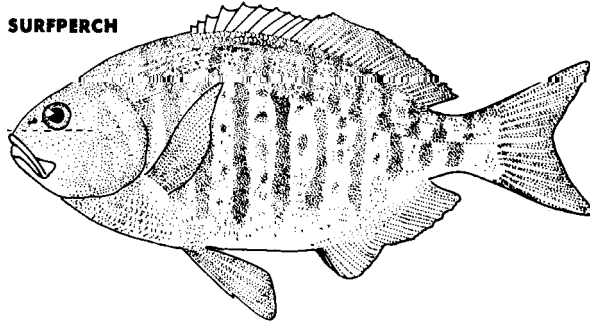
BLACK SURFPERCH



Amphistichus argenteus

Playa Maria Bay, Baja California, to Bodega Bay. Length to 17 in., and wt. to 4.5 lbs. Depth, surface to 240 ft. Olive-green to yellow-green on back, silvery below; vertical bars on sides. Common.

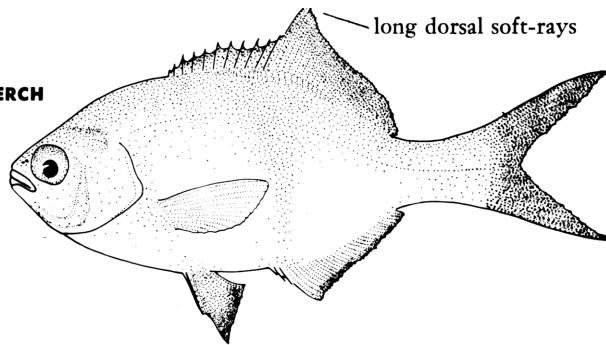
BARRED SURFPERCH



Damalichthyes vacca

Guadalupe Isl. to Port Wrangell, Alaska. Length to 17.4 in. Surface to 150 ft. Blackish on back, silvery to dusky on sides; a dark bar in midbody. Common.

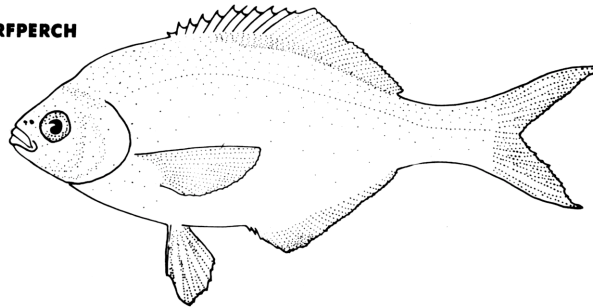
PILE SURFPERCH



Phanerodon furcatus

Pt. Cabras, Baja California, to Vancouver Isl., B.C. Length to 12.4 in. Surface to 140 ft. Silvery with dusky speckling on back; a thin black line at base of soft dorsal fin; pelvic fins white. Common.

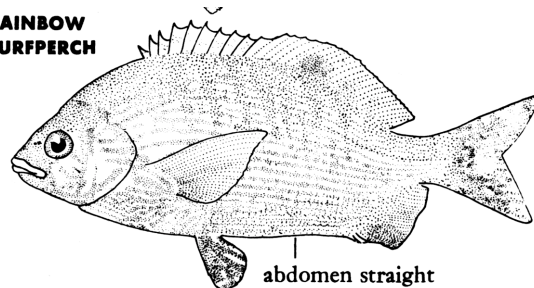
WHITE SURFPERCH



Hypsurus caryi

Rio Santo Thomas, Baja California, to Cape Mendocino. Length to 12 in. Surface to 130 ft. red and blue stripes on sides; pelvic fins bright blue and red-orange. Common.

RAINBOW SURFPERCH



HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR FISH DATA

INTRODUCTION:

Every time you record the species and number of each species of fish caught by fishermen there are two things to remember. The total number of fish caught depends on the number of people fishing (called "effort") and how many fish are biting the bait. Logically, no matter how hungry the fish are, on any given research day there will be more fish caught when a lot of people are fishing than will be caught when only a few people are fishing. Here is a simple calculation that averages the data so they may be graphed without displaying a bias for the number of people fishing.

DATA YOU MUST RECORD:

- 1- The exact species of fish captured.
- 2- The exact number of each fish captured.
- 3- The total number of people fishing.

CALCULATED NUMBER OF FISH PER PERSON:

$$\frac{\text{Total number of Species 1}}{\text{Total number of people fishing}}$$

Simply divide the total number of each species of fish by the total number of people fishing. Carry this calculation out to two decimal places. The above formula is for the first species observed. Repeat the calculation for the second species, third species, etc.

SUGGESTED DATA FORMAT:

Total number of people fishing _____

| Species observed | Total number | Calculated # per person |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| | | |