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 redbill
-Length to 12.5”

**Black Perch**
(AKA: “Dogie”)
-Orange or yellow lips
-Dark “mustache” on upper lip
-Large scales below pectoral fin
-Scales often blue-flecked
-Bluish-white line at base of anal fin
-Length to 15.5”

**Rubberlip Seaperch**
-Largest ocean perch
-Thick, rubbery lips
-Sliver and brassy, often dark
-Length to 18.5”

**Pile Perch**
(AKA: “Split Tail”)
-Lower image shows post-mortal 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
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For further information, consult the California Department of Fish and Game.