



Rockfish Identification



Common Rockfish Species Found in Alaska

Pelagic Rockfish:

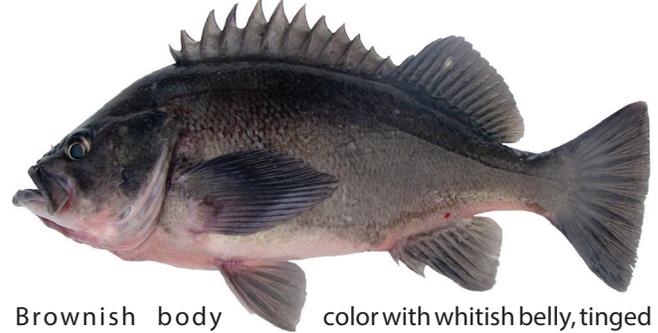
Six pelagic species of rockfish are often found mid-water in schools, close to rocky structures. These fish are moderately long-lived (most fish are 7-30 years old).

Dark Rockfish



Uniform black to dark blue on back and sides with slight gradual lightening on the belly, more common in shallow water. Size: up to 20 inches.

Dusky Rockfish



Brownish body color with whitish belly, tinged with pink or orange; fins tinged with pink or orange; more common in deep water. Three pores on each side of lower jaw, and two dark bars on each cheek. Size: up to 20 inches.

Yellowtail Rockfish *



Olive green to greenish brown with lighter underside; fins distinctly yellowish green. Size: up to 26 inches.

Widow Rockfish *



This is a relatively slim species in various shades of brown or brass that lighten towards the belly. Size: up to 23 inches.

Black Rockfish *



Dark gray to black with white belly. Usually uniform in color, but may have lighter patches along back. No pores on lower jaw. Size: up to 25 inches.

Scan the QR code for more information and rockfish identification resources.



Non-Pelagic Rockfish:

Bottom-dwelling species found on or near the ocean floor, usually in rocky or boulder-strewn habitat. Extremely long-lived (most fish are 15-75 years old).

Quillback Rockfish *



Brown body mottled with orange and yellow. Long, prominent spines on a high dorsal fin. Size: up to 24 inches.

Copper Rockfish *



Olive brown to copper with pink or yellow blotches, white on sides and belly. Dorsal fins dark copper brown to black with some white. Rear two-thirds of lateral line is light. Size: up to 22 inches.

Silvergray Rockfish



Greenish to silver-gray body, belly white, tinged with soft orange or pink. Slender body fish with a long lower jaw protruding well beyond upper jaw. Size: up to 28 inches.

Tiger Rockfish



Light pink with five dark red stripes along the side. Two dark bars extend from each eye. Size: up to 24 inches.

Yelloweye Rockfish



Orange red and orange yellow, bright golden yellow eye, fins may be black at tips. Juveniles have two light bands along the side, one on the lateral line and a smaller one below the lateral line. Size: up to 36 inches.

China Rockfish



Mostly black, with bright yellow and white blotches and a yellow stripe along most of the lateral line. Size: up to 17 inches.