THE PROBLEM
Some rockfish species, such as canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish, are estimated to be at only a fraction of their historical abundance. To allow populations to recover, regulations such as bag limits are put into place. Regulations often refer to specific fish species, but some species can be confused with others.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
By knowing how to identify your catch, you are better able to comply with regulations, avoid areas where species of concern are found, and confidently retain species that are legal to keep. For example, you need not feel compelled to throw back all “red fish” out of fear of keeping the “wrong” (prohibited) “red fish.”

You can also help assure successful management of the sport fishery by accurately identifying and reporting your released catch when asked by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff.

BOCACCIO
Brownish to red on back and silvery red or pink on sides. Mouth large and turned upward. (A similar species, SILVERGRAY ROCKFISH, has a similar body shape, but its back is gray and its belly is white.)

REDDSTRIPE ROCKFISH
Body light red; upper back mottled with dusky olive. A gray zone, bordered by red, on lateral line. Dusky lips with knob on lower lip. Fins mostly reddish.
These are not ALL the red rockfish species you might run into, but they are the most likely.

**CANARY ROCKFISH**
Orange with gray or dusky mottling on sides and a light gray zone on lateral line. Fins bright orange. Tail forked with distinct tips.

**COPPER ROCKFISH**
Color varies from olive brown to copper on sides with pink or yellow patches, fading to white on belly. Fins coppery. Long dorsal fin spines; membrane between spines deeply notched. Light zone along lateral line. Tail rounded with no distinct tips.

**YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH (adult)**
Deep orange to orange red on back, fading to light orange or yellow on belly. Smaller individuals may have one or two pale stripes near lateral line. Fins pinkish, commonly with black edges. Very rough pair of ridges on head above eye. Eye is bright yellow. Tail rounded with no distinct tips.

**VERMILION ROCKFISH**
Deep orange to red, lightly mottled with gray on sides. Red fins may have dark edges in smaller individuals. Rough scales under lower jaw. Tail moderately forked with rounded tips.

**ROSETHORN ROCKFISH**
Pink with greenish yellow body and 4-5 white or pink blotches on back. Fins pinkish with yellow and green. (A similar species, ROSY ROCKFISH, has similar spots and a purplish body.)

**GREENSTRIPED ROCKFISH**
Pinkish body with 3-4 irregular green stripes. Tail with green stripes.

The eyes of any of these species may be puffed out of the head (see images above and below) or not when landed.