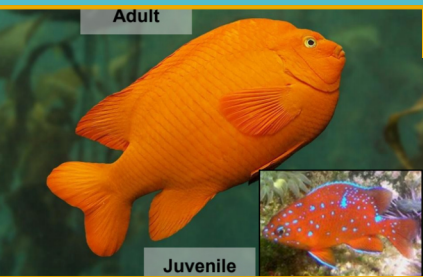


Crystal Cove's Marine Protected Area

Field Guide to Fish



Garibaldi

Size: Up to 15 inches.

Habitat: Kelp forest and rocky reefs.

Diet: Invertebrates such as sponges, bryozoa, worms, and nudibranchs.

Description: Adult fish in this species are orange in color. Juveniles are more reddish, and have many small iridescent blue spots, which they lose as they become adults. They maintain a home territory and can become aggressive towards other fish, or humans, when they come close.



Kelp Bass

Size: Up to 28 inches.

Habitat: Kelp forest and rocky reefs.

Diet: Small fish, squid, and crustaceans

Description: The body of the kelp bass is elongate and compressed. They are brown to olive green, with light blotches, becoming lighter below. Usually loners, kelp bass join together to prey on small schooling fishes. They attack the school from all angles and may leap out of the water in hot pursuit.



California Sheephead

Size: Up to 3 feet.

Habitat: Kelp forest and rocky reefs.

Diet: Hard-shelled animals, such as sea urchins, molluscs, lobsters, and crabs.

Description: Male and female sheephead have different color patterns and body shapes. Males are larger, with black tail and head sections, wide, reddish orange midriffs, red eyes and fleshy forehead bumps. Female sheephead are dull pink with white undersides. Both sexes sport white chins and large, protruding canine teeth that can pry hardshelled animals from rocks.



Halfmoon

Size: Up to 19 inches.

Habitat: In the water column over rocks and at mid-depth over kelp.

Diet: While kelp and algae make up their primary diet, they are opportunistic feeders eating small invertebrates including sponges, crustaceans, and anemones.

Description: Halfmoon are schooling fish. The body of the halfmoon is oval and compressed and the head is blunt and rounded. They are dark blue above, shading to blue gray on the sides and becoming white below. The tail is halfmoon shaped.



Blacksmith

Size: Up to 10 inches.

Habitat: Kelp forest and rocky reefs.

Diet: Algae and plankton.

Description: Blue-black in color with small black spots towards the tail. They school, sometimes in large numbers, typically swimming in open water well above the ocean bottom.



Señorita

Size: Up to 10 inches.

Habitat: Kelp forest and rocky reefs.

Diet: Small invertebrates such as bryozoans, amphipods, copepods and isopods

Description: The body of the señorita is elongate and cigar-like in general size and shape. They are brown on top, orange on sides, lighter below with a large black spot at base of caudal fin. Can be found in small schools.



Ocean White Fish

Size: Up to 40 inches.

Habitat: Sandy seafloors or rocky reefs.

Diet: Small invertebrates and fish, including crabs, shrimp, large krill, squid, and anchovies.

Description: Elongated body that is light brown color with white underbelly; turquoise and yellow pectoral fins and a yellow dorsal fin.