Canopy



Sardines



Opaleye



Blacksmith



Sargo

Mid-Stipe



Garibaldi



Señorita



Halfmoon

Holdfast



Kelp Bass



Ocean Whitefish

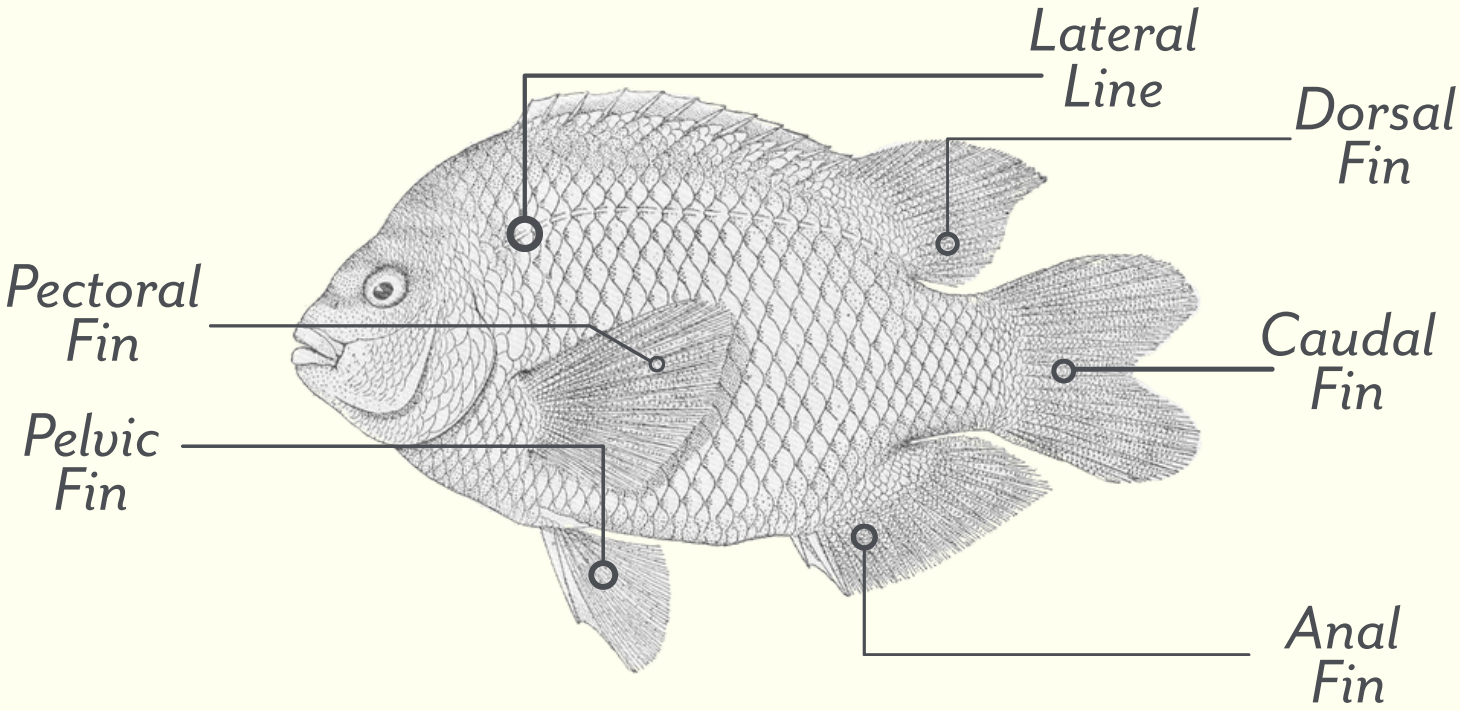


California Sheephead

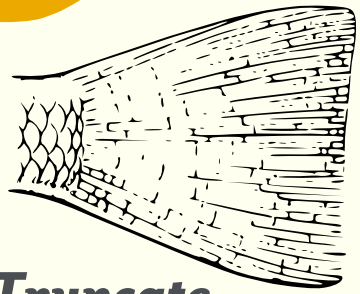
The Fish of Crystal Cove's MPA and the 3 Zones of a Kelp Forest

California State Parks Since 1864

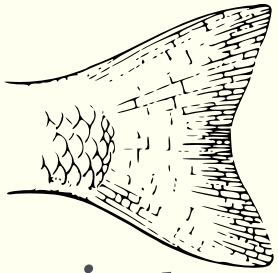
Crystal Cove Conservancy



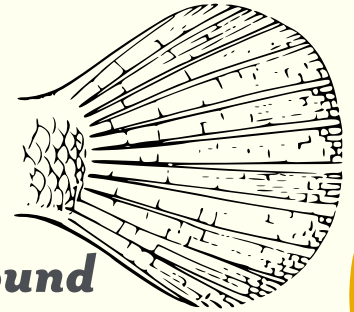
Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY



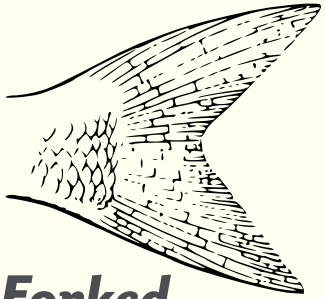
Truncate



Emarginate



Round



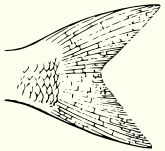
Forked



Lunate

Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY

Caudal Fin Shape Overview



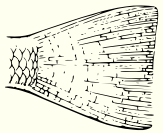
Forked

Forked tails are used for long, sustained swimming.



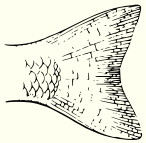
Lunate

Lunate tails are for high speeds and long distances.



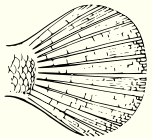
Truncate

Truncate tails are for quick turns and short bursts of speed.



Emarginate

Emarginate tails increase maneuverability but decrease speed.



Round

Rounded tails are for tight maneuvering, but slow swimming.







Crystal Cove
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Garibaldi

Hypsypops rubicundus

- Most are under 12 inches
- Caudal fin shape is forked, with rounded lobes at each tails end that make it look heart-shaped.
- Garibaldi are solitary fish. Males are very territorial.
- Adult garibaldi are bright orange. Juveniles are more reddish with blue spots that they lose as adults.



COMMON

Senorita

Oxyjulis californica

- Up to 10 inches
- Caudal fin is truncate
- They bury themselves in sand at night, only exposing their heads.
- They are "cleaner" fish that remove parasites from other fish.
- Elongate and hotdog-like; they are brown on top and orange on the side.







Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY

COMMON

Blacksmith

Chromis punctipinnis

- Up to 12 inches
- Caudal fin is distinctly forked
- They often swim in large schools around reefs or above the ocean floor.
- Males build nests and guard the eggs until they hatch.
- They are blue-black in color with small black spots towards the tail.







Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY

COMMON

Halfmoon

Medialuna californiensis

- Up to 19 inches
  - Caudal fin is emarginate and moon-shaped, hence their name.
    - Halfmoon are schooling fish that live near kelp beds.
      - The body of the halfmoon is oval and compressed.
        - The upper body is dark blue, with blue-gray shading on the sides and white underbellies.







RARE

Sargo

Anisotremus davidsonii

- Up to 23 inches
- Caudal fin is forked
- They make a distinct piglike "grunt" when pulled out of the water.
- They are bottom feeders that eat various seafloor crustaceans.
- They are metallic silver and can have one or more dark vertical bars running down the body.

Crystal Cove CONSERVANCY



COMMON

Sardines

Sardinops sagax

- Up to 16 inches
- Caudal fins are lunate
- Sardines can form schools of up to 10 million fish.
- They feed on plankton and are prey for many other fish, mammals, and seabirds.
- Their backs are blue-green and their undersides are white, with sets of dark spots down the middle.







UNCOMMON

Opaleye

Girella nigricans

- Up to 26 inches
- Caudal fins are truncate
- Opaleye are herbivores, mainly feeding on seaweed.
- They are compressed and oval-shaped, with dark green sides and white underbellies.
- They often have distinct white spots in the middle of their upper body.

Crystal Cove CONSERVANCY







Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY

RARE

Kelp Bass

Paralabrax clathratus

- Up to 28 inches (2.3 feet)
- Caudal fins are truncate
- They are also known as calico bass.
- They are usually alone, but can come together to hunt small schooling fishes.
- Their bodies are elongated and compressed, and are brown or olive green in color with light blotches.







Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY

COMMON

Ocean Whitefish

Caulolatilus princeps

- Up to 40 inches (3.3 feet)
- Caudal fin type is emarginate
- They can be found in sandy seafloor habitats during the day, and rocky reef or kelp forest habitats at night.
- They have an elongated body with turquoise and yellow pectoral fins, and a yellow dorsal fin.







Crystal Cove
CONSERVANCY

COMMON

California Sheephead

Bodianus pulcher

- Up to 35 inches (3 feet)
- Caudal fins are truncate
- California sheephead are protogynous, meaning they can transition from female to male later in life.
- Males have a fleshy forehead with black head and tail sections. Females are dull pink with white underbellies.