

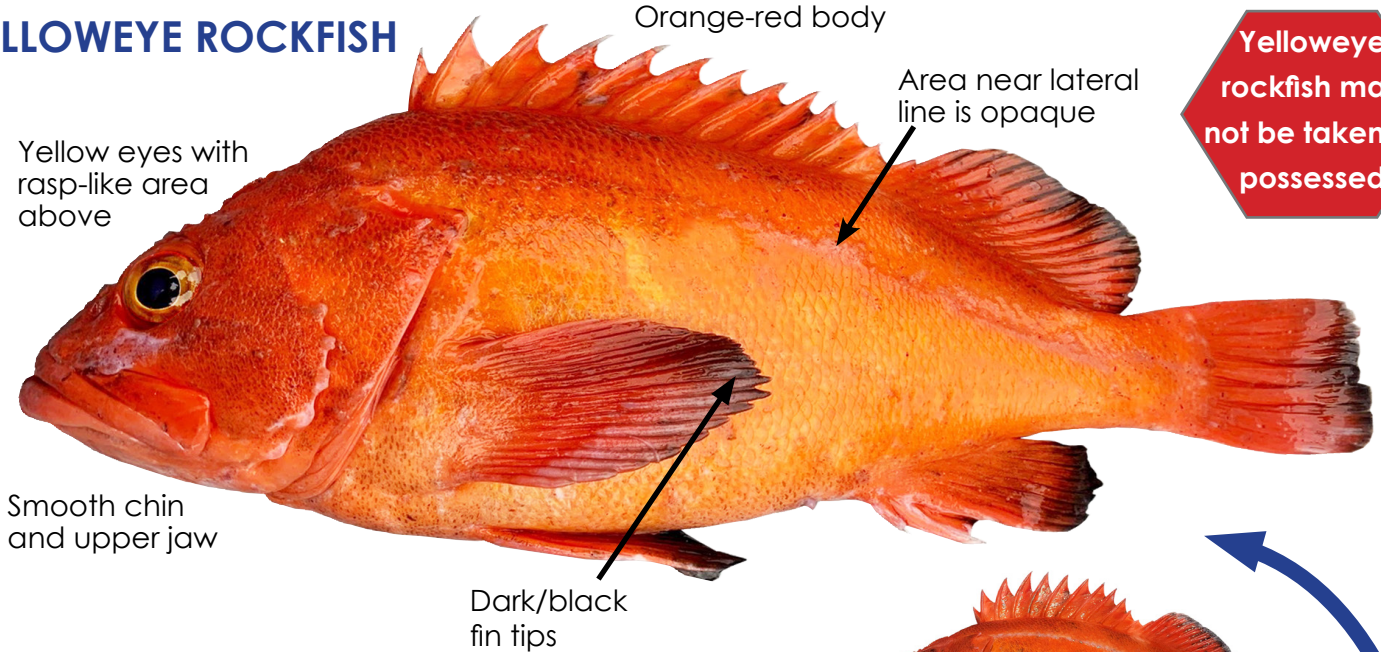
Yelloweye Rockfish, Vermilion Rockfish, Canary Rockfish

Rockfish Identification



Yelloweye rockfish, vermilion rockfish, and canary rockfish are often misidentified. This flyer offers features that can be used to differentiate between the three species.

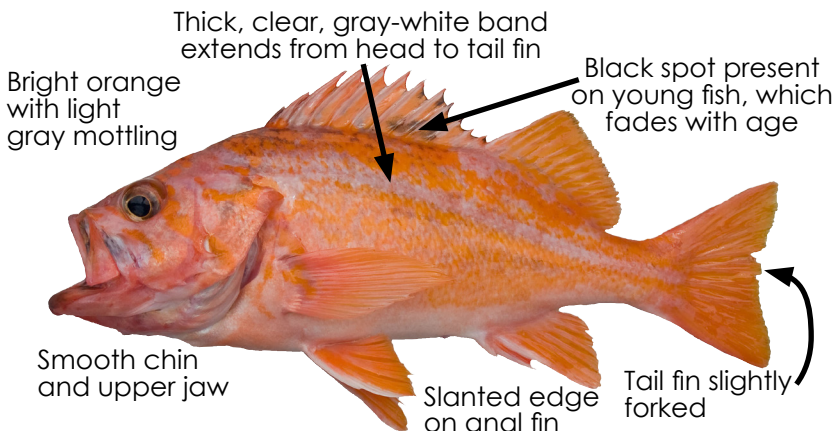
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH



VERMILION ROCKFISH



CANARY ROCKFISH

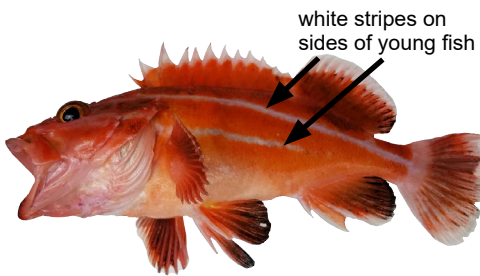
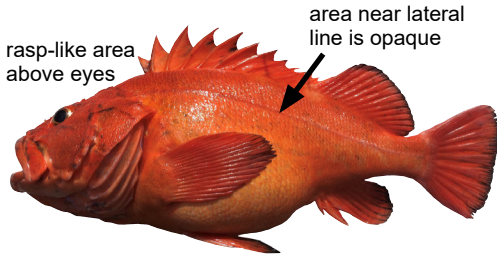


Young yelloweye rockfish have two white stripes on their sides from head to tail fin, which fade with age

Rockfish coloration may vary, but some characteristics stay the same in each species.

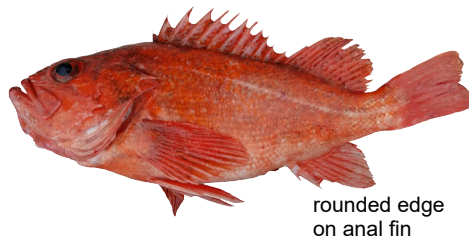
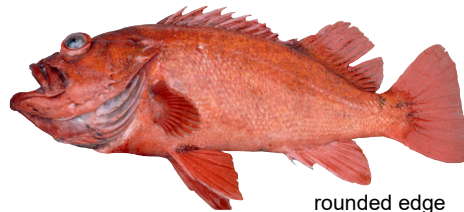
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH

LOOK FOR: Orange-red color, yellow eyes with rasp-like area above, smooth chin and upper jaw, black-tipped fins



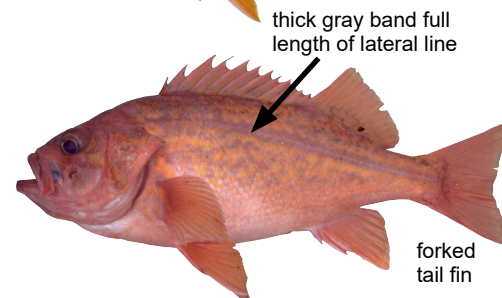
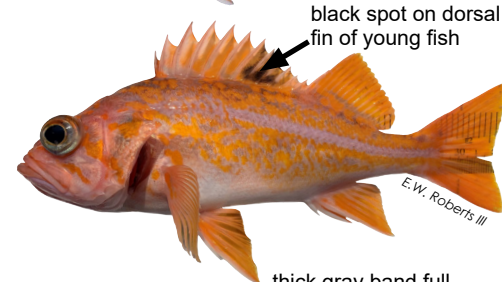
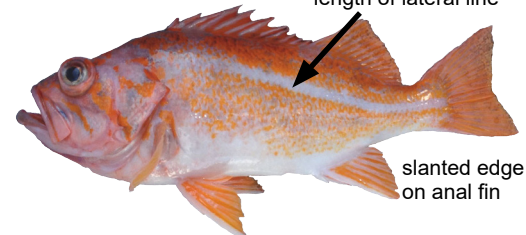
VERMILION ROCKFISH

LOOK FOR: Orange-red to red color with dark mottling, rough chin and upper jaw, tail fin straight



CANARY ROCKFISH

LOOK FOR: Bright orange color with gray mottling, thick gray band along full length of lateral line



Angler Best Practices

Don't fish where yelloweye rockfish occur. If you encounter more than one yelloweye rockfish, move to a different fishing spot to reduce the number of fish caught that may not survive after being released.

Know your fish and educate others. Familiarize yourself with the rockfishes in your area through resources such as fish identification books and guides, informational flyers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) website (wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Fish-ID), game wardens, and port samplers.

Minimize the fish's injuries. When rockfishes are brought up from depth, decreasing pressure may injure them. These injuries may cause the fish to float helplessly at the surface. Many anglers use a **descending device** to help a released fish regain depth. Visit wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Groundfish/Barotrauma for more information.

Handle fish as gently as possible. Use wet hands if possible (or wet towels, though they may remove protective slime) and do not touch the eyes. Get the fish back in the water quickly. Consider using barbless hooks, and avoid using treble hooks.

Check before you go fishing! For up-to-date rockfish regulations in your area, visit wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Groundfish-Summary.

CDFW photos courtesy of the CDFW California Recreational Fisheries Survey

Alternate communication format available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed call (916) 322-8911 or the California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing impaired from TDD phones at 1 (800) 735-2929 or 711.



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