



Pacific Northwest Lookalikes

Fishinar 1/28/2015, Janna Nichols – Instructor

Questions? Feel free to contact me at janna@reef.org



Painted Greenling – Up to 10” – 6 red bars on side, thin tapering snout, two pairs of cirri on forehead. Think of the red bars as being painted on. Usually sit still, and if disturbed, will swim a short distance and settle down again, but usually stay out in the open.



Tiger Rockfish – Up to 24” – Tiger ‘stripes’ (which are really called BARS in fish geek language). Shy, solitary on the reef, often retreat into a nearby hole when you shine a light on them or get near.



Plainfin Midshipman – Up to 15” – Beady eyes. Look for lines of ‘midshipman buttons’ which are photophores. Silvery body, buries in sand. Dusky bars on sides.



Pacific Staghorn Sculpin - Up to 19” – No scales. Large long banded pectoral fin. Buries in sand. Wide, broad head. Visible lateral line.



Blackeye Goby – Up to 6” – Black section on first dorsal fin. Large, visible scales. Can be mottled. Often a yellowish tint to fins. Males can show black pelvic fins when mating.



Bay Goby - Up to 4" – Sandy silty habitat. Near a burrow, very skittish. Distinct rectangular markings on body. First dorsal has a dusky patch on it. (photo by David Jennings)



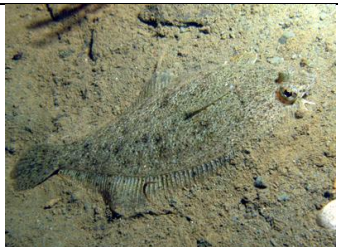
Snake Prickleback – Up to 20" - Long and snakelike. Extremely skittish. Darts away when you get near. If you hold still, it will come back in and check you out. Same dashed patterns on body that the Bay Goby has.



Quillback Rockfish – Up to 24" – Deeply notched dorsal fin, yellow and chocolate brown mixed blotches, back half of fish (including back dorsal and the anal fin) are completely dark. Think of dipping the quill pen into the dark ink well on the back. Will hover above the rocks and boulders a little bit.



China Rockfish – Up to 18" – Black speckled body, with bright yellow undertones. Look for the Nike swoosh (from dorsal to tail) – and Nikes are made in China. Solitary on reef, sitting in cracks and under boulders.



Speckled Sanddab – Up to 6"– Buries in sand. Thin fish, eyes small, lots of speckles. Rounded tail. Lefteye flounder. Can camouflage really well.



Pacific Sanddab – Up to 16"– Larger, thicker fish, big goggly eyes, bony ridge between eyes. Lefteye Flounder. Not as common as Speckled Sanddab.



Monkeyface Prickleback – Up to 30" – Stays in den with only head poking out. Can change from light gray to dark gray within minutes. Large fleshy comb on head. Extremely downturned mouth. Only found on Oregon coast (Netarts and Tillamook area) and south into California.



Wolf-eel – Up to 8 ft – Usually gray or brown, large teeth, look for spots along sides.



Padded Sculpin – Up to 5.5" – Single cirri at corner of mouth. Large nostrils. Rough scales between dorsal and lateral line.



Scalyhead Sculpin – Up to 4" – Most common small Sculpin. Look for the large white dot at the base of the tail, and teeny cirri on the head. TWO cirri at corner of mouth. Three red lines through eye. Large white circles below lateral line. Orange gills.



Crescent Gunnel – Up to 10" – Regular teardrop shaped markings along dorsal fin. Outlined in black, lighter interior.



Saddleback Gunnel – Up to 12" – Distinct dark saddles along dorsal and upper back.



Juvenile Striped Perch – Golden color, with dark patches on back of dorsal and anal fin. Tail yellow center with dark outline. Stripes along body.



Kelp Perch - Up to 8" – Golden kelp color, no stripes, but white blotches along back. Clearish tail.