



# COMMON SURFPERCHES OF CALIFORNIA

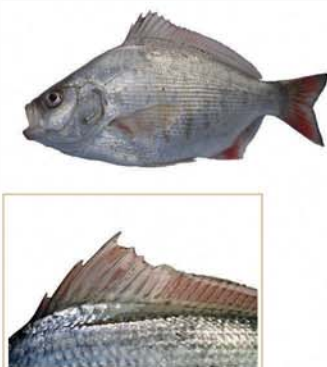


The term "surfperch" refers to species of the family Embiotocidae



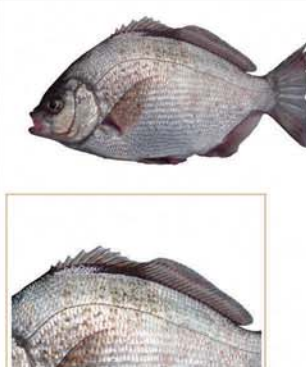
### Barred Surfperch

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



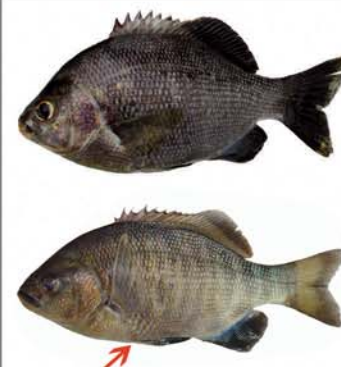
### Redtail Surfperch

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



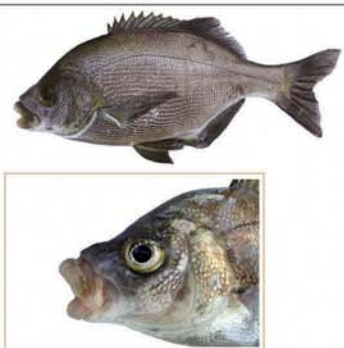
### Calico Surfperch

- 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"



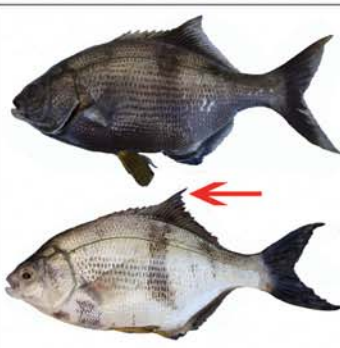
### Black Perch

- (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"



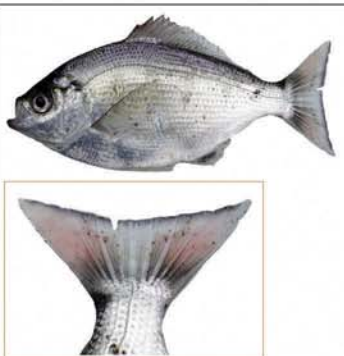
### White Seaperch

- (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



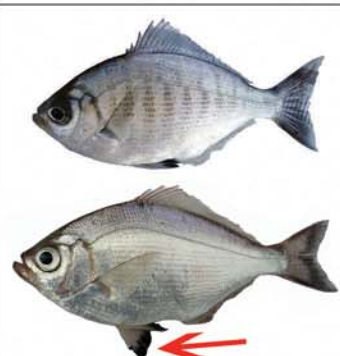
### Shiner Perch

- 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

Version 2, June 2009

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