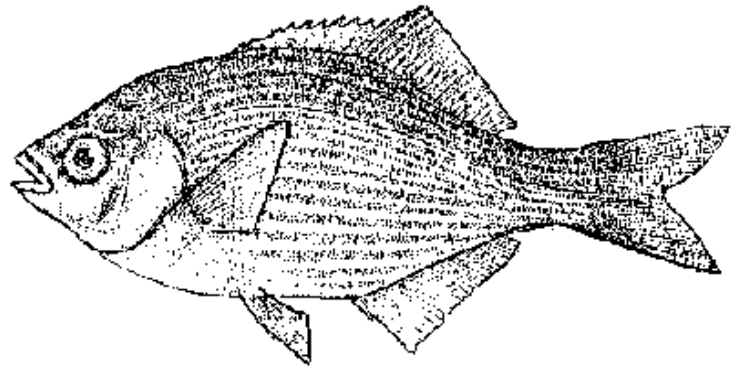


Striped Sea Perch



Scientific name: *Embiotoca lateralis* From the Greek *embios*, meaning 'living' and *tocos* meaning 'bring forth'. *Lateralis* is a Latin word and referencing the approximately 15 blue stripes that run horizontally across the body.

Other Names: Blue Seaperch, Blue Perch, and Striped Surfperch

Phylum: Phylum Chordata → SubPhylum Vertebrata → Class Osteichthyes → Order Perciformes → Family Embiotocidae.

Size: 15 inches from nose to tale fin.

Description: This fish is distinguishable when looking down from a dock or wharf from other fish species because of its stripes and darker colors.

Habitat: The striped seaperch can be found swimming around reefs, piers and in kelp beds – from shallow bays to depths of 70 feet. Young are almost always found under some kind of cover, usually kelp, while do not. Because of their diet, they are usually found in areas that have lots of algae.

Diet: Because these fish have larger mouths than most seaperch, they eat larger prey, including mollusks, crustaceans, brittle stars, worms and shrimp.

Range: Found in Point Cabras, northern Baja California, Mexico to Wrangell in Southeastern Alaska. These fish are most abundantly found in the cool waters north of Point Conception, CA.

Conservation Status: Like many fish, perch populations can greatly be affected by pollution and over-fishing. So please be conscious of what you are dumping in the ocean, and follow laws concerning the collection of these fish, as well as returning pregnant fish to the water.

Fun Facts:

- ☆ The Striped sea perch can be a dinnertime snack – however it's important to watch out for the loose hair-like bones and backbone!
- ☆ Like all sea/surfperches, the Blue seaperch is oviviparous – which means instead of laying eggs like most fish species, females hold their eggs in their bodies until they hatch, and release live offspring into the water