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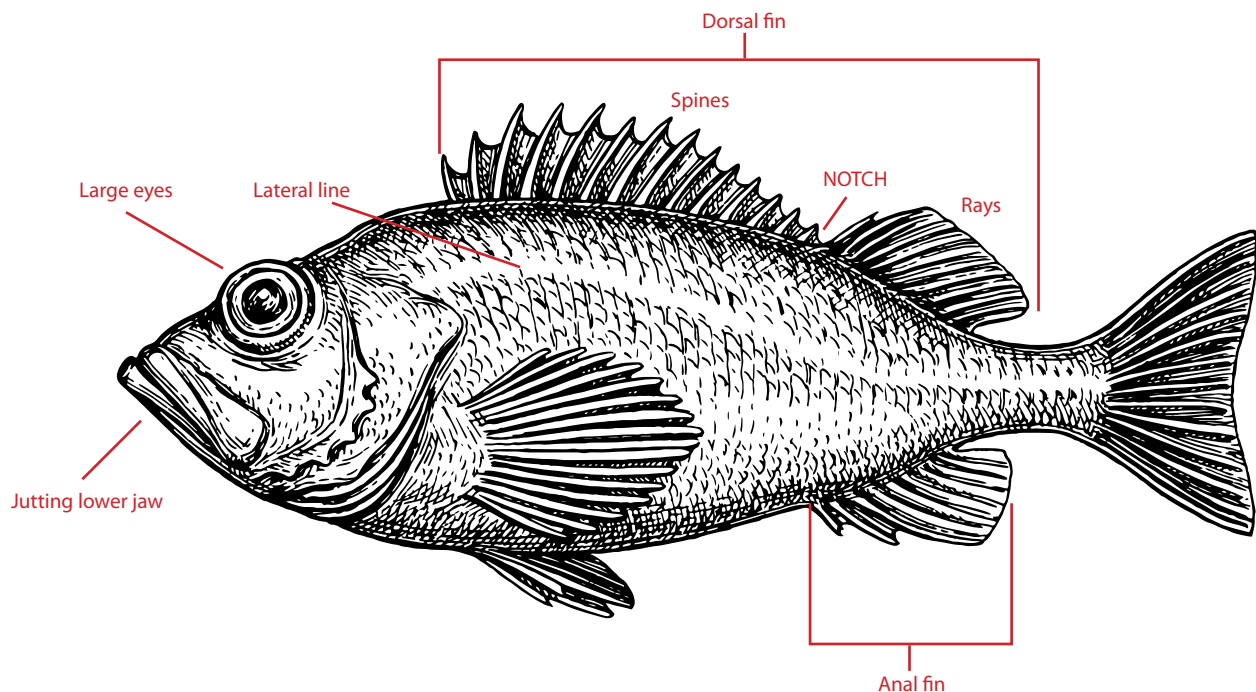
There are more than 100 species of rockfish around the world, many of which are found along the Pacific coast of North America, and 24 of those make their homes in the Pacific Northwest. The Seattle Aquarium exhibits about 14 different rockfish species!

Rockfish have very long life spans compared to the majority of the world's fish species. While many other fish species live anywhere from two to 10 years, some rockfish species can live to be well over 100 years! Because rockfish are so long-lived, many don't begin breeding until they're nearly 20 years old. Add in the fact that rockfish are considered a desirable seafood item, and it's easy to understand why they're susceptible to overfishing.

Rockfish come in a wide variety of colors, patterns, shapes and sizes. But they do share a few key characteristics that identify them as rockfish: **large eyes and mouth; a compressed lower body; a jutting lower jaw; and a large dorsal fin with well-developed spines.**

Rockfish, like all members of the Scorpaenidae family, have venomous spines on their dorsal fins. Some fish species within this family have spines that are quite toxic. That's not the case for rockfish, but rockfish venom can cause a good amount of pain and lead to infection—yet another reason to avoid these fish and let them reach the end of their natural life spans in the wild!

Rockfish live in a variety of habitats and at a variety of depths. Some species school together; others live solitary lives. But regardless of where and how they live, rockfish need clean water and undisrupted habitats to grow and thrive.



Activity

Suggested time:

30 minutes

Materials:

- paper
- writing utensil
- coloring utensils
- metal paper fasteners (optional)



How to:

1. First, review this worksheet to learn about rockfish and rockfish anatomy.
2. Draw the outline of the fish. Don't forget to make sure your rockfish has the identifying features: **large eyes and mouth; a compressed lower body; a jutting lower jaw; and a large dorsal fin with well-developed spines.**
3. (Optional) If you have metal paper fasteners, you can cut out pectoral fins and add them on top of your outline so your fish can move its fins. Otherwise, you can just draw the fins on the body.
4. Color your outline. You can color your fish to look like a specific rockfish species or however you wish.
5. Cut out your rockfish and, if you have metal paper fasteners, attach the pectoral fins.

Rockfish species common to Puget sound



Black rockfish
Sebastes melanops



Bocaccio rockfish
Sebastes paucispinis



Canary rockfish
Sebastes pinniger



China rockfish
Sebastes nebulosus



Copper rockfish
Sebastes caurinus



Deacon rockfish
Sebastes diaconus



Greenstripe rockfish
Sebastes elongatus



Puget Sound rockfish
Sebastes emphaeus



Quillback rockfish
Sebastes maliger



Rosy rockfish
Sebastes rosaceus



Tiger rockfish
Sebastes nigrocinctus



Splitnose rockfish
Sebastes diploproa



Vermillion rockfish
Sebastes miniatus



Widow rockfish
Sebastes entomelas



Yelloweye rockfish
Sebastes ruberrimus



Yellowtail rockfish
Sebastes flavidus