



# COMMON SURFPERCHES OF CALIFORNIA

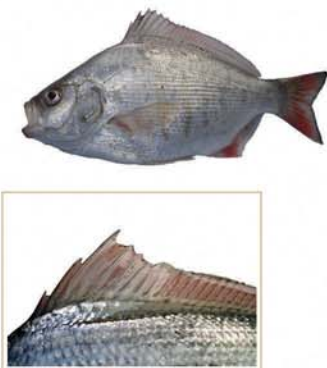


The term "surfperch" refers to species of the family Embiotocidae



### Barred Surfperch

- (AKA: "California Perch")
- (Showing barred and unbarred variations)
- Bars and spots on sides, often unbarred
- No red in tail
- Length to 17"



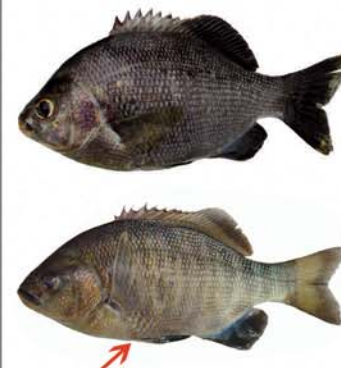
### Redtail Surfperch

- Longest dorsal fin spines much longer than soft rays
- Generally barred, not spotted
- Slightly more elongate than calico
- Length to 16"



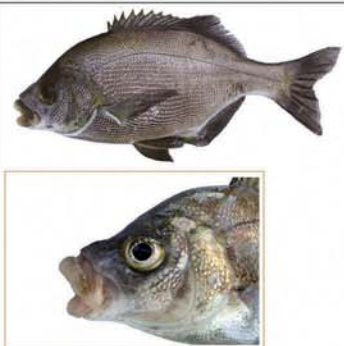
### Calico Surfperch

- Pronounced notch between dorsal fin soft rays and hard rays
- Longest dorsal hard rays and longest dorsal soft rays nearly equal in length
- Broken bars, spots on sides
- More disc-like in shape than redtail
- Length to 12.5"



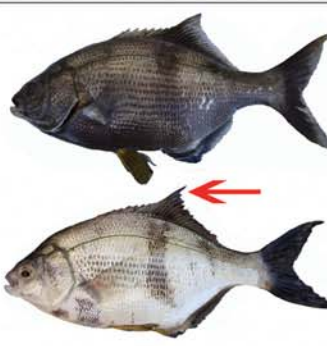
### Black Perch

- (AKA: "Pogie")
- Orange or yellow lips
- Dark "mustache" on upper lip
- Large scales below pectoral fin (→)
- Scales often with blue flecking
- Bluish-white line at base of anal fin
- Length to 15.5"



### Rubberlip Seaperch

- Largest ocean perch
- Thick, rubbery lips
- Silvery and brassy, often dark
- Length to 18.5"



### Pile Perch

- (AKA: "Split Tail")
- Lower image shows post-mortem color
- Dark bar beneath dorsal fin
- First dorsal fin soft rays much longer than last dorsal hard rays (←)
- Often with yellow pelvic fins
- Deeply forked caudal fin (tail)
- Length to 17.5"



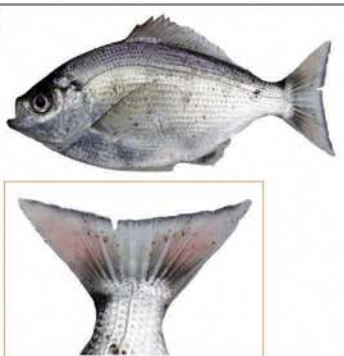
### White Seaperch

- (AKA: "Split Tail")
- Dark stripe at base of dorsal
- No dark bar below dorsal fin
- Often with dark spots near mouth
- Length to 12.5"
- Yellow at base of pelvic and anal fins



### Shiner Perch

- Faint yellow bars on sides
- Males with yellow bars only in winter
- Often with dark speckling on sides
- Length to 7"
- (Note to anglers: Not to be confused with other small, "shiny" perch)



### Silver Surfperch

- Tail usually pinkish
- Silver, sometimes dusky on back
- Pelvic fins without black tips
- Often with dark patch at base of anal fin
- Length to 10.5"



### Walleye Surfperch

- (Showing barred and unbarred variations)
- Black tips on pelvic fins (←)
- Barred or unbarred
- Large eyes
- Length to 12"



### Striped Seaperch

- (Showing dark and light color variations)
- Orange and blue stripes
- Blue spots on head
- Length to 15"



### Rainbow Surfperch

- Fantastically colored
- Dark spot on soft dorsal fin rays and anal fin
- Area between pelvic and anal fins flat
- Barred and striped
- Length to 12"

References: D.J. Miller and R.N. Lea; M. Love; R.T. Peterson; American Fisheries Society

Photographs by Kirk Lombard

Layout & Design: Ben Burke and Kirk Lombard

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For further information, consult the

Guide to the Coastal Marine Fishes of California, California Fish Bulletin 157, by D.J. Miller and R.N. Lea