

GETTING STARTED

A few simple practices and gear choices can greatly enhance your enjoyment of Southern California's year-round fishing for surfperches, croakers, California corbina, and California halibut, among others.



WHEN TO GO FISHING ...

You are more likely to catch fish:

- In the early morning or an hour before dusk
- On an incoming high tide. The rising water level dislodges small invertebrates in sand bars, stimulating fish to feed.
- During mild to moderate surf



CASTING TIPS ...

- When you are beach fishing, cast to the edges of sand bars and drop-offs and be on the lookout for fish "highways," or channels with transiting fish in search of food.
- If you are surfperch or corbina fishing, try casting near sand crab beds and learn to spot feeding corbina in the white wash.
- If you are halibut or croaker fishing, look for signs of baitfish, such as feeding birds and marine mammals, and cast into these areas.

Species	Peak Months
Surfperch	September – May
Yellowfin Croaker	June – September
Spotfin Croaker	July – September
California Corbina	July – September
California Halibut	June – October

Peak months for some favorite species in Southern California



Alternate communication formats 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.

ROD AND REEL TIPS



For **heavy bait fishing** or "plugging," try a 10- to 12-ft rod rated for 2- to 8-oz casting, with spinning or conventional reels. The reel should be capable of holding 150 to 200 yds of 20- to 30-lb test line.



Carolina rig

DFG/K. Penttila

For **fly-fishing**, try a 9- to 11-ft rod, rated for a 6- to 8-weight line, with matching reel. Use a sink-tip or shooting head lines. Stripping baskets help manage line in the surf.

For **light bait fishing** or when using **Carolina rigged grubs**, try a 7- to 9-ft rod, with either a spinning or bait casting

reel. Use 6- to 12-lb test line that can comfortably cast a ½- to 1-oz egg sinker, depending on surf conditions.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- ☒ Waders, hat, polarized sunglasses, sunblock. Besides protecting your eyes, polarized sunglasses will help you see fish in the shore break and run up. Wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device if wading.
- ☒ Pack for fish, tackle, tape measure, and needle-nose pliers for removing hooks

Pack Out What You Pack In: Fishing Line, Hooks and Trash

To report lost fishing gear visit:
www.lostfishinggear.org



TURN IN POACHERS AND POLLUTERS.

Cheaters ruin the resource and your sport.

To bust them, make an anonymous call to CalTIP:
1 (888) DFG-CalTIP (1 (888) 334-2258)



A Guide to SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BEACH FISHING

DFG/K. Penttila



Sea Grant

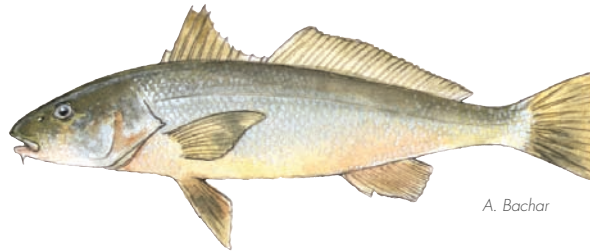


COMMONLY CAUGHT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SURF SPECIES



A. Bachar

Barred surfperch
Amphistichus argenteus



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California corbina
Menticirrhus undulatus



A. Bachar

Leopard shark
Triakis semifasciata



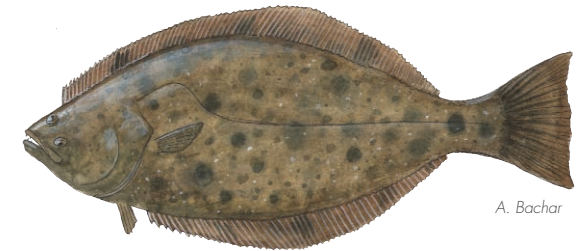
A. Bachar

Walleye surfperch
Hyperprosopon argenteum



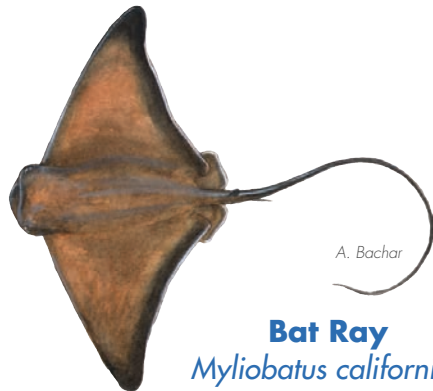
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Spottfin croaker
Roncador stearnsii



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California halibut
Paralichthys californicus



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Bat Ray
Myliobatus californica



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Yellowfin croaker
Umbrina roncador



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Shovelnose guitarfish
Rhinobatos productus

For fish consumption advisories visit www.oehha.ca.gov/fish.html

For more information and current fishing regulations, visit the California Department of Fish and Game Web site at: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine.