

# Common B.C. Groundfish

There are numerous species of groundfish on the British Columbia coast. This poster presents the most common groundfish encountered when recreational fishing. For more detailed information on these and other groundfish species there are various identification books available.

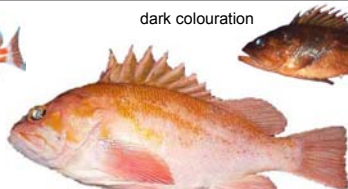
For more information on recreational fishing and for the Sport Fishing Guide check out [www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

juvenile

dark colouration



**Yelloweye Rockfish**



**Copper Rockfish**



**Canary Rockfish**



**Tiger Rockfish**



**China Rockfish**



**Quillback Rockfish**



**Bocaccio Rockfish**



**Redbanded Rockfish**

dark colouration



**Black Rockfish**



**Dusky Rockfish**



**Widow Rockfish**



**Yellowtail Rockfish**



**Kelp Greenling**



**Sablefish**



**Pacific Cod**



**Lingcod**



**Pacific Halibut**



**Arrowtooth Flounder**



**Starry Flounder**



**Rock Sole**



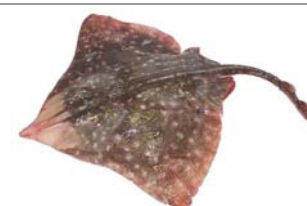
**English Sole**



**Pacific Sanddab**



**Longnose Skate**



**Big Skate**



**Ratfish**



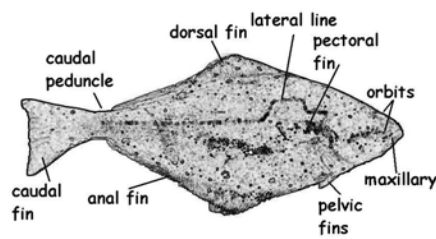
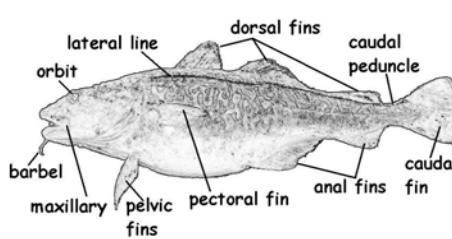
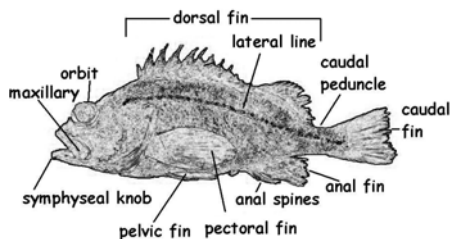
**Spiny Dogfish**



**Red Irish Lord**



**Cabezon**



#### **Tiger Rockfish**

- Up to 61 cm
- Body white to red
- 5 dark red or black narrow vertical bands
- 2 dark red or black bands radiating from eyes
- Body can be brownish-red with black vertical bands

#### **Canary Rockfish**

- Up to 76 cm
- Body mottled orange to yellow on grey background
- Lateral line is pale
- Fins are bright orange
- 3 orange bands radiating from eyes
- Anal fin edge slants anteriorly

#### **Copper Rockfish**

- Up to 57 cm
- Body olive-brown to copper with pink or yellow blotches
- Body can be dark brown
- 2 yellow or dark bands radiating from eyes
- Last 2/3 of lateral line is pale
- Belly is pale pink to white

#### **Yelloweye Rockfish**

- Up to 100 cm
- Body yellow to red
- Eyes are bright yellow
- Fins usually have black tips
- Adults have light band on lateral line
- Juveniles are red with 2 light bands, one on lateral line and a shorter one below

#### **Redbanded Rockfish**

- Up to 64cm
- Body light pink to red with 4 broad vertical red bands
- 1 red band radiating from eyes

#### **Bocaccio Rockfish**

- Up to 91 cm
- Body dark orange-red to olive brown
- Lower jaw is long and projects past upper jaw

#### **Quillback Rockfish**

- Up to 61 cm
- Body dark brown to black mottled with orange-yellow
- Appears to have freckles
- Dorsal fin is high and deeply incised

#### **China Rockfish**

- Up to 43 cm
- Body black mottled with yellow, white and pale blue
- Broad yellow stripe starting at 3<sup>rd</sup> dorsal spine and running along lateral line

#### **Yellowtail Rockfish**

- Up to 66 cm
- Body olive-green to green-brown
- Symphyseal knob present
- Anal fin edge almost vertical
- Fins have yellow tinge
- Jaw extends to back edge of orbit

#### **Widow Rockfish**

- Up to 53 cm
- Body golden-brown to light-brown
- Symphyseal knob absent
- Anal fin edge slants posteriorly
- Mouth is small
- Jaw extends to mid-orbit

#### **Dusky Rockfish**

- Up to 53 cm
- Body grey to greenish-brown fading to light grey or pink on belly
- Symphyseal knob present
- Anal fin edge almost vertical
- Brown bands radiating from eyes
- Jaw extends to end of pupil

#### **Black Rockfish**

- Up to 63 cm
- Body black to grey
- Belly is pale pink to white
- Fins are dark with black spots
- Anal fin edge rounded and slants anteriorly
- Jaw extends past orbit

#### **Lingcod**

- Up to 150 cm
- Body mottled brown to grey fading to white on belly
- Head, mouth & teeth are all large
- Appears to have 1 dorsal fin
- No barbel under chin

#### **Pacific Cod**

- Up to 120 cm
- Body mottled grey to brown fading to white on belly
- 3 dorsal fins
- 2 anal fins
- Barbel under chin

#### **Sablefish (Blackcod)**

- Up to 107 cm
- Body black to grey
- Scales small
- 2 dorsal fins
- 1 anal fin
- Forehead flat
- Caudal fin forked
- No barbel under chin

#### **Kelp Greenling**

- Up to 61 cm
- Male body brown to olive with blue spots
- Female body light brown to golden blue with large brown to orange spots
- 5 lateral lines on each side

#### **Rock Sole**

- Up to 60 cm
- Body mottled brown
- Dark blotches on fins
- Blind side white with pink tinge
- Mouth small
- Scales large and rough
- High arch on lateral line
- Right-eyed

#### **Starry Flounder**

- Up to 1 meter
- Body brown to green and diamond shaped
- Blind side white to tan
- Dorsal & anal fins are banded with black
- Scales rough
- Can be right or left-eyed

#### **Arrowtooth Flounder**

- Up to 84 cm
- Body brown-grey to olive
- Blind side white to grey
- Mouth large
- 2 rows of large arrow-shaped teeth
- Caudal fin forked
- Right-eyed

#### **Pacific Halibut**

- Up to 270 cm
- Body marbled brown with grey
- Blind side white
- Body thick and sturdy
- Mouth large with sharp conical teeth
- Caudal fin slightly forked
- Almost always right-eyed

#### **Big Skate**

- Up to 240 cm
- Body olive-brown to grey
- Blind side is white
- Dark eye spots on wings
- 5 gill slits
- Dorsal spines start above the tail

#### **Longnose Skate**

- Up to 140 cm
- Body dark brown
- Blind side is grey
- Long pointed nose
- 5 gill slits
- Dorsal spines start at tail

#### **Pacific Sanddab**

- Up to 41 cm
- Body brown to tan mottled
- Blind side white to tan
- Caudal fin rounded
- Eyes and mouth are large
- Left-eyed

#### **English Sole**

- Up to 57 cm
- Body light brown
- Blind side white to yellow
- Body smooth and diamond shaped
- Head & jaw pointed
- Right-eyed

#### **Cabezon**

- Up to 100 cm
- Body marbled olive -green to brown-grey with white patches
- Body can be red
- Flap like projections on snout and over each eye

#### **Red Irish Lord**

- Up to 51cm
- Body red mottled with brown, white and black
- 4 vertical dark bands
- Single dorsal fin notched to form 3 steps
- Snout blunt and rounded

#### **Spiny Dogfish**

- Up to 160 cm
- Body slate grey to brown
- Belly white to light grey
- 5 gill slits
- 2 dorsal fins with a spine in front of each
- No anal fin

#### **Ratfish**

- Up to 100 cm
- Body grey-brown with white spots with olive belly
- Tail is long and tapering
- Watch out for the poisonous spine at the front of the dorsal fin