

Shovelnose guitarfish (*Rhinochimaera productus*)

Brown. To about 5 feet; 40 pounds.



California scorpionfish (or sculpin) (*Scorpaena guttata*)

Red to brown, with dark blotches and spotting. To about 17 inches; 4 pounds. Venomous spines.



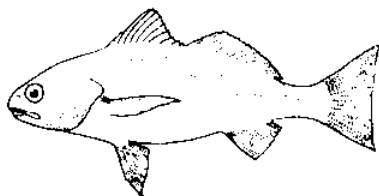
Walleye surfperch (*Hyperprosopon argenteum*)

Silver with faint shading on back; black-tipped pelvic fin and black edging on tail. To about 11 inches.



Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*)

Dark blue head and back with wavy lines on back; silver below. To about 25 inches; 6 pounds.



White croaker (*Genyonemus lineatus*)

Brownish to yellowish on back; silvery below. To about 16 inches; 1.5 pounds. (Not edible).



Jacksmelt (*Atherinopsis californiensis*)

Greenish blue above, silver below, with stripe running length of body. To about 17 inches; 1 pound.

OCEAN SPORTFISHING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

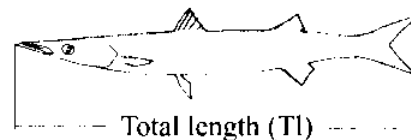
Here are just some of the fish you will find in the ocean off Southern California. Each one is a different species. These pictures will give you some idea of the body shape and fin shape of each species of fish, but they do not show correct size.

In order to raise money to protect fish, the California Department of Fish and Game sells fishing licenses. If you are 16 or older, you must have a license, except when fishing from public piers in ocean or bay waters.

It may also limit the number of fish that you are allowed to catch and keep. The number of fish you may keep is called the "bag" limit. The general bag limit is 20 fish. Of these 20, no more than 10 may be from any one species (except for special rules for some species).

The Department of Fish and Game may also limit the size fish you may keep. This is to protect small fish so they can grow up and reproduce. For example, if the size limit for kelp bass is 12 inches, you may not keep kelp bass that are smaller than that.

Size is usually measured by total length (TL) as shown here:



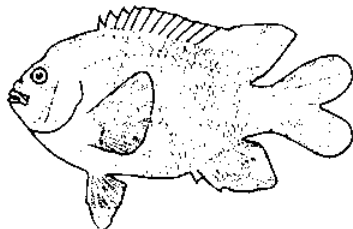
California barracuda (*Sphyraena argentea*)

Grayish black with bluish tinge; silvery or white below. Length to about 5 feet; weight to about 18 pounds. (Special rules.)

Some abundant fish like Pacific mackerel and sardines generally have no size or bag limits for sportfishers.

Regulations appear in the publication "California Sportfishing Regulations," which is available in fish and tackle stores, or wherever you buy a license. Note that fishing regulations may change every two years.

Some fish species may be totally protected. You must release them alive. The giant sea bass and the bright orange Garibaldi (California's state marine fish) are examples of species that are totally protected.



Garibaldi (*Hypsypops rubicundus*)

Bright orange. To about 14 inches.



Giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*)

Reddish brown to dark brown; many have dark spots on sides. Young fish are sandy red with white and dark patches along the sides. To about 7 feet; 560 pounds (to 60 pounds at age 11).

Here are the 1996-97 regulations for two species of fish. In addition to bag limits and size limits, what other kinds of restrictions may there be?



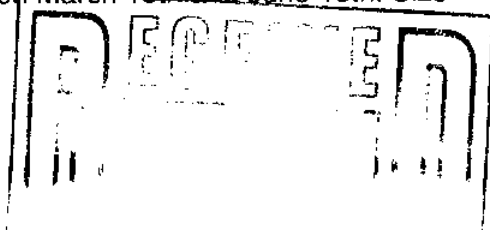
California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*)

Large mouth with sharp teeth. Three point tail. To about 5 feet; 70 pounds. Bag limit: 5 fish south of Pt. Sur, 3 to the north. Size limit: 22 inches TL.

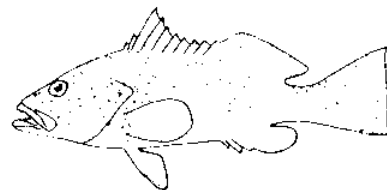


White seabass (*Atractoscion nobilis*)

Bluish-gray; dark bars on young. Ridge on belly. To about 5 feet; 80 pounds. Bag limit: 3 fish, only 1 fish south of Pt. Conception between March 15th and June 15th. Size limit: 28 inches TL.

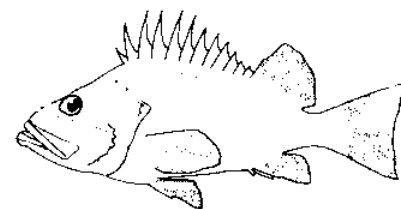


Here are other marine fish you may catch. Be sure you have a copy of the regulations, a field guide, and a measuring tape before you go fishing. And be sure you know where you are fishing in relation to the regulations.



Spotted sand bass (*Paralabrax maculatofasciatus*)

Olive brown with round black spots on body, head, fins. To about 22 inches; 6 pounds. (Special rules.)



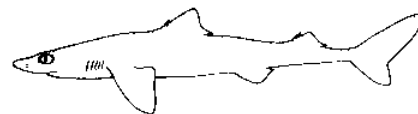
Cowcod rockfish (*Sebastes levis*)

Adults pale pink to orange; young have dark vertical bands on sides. To about 37 inches; 29 pounds. (Special rules.)



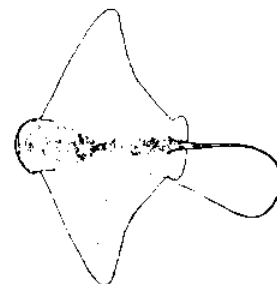
Leopard shark (*Triakis semifasciata*)

Gray with black spots and crossbars on the back and side; white below. To about 7 feet; 70 pounds. (Special rules.)



Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*)

Gray to brownish on top; white below. To about 5 feet; 15 pounds.



Bat ray (*Myliobatis californica*)

Dark brown to olive or black above, white below. Width to about 4 feet; to 210 pounds.