Herring, Anchovy and Sardine

**Sturgeon**

White sturgeon

Both green and the larger white sturgeon are found in Oregon waters. Green sturgeon are illegal to retain (at the time of printing). Historical records list one white sturgeon tipping the scales at 1,500 pounds (680 kg) and measuring 20 feet (610 cm). These caught in Oregon, however, usually measure less than 12 feet (366 cm).

Fish Fact: Sturgeon may live to be over 100 years old and are protected under federal law. Anglers may keep only the legal limits.

**Surfperch**

Radial surfperch

Surf perches are disc-shaped and come in a variety of colors. Redtail and silver surfperches are found mostly in the surf. Striped surfperch, pale surfperch, and silver surfperch all live near rocks, docks or pilings in bays. "Shiners" are full-size at 5 inches (13 cm), other species at 12-18 inches (30-46 cm).

Fish Fact: Surfperch live in large schools and bear live young up to 2 inches (5 cm) long.

**Lingcod**

Lingcod are about 1 foot long by their first birthday, and "ling" should not be confused with a sand sole.

Fish Fact: Lingcod may reach lengths of 5 feet (150 cm) and sometimes weigh up to 100 pounds (45 kg) in Oregon, tan to dark brown (often with marbling or spots) on the back. These fish have small mouths, so try a #4 to #6 hook, a 2- to 8-ounce sliding sinker, than 12 feet (366 cm).

**Herring, Anchovy and Sardine**

Pacific herring

These fish have dark blue backs and very long pectoral (side) fins. These fish have dark blue backs and very long pectoral (side) fins. These fish have dark blue backs and very long pectoral (side) fins. These fish have dark blue backs and very long pectoral (side) fins.

**Other Marine Fishes**

**Albacore**

These fish have dark blue backs and very long pectoral (side) fins. These fish are not confused with a sand sole.

Fish Fact: Albacore may cover 50 miles (93 km) or more per day. Albacore caught off the Pacific Coast are generally 21-30 inches (53-76 cm).

**Rockfish**

Rockfish bear live young (rather than lay eggs like most fishes). Some species, such as cabezon, can live more than 100 years.

**Feisty lingcod**

Feisty lingcod are excellent to eat. The meat of lingcod, greenling and cabezon may be blue or green, but it turns white when cooked and is not distinguishable from other rockfish species.

**Cabezon**

This is a red, brown or green mottled member of the sculpin family. Cabezon can grow to 16 inches (40 cm) and weigh up to 2 pounds (1 kg).

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**Flounder**

These blue-green, silvery or light brown fish are an important food source for larger fishes, sea birds and marine mammals. These blue-green, silvery or light brown fish are an important food source for larger fishes, sea birds and marine mammals.

Fish Fact: Albacore generally weigh 15-200 pounds (6.8-90 kg) and live up to 30 years.

**Offshore**

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**Feisty lingcod** along rugged shore, lively surf perch along ocean beaches and fat rockfish among jetty rocks: these are just some of the many fine fishes that are at home in Oregon's nearshore ocean and estuaries. With some simple, inexpensive gear and a little knowledge, anglers of all ages can enjoy a day of marine fishing. Most marine fish are delicious to eat and easy to prepare.

This brochure includes information about fishing techniques, commonly caught species, and shore and boat access areas. More information can be obtained from fishing supply retailers, charter fishing operators, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Opportunities for youngsters to learn to fish are available through the Oregon Angler Education Program, offered through local offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State University Extension/4-H Program.

It is important for anglers to read the current issue of Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations and to check for seasonal regulation changes before fishing. With few exceptions, persons 14 years or older must have an Oregon angling license to take fish for personal use. A separate shellfish license is required to take shellfish. All anglers, regardless of age, need the proper tag to fish for salmon-steelhead, shrimp and Pacific halibut. License details are available in the current edition of the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations or by calling the Licensing Department in Salem at (503) 947-4015.

**SAFETY**

Whether you're afloat or ashore, be aware of changing tides, bar conditions and weather.

- **Use a life jacket when boating.**
- **Call the U.S. Coast Guard when unsure about weather or crossing an unfamiliar bar.** Bars can be deceptive and very dangerous!
- **Be aware of your footing and the stability of rocks when fishing from jetty.**
- **Watch for large-than-usual (sneaker) waves when fishing from beaches or rocks.**
- **Stay clear of large logs in the surf.**
- **Don't let your chest waders fill with water when surf fishing.**

**Free Fishing Weekend**

**Take a friend fishing on this weekend in June**

**GROUND FISH**

**Feisty lingcod along rugged shore, lively surf perch along ocean beaches and fat rockfish among jetty rocks**

**What Might Bite?**

**Rockfish**

- **“bullhead”**
- **“rock en”**

Ranging in color from black to orange or red, more than two dozen species of rockfish are found along the Oregon coast. The species are slightly venomous, so avoid them if possible. Many rockfish species are full at about 18 inches (45 cm).

**Fish Facts:** Rockfish have live young (rather than laying eggs like most flatfish). Some species, such as black rockfish, bury out in schools while others are solitary. Individuals of some species can live more than 200 years.

**Technique:** Use the fish-finder rig (see diagram inside).

**Cabezon**

- **“bullHead”**

This is a red, brown or green mottled member of the sculpin family with smooth, skinless skin. Damaged ugly by some, cabezon are nonetheless very tasty. Avoid eating the eggs and liver because they are poisonous. Cabezon can grow to over 2 feet (61 cm).

**Fish Facts:** Like lingcod and greenling, the male cabezon guards the eggs after the female departs them.

**Technique:** Use the fish-finder rig (see diagram inside). Cabezon live around kelp beds and rocky headlands over hard bottoms.

**Greenling**

- **“sea trout”**

Female kelp greenling are light gray or brown with orange speckled and yellow fins, while males are brown with black spots and black fins. Rock greenling are brown (often with red spots) with a blue mouth. Both species grow to about 2 feet (61 cm).

**Fish Fact:** Most fishes have just one lateral line along each side to detect movement, but kelp and rock greenlings have five.

**Technique:** These fish have small mouths, so use a #4 to #6 hook to catch these daytime feeders.

**Lingcod**

- **“ling”**

Lingcod have large mouths and large, sharp teeth. They are generally mottled gray or brown, sometimes green or blue. A green-colored “ling” should not be confused with a greenling (see below). Lingcod may reach lengths of 6 feet (1.8 m), although those caught in Oregon average between 2 and 3 feet (60-90 cm).

**Fish Fact:** Lingcod are about 1 foot long by their first birthday and 18 inches (45 cm) longer by age 5.

**Technique:** Bait small bait along the bottom with 5/0 or 6/0 hooks, a 4- to 6-inch stinger, and 20-pound line on a stout rod. Alternatively, try using live bait.

**Pacific halibut**

- **“halibut”**

Sometimes weighing up to 100 pounds (45 kg) in Oregon, Pacific halibut are the heftiest of the flatfishes. They attain to dark brown (often with marbling or spots) on the upper side and white underneath.

**Fish Fact:** The generic name (Hippoglossus) is from the Greek for “horse tongue.”

**Technique:** Use smaller sizes for halibut on or near bottom in water 130-500 feet deep. Halibut are enticed by large herring, jigs, shrimp or herring flies detached on wire or very heavy monofilament leaders.

**See current regulations for seasons and restrictions.**
Which Fish Live Where?

Rocks and Jetties
For the shore angler, rocks and jetties are the best places to fish year-round for groundfish such as rockfish, lingcod, greenling, and cabezon. Surf perch also inhabit these areas year-round. While chasing schools of baitfish or retiring into rivers to spawn, salmon are occasionally found near jetties.

Ocean Beaches
Most anglers on the beach target redsurf surf perch, primarily during the summer months. However, the fish are present year-round and available to hardy winter anglers. On some beaches, anglers use dip or cast nets to catch surf smelt when they congregate to spawn in the spring or summer.

Bays and Estuaries
Both boat and shore anglers have access to a variety of fishes living in bays, estuaries and tidal waters. Many species of surf perch live around rocks, docks and piling year-round. Herring are jigged from docks and piers in the winter. Seabirds can be found in channels and deep holes of upper bays and estuaries in the winter and spring.

Salmon pass through bays and estuaries on their way to spawn; in freshwater in the summer or fall.

Nearshore
Boat anglers target lingcod, cabezon, greenling, and many species of rockfish living among reefs at depths of 50-200 feet. Flatfish, including Pacific halibut, live nearby on flat areas of the ocean floor. Fish are found at these locations year-round; however, angler access depends on the weather and safe boating conditions.

Offshore
Expansive towers and charter boat anglers can reach deeper Pacific halibut grounds and the offshore reefs that are home to rockfish at depths of 300-700 feet. Rocks and pinacles can be seen on navigational charts, or anglers can ask local retailers and charter operators for popular areas. Warm water temperatures in the summer may bring albacore near our coast.

What Rigs Work?

Different rigs and baits may work better at particular places and times of year, so ask at a local bait or tackle shop for up-to-date fishing information.

Bottomfish-Finder Rig

- Let the rig sink to the bottom.
- Raise your rod about 12 inches, reel in the slack line, then allow the rig to sink again.
- Repeat until you have a bite.
- Rigs include sand and ghost shrimp, pile worms, herring and squid.

Main line: Use 15- to 20-pound from jetties and rocks, 20-pound for lingcod and 15- to 30-pound from ocean types. Leader and dropper lines: 2- to 4-pounds lighter than main line. Hooks: #1 to #6, snelled boat holder hooks. Sinker: 1- to 3-ounces. Attach waders and dropper lines with 3-way weelks.

Redtail Surfperch Surf-Fishing Rig

- Look for places where the beach drops off steeply or where freshwater enters the ocean.
- Best fishing is in spring and summer.
- At high tide, redtails are closer to shore so you will not need to cast far.
- Rigs include sand and herring, worms, sand shrimp, clam and mussels.


Fisherman’s Knot (or improved clinch knot)

- leisure
- Pulled tight

LSH

NEED: Be part of the solution to Oregon’s fishing future.

Tagged Fish

Subspecies are entangled in discarded fishing lines, turtle snares in plastic bags, boat propellers become tangled in debris, and the landscape is degraded by empty cans and styrofoam battens. Consideration for others and the environment should always be a part of any outdoor activity. PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN... PLUS A LITTLE EXTRA.

Conservation

As the human population grows, pressure on fish populations increases. People want more fish to eat, more opportunities to fish, and more land and water for development. Fishing regulations are designed to protect our fisheries while providing enjoyable and food for humans. But regulations often aren’t enough – this is where you can help. TAKE ONLY THE FISH YOU NEED. Be part of the solution to Oregon’s fishing future.