



Rockfish Identification



Common Rockfish Species Found in Alaska

Pelagic Rockfish:

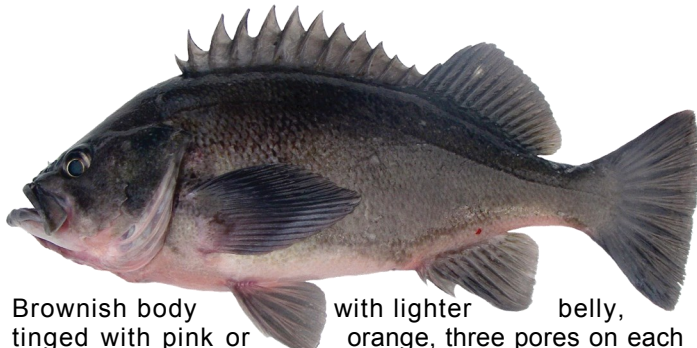
Six pelagic species of rockfish are often found mid-water in schools, close to rocky structures. These fish are moderately long-lived (most fish are 7-30 years old).

Dark Rockfish^{††}



Uniform black to dark brown body with slightly lighter belly, three pores on each side of lower jaw, sides just above anal fin darkly colored. Length to 23 inches.

Dusky Rockfish^{††}



Brownish body with lighter belly, tinged with pink or orange, three pores on each side of lower jaw, sides just above anal fin lightly colored, two dark bars on each cheek. Length to 24 inches.

Yellowtail Rockfish[†]



Olive green to greenish brown with lighter under-side; fins distinctly yellowish green. Length to 26 inches.

Widow Rockfish[†]



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

Black Rockfish[†]

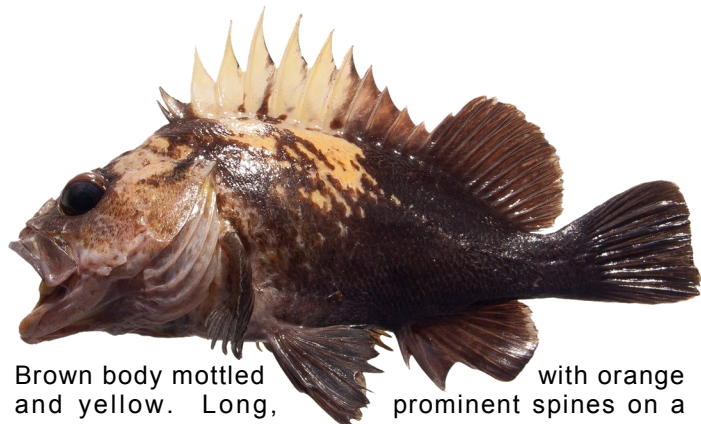


(Black Bass); Dark gray to black with white belly. Usually uniform in color, but may have lighter patches along back. No pores on lower jaw. Length to 25 inches.

Nonpelagic 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 and yellow. Long, prominent spines on a high dorsal fin. Length 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. Length 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. Length to 28 inches.

Tiger Rockfish^{††}



Light pink with five dark red stripes along the side. Two dark bars extend from each eye. Length 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. Length to 36 inches.

China Rockfish[†]



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

Anglers are responsible for knowing the regulations for the area they fish. If the rockfish caught is not one of the pelagic species listed on the opposite side, then it is a non-pelagic rockfish. Learn more about rockfish at: www.adfg.alaska.gov