



Quillback Rockfish vs. China Rockfish and Black-and-Yellow Rockfish

Quillback rockfish, China rockfish, and black-and-yellow rockfish are often misidentified. This flyer offers features that can be used to differentiate between the three species.

QUILLBACK ROCKFISH MAY NOT BE TAKEN OR POSSESSED*

Deep Indentations Between Very Tall, Strong Dorsal Fin Spines

Yellow or Light-colored Saddle Markings Do Not Extend to Tail

Dark Brown to Black Freckles on Head and/or Throat

Last One-Third of Body is Black

**WIDE RANGE OF BODY COLORS
SEE REVERSE**

QUILLBACK ROCKFISH

CHINA ROCKFISH

Distinctive Yellow Band on Lateral Line

White-to-Yellow Freckles

BLACK-and-YELLOW ROCKFISH

Irregular Yellow Blotches

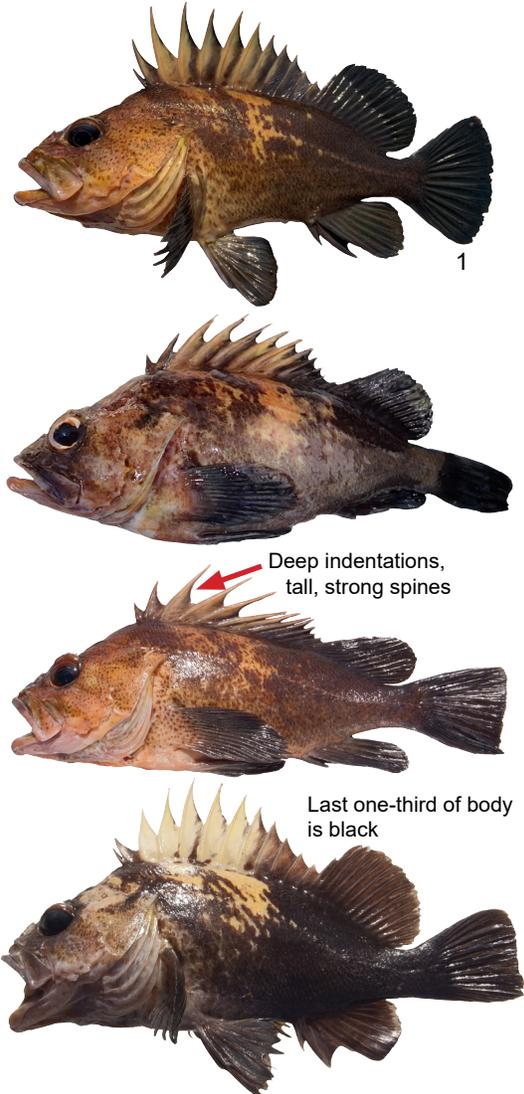
Mostly Black or Dark Brown

*For current limits, visit the CDFW website at wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Groundfish-Summary

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

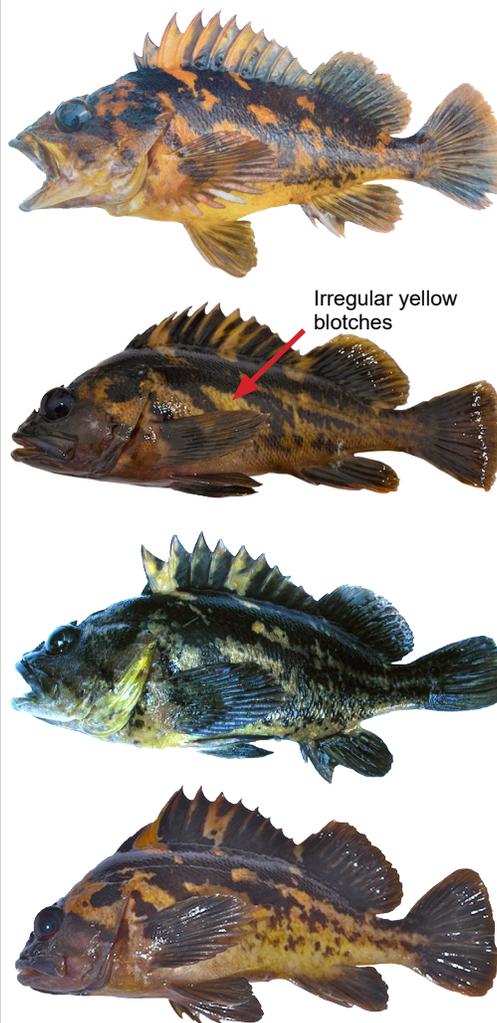
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH

LOOK FOR: Deep indentations between tall dorsal fin spines, last one-third of body is black



BLACK-and-YELLOW ROCKFISH

LOOK FOR: Irregular yellow blotches, black/dark brown body



CHINA ROCKFISH

LOOK FOR: Distinctive yellow band on lateral line, yellow/white freckles



Check before you go fishing! For up-to-date information on rockfish regulations that pertain to your area, visit the CDFW website at wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Groundfish-Summary



Report Poachers and Polluters
1-888-334-CALTIP

Angler Best Practices

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 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.

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