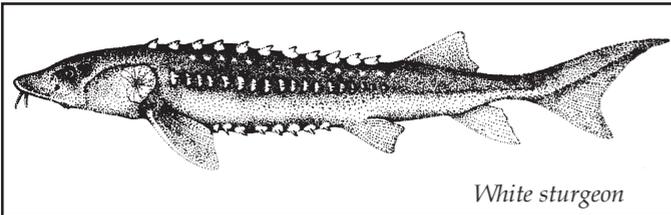


## ANADROMOUS FISHES

Anadromous fishes are those that migrate from the ocean into fresh-water to spawn.

### Sturgeon



White sturgeon

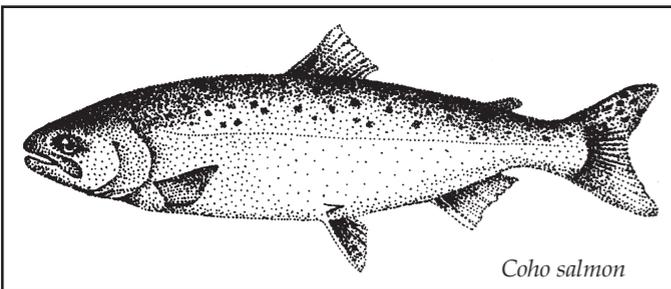
Both *green* and the larger *white sturgeon* are found in Oregon waters. Green sturgeon are illegal to retain (at the time of printing). Historical records list one white sturgeon tipping the scales at 1,500 pounds (680 kg) and measuring 20 feet (610 cm). Those caught in Oregon, however, usually measure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

**Fish Fact:** Sturgeon may live to be over 100 years old and spawn only once every 2 to 8 years.

**Technique:** Both boat and shore anglers use shrimp, smelt or herring with a 6/0 or 7/0 hook, a 2- to 8-ounce sliding sinker, and 30- to 40-pound line. Sturgeon dwell on the bottom of deep holes in upper bays. When handling a sturgeon, be careful for the sharp scutes (bony plates) along the sides.

See current regulations for size and other restrictions

### Salmon



Coho salmon

Salmon anglers should know how to distinguish between a *chinook* (king) and a *coho* (silver). See the **Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations** for help. *Steelhead* and sea-run *cutthroat trout* are occasionally taken in saltwater.

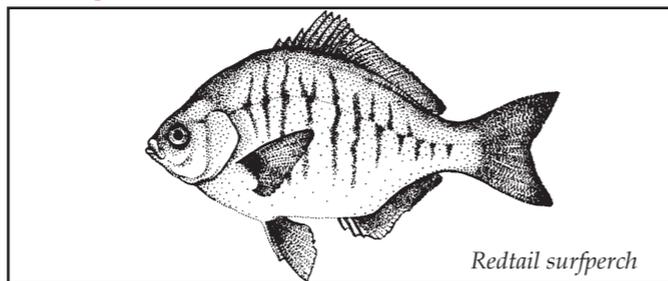
**Fish Fact:** Pacific salmon such as chinook and coho die after spawning, but steelhead and sea-run trout often do not.

**Technique:** Shore and boat anglers use spinners or bait in autumn; offshore anglers troll or mooch in summer. Ocean *coho* generally stay in the upper layers of water, while *chinook* are deeper and are caught with larger plugs (≥6 inches), herring, spoons, spinners, or metal jigs. Angling for salmon is restricted due to reduced populations of some runs.

See current regulations for size and other restrictions

## OTHER MARINE FISHES

### Surfperch



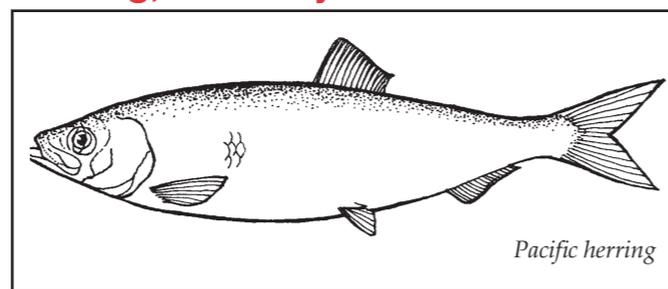
Redtail surfperch

Surfperch are disc-shaped and come in a variety of colors. *Redtail* and *silver surfperch* are found mostly in the surf. *Striped sea-perch*, *pile perch*, *white seaperch*, and *shiner 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.

**Techniques:** Some anglers use a #4 to #6 hook secured 24-30 inches below a 1- to 2-ounce sinker on 8- to 10-pound line; others use a fish-finder rig (see diagram inside). Baits include sand and kelp worms, sand shrimp, clam necks, and mussels. Keep the line close to rocks or alongside pilings. Fishing for *redtails* in the surf requires a surf-fishing rig (see diagram inside).

### Herring, Anchovy and Sardine



Pacific herring

These blue-green, silvery or light brown fish are an important food source for larger fishes, sea birds and marine mammals. People, too, enjoy such treats as anchovy pizza, pickled herring and herring roe. Anchovies may grow to 9 inches (23 cm), herring to 18 inches (46 cm).

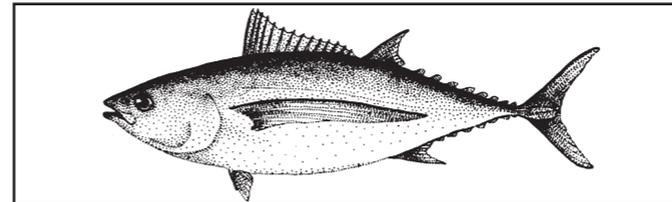
**Fish Fact:** Pacific herring "earbones" have been found in deposits more than 3 million years old.

**Techniques:** These are schooling fish, commonly caught during spawning seasons. *Pacific herring*, *Northern anchovy*, and *sardine* are caught in bays with multiple-hook herring jigs.

Did you know? Smelt and salmon have a small, fleshy adipose fin between the tail and back (dorsal) fin.

## OFFSHORE

### Albacore



These fish have dark blue backs and very long pectoral (side) fins. The meat – whitest of all the tunas – is excellent whether barbecued, canned or smoked. Albacore caught off the Pacific Coast are generally 21-30 inches (53-76 cm).

**Fish Fact:** Albacore may cover 50 miles (93 km) or more per day, and they are thought to be the fastest swimming tunas in the world. **Technique:** Albacore generally show up 15-200+ miles (28-370+ km) off the Pacific Coast during the summer. Anglers use live bait or metalhead plastic or feather jigs trolled at 5 knots or faster. "Hand line" is often used instead of a rod and reel. Some charter boats make albacore trips when the fish are within range.

Illustrations by Ann Caudle from *Pacific Coast Fish* © Nature Study Guide, 1990. Used by permission. *Nature Study Guild Publishers*, PO Box 10489, Rochester, NY 14610.

#### For Further Information

Visit the ODFW Marine Resources Program online at [www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP). There you will find information about recreational fish and shellfish opportunities. You may also contact the ODFW Marine Resources Program by phone or in person. Consult your local library or bookstore for fish identification guides and books on marine fishing. The "Oregon Boating Facilities Guide" is available free from the State Marine Board in Salem.

#### References

Eschmeyer, W. N., E. S. Herald, H. Hamman. *Pacific Coast Fishes*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1983.  
*Field Guide to Common Marine and Bay Fishes of Oregon*. Oregon State University Extension Service, 1984.  
Love, R. M. *Probably More Than You Want to Know About the Fishes of the Pacific Coast*. Really Big Press, Santa Barbara, 1991.  
Olander, D. *Northwest Coastal Fishing Guide*. Frank Amato Publications, Portland, 1991.

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Marine Resources Program  
2040 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365  
Telephone (541) 867-4741  
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Contains Recycled Materials

# NORTH

Columbia River to Nestucca Bay

# MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING in Oregon

• Area Map Inside •



Marine Resources Program



**Feisty lingcod** along rugged shore, lively surfperch 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 inseason 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, sturgeon 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) 947-6101.

## SAFETY



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

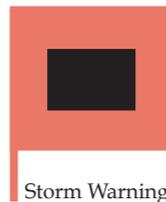
- Use a life jacket when boating.
- Call the U.S. Coast Guard when unsure about weather or crossing an unfamiliar bar. Bars can be deceptive and very dangerous!
- Be sure of your footing and the stability of rocks when fishing from jetties.
- Watch for larger-than-usual (sneaker) waves when fishing from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



Small Craft Warning (Red Flag)



Gale Warning (Red Flag)



Storm Warning (Red Flag with Black Square)

**Free Fishing Weekend**

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

## What Might Bite?

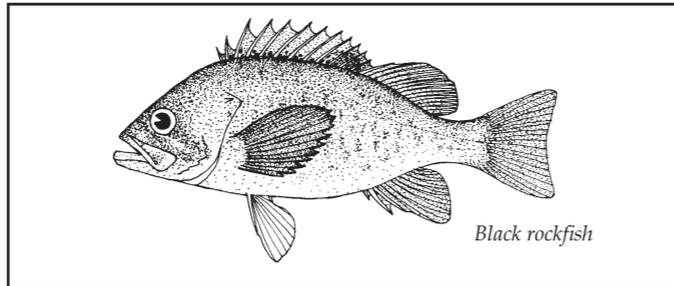
**GROUND FISH GROUND FISH**

"Groundfish" and "bottomfish" are terms used for fishes found mostly around rocky headlands, jetties, nearshore reefs, and offshore pinnacles. The group includes rockfish, lingcod, greenling, cabezon and flatfish. All of the groundfish described below are excellent to eat. The meat of lingcod, greenling and cabezon may be blue or green, but it turns white when cooked and is harmless.

**General Technique:** See the diagram of a "bottomfish fish-finder rig" inside. Groundfish are enticed by fresh bait such as sand or ghost shrimp, marine worms, squid or herring. Rockfish and lingcod are also attracted to leadhead jigs with rubber worms and other lures. From rocks and jetties, groundfish are often caught during incoming tides. Most groundfish do not venture far from cover, so resist the urge to make long casts away from rocks and jetties unless you are angling for flatfish. Check your line often for frays caused by contact with rocks. Retention of some of these species may be prohibited. **Check current regulations (including any made inseason) for size, depth and daily bag limits.**

### Rockfish

"sea bass," "rock cod"



Black rockfish

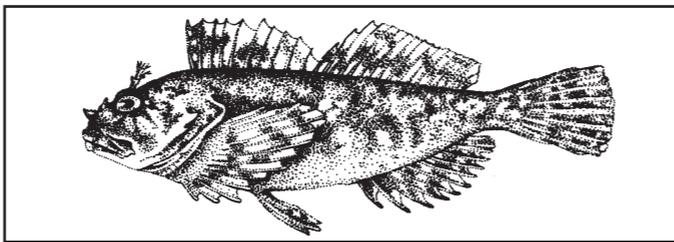
Ranging in color from black to orange or red, more than two dozen species of rockfish are found along the Oregon coast. The spines are slightly venomous, so avoid poking yourself. Many rockfish species are full-size at about 16 inches (41 cm).

**Fish Facts:** Rockfish bear live young (rather than lay eggs like most fishes). Some species, such as *black rockfish*, hang out in schools while others are solitary. Individuals of some species can live more than 100 years.

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

### Cabezon

"bullhead"



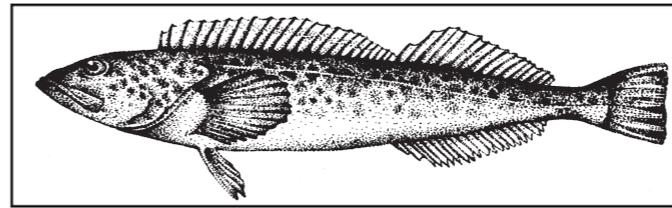
This is a red, brown or green mottled member of the sculpin family with smooth, scaleless skin. Deemed ugly by some, *cabezon* are nonetheless very tasty. Avoid eating the eggs and liver because they are poisonous. Cabezon can grow to over 2 feet (61 cm).

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

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

### Lingcod

"ling"



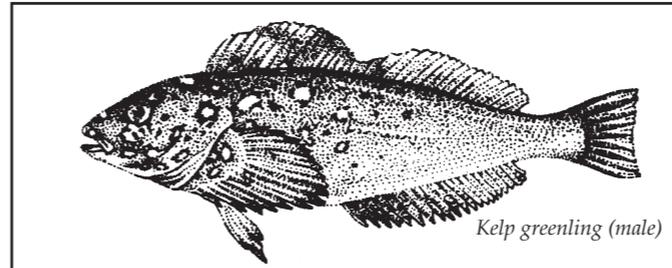
Lingcod have large mouths and large, sharp teeth. They are generally mottled gray or brown, sometimes green or blue. A green-colored "ling" should not be confused with a *greenling* (see below). Lingcod may reach lengths of 5 feet (152 cm), although those caught in Oregon average between 2 and 3 feet (61-91 cm).

**Fish Fact:** Lingcod are about 1 foot long by their first birthday and about 3 feet long when 7-10 years old.

**Technique:** Bounce some bait along the bottom with 5/0 or 6/0 hooks, a 4- to 6-ounce sinker, and 20-pound line on a stout rod. Alternatively, try using live bait.

### Greenling

"sea trout"



Kelp greenling (male)

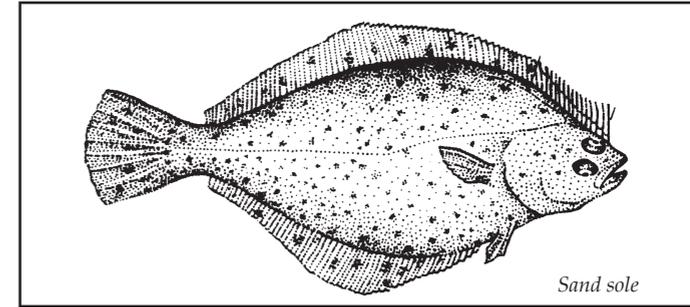
Female *kelp greenling* are light gray or brown with orange speckling and yellow fins, while males are brown with blue spots and black fins. *Rock greenling* are dark brown (often with red spots) with a blue mouth. Both species grow to about 2 feet (61 cm).

**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 try a #4 to #6 hook to catch these daytime feeders.

### Flatfish

soles, flounders and sanddabs



Sand sole

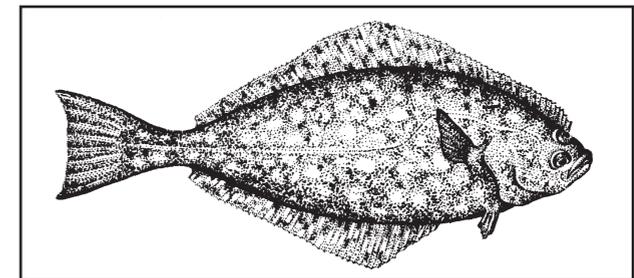
Flatfishes are dark on the upper side, lighter underneath, and (as one might guess) they are flat. *Rock sole*, *petrale sole* and *Pacific sanddab* are a few of the flatfish species caught in Oregon by offshore anglers. Shore and nearshore boat anglers catch *sand sole* over sandy bottoms near the mouth of bays and *starry flounder* in estuaries. Except for *Pacific halibut* (see below) most flatfishes reach lengths of 1-2 feet (30-61 cm).

**Fish Fact:** Flatfishes begin life looking "normal" (with one eye on each side of the head) and swimming upright in the water. Later, they settle to the bottom and flop over to one side. The eye on the bottom side then migrates to the upper side.

**Technique:** Drift a small jig or bait (such as shrimp, marine worm or mussel) with #2 hooks, a 2-ounce sinker, and 10- to 15-pound line over sandy or muddy bottom.

Pacific halibut is NOT managed as a groundfish species.

### Pacific Halibut



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

**Fish Fact:** The genus name (*Hippoglossus*) is from the Greek for "horse tongue."

**Technique:** Boat anglers use heavy rods to fish on or near gravel bottoms in water 150-500+ feet deep. Halibut are enticed by large herring, jigs, spoons or shrimp flies deployed 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**. **Surfperch** also inhabit these areas year-round. While chasing schools of baitfish or migrating into rivers to spawn, **salmon** are occasionally found near jetties.

## Ocean Beaches

Most anglers on the beach target **redtail surfperch**, 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 shore and boat anglers have access to a variety of fishes living in bays, estuaries and tidal waters. Many species of **surfperch** live around rocks, docks and pilings year-round. **Herring** are jigged from docks and piers in the winter. **Sturgeon** 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

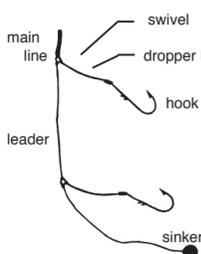
Experienced boaters and charter boat anglers can reach deeper **Pacific halibut** grounds and the offshore reefs that are home to **rockfish** at depths of 300-700 feet. Reefs and pinnacles can be seen on navigational charts, or anglers can ask local retailers and charter operators for popular areas.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

Groundfish, halibut, and ocean salmon seasons and regulations are subject to inseason change on short notice. Anglers should check status immediately prior to fishing.

# 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 Fish-Finder Rig



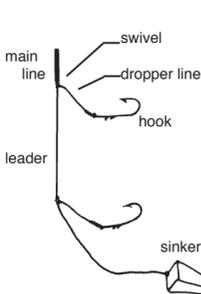
- Let the rig sink to the bottom.
- Raise your rod about 12 inches, reel in the slack line, then allow the rig to sink again.
- Repeat until you have a bite.
- Baits include sand and ghost shrimp, pile worms, herring and squid.

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



- OR-**
- Try a 1/4- to 1-ounce leadhead jig with rubber worm. Drop it to the bottom, then slowly retrieve.

## 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, redbails are closer to shore so you will not need to cast far.
- Baits include sand and kelp worms, sand shrimp, clam necks and mussels.
- Some anglers attach a piece of colorful yarn to each hook.

Main line: Use 10- to 20-pound line.  
 Leaders: 24 inches.  
 Dropper lines: 8 to 12 inches.  
 Hooks: #2 to #4 snelled bait holder hooks.  
 Sinker: 1- to 6-ounce pyramid.  
 Attach leaders and dropper lines with 3-way swivels.

## Fisherman's Knot (or improved clinch knot)

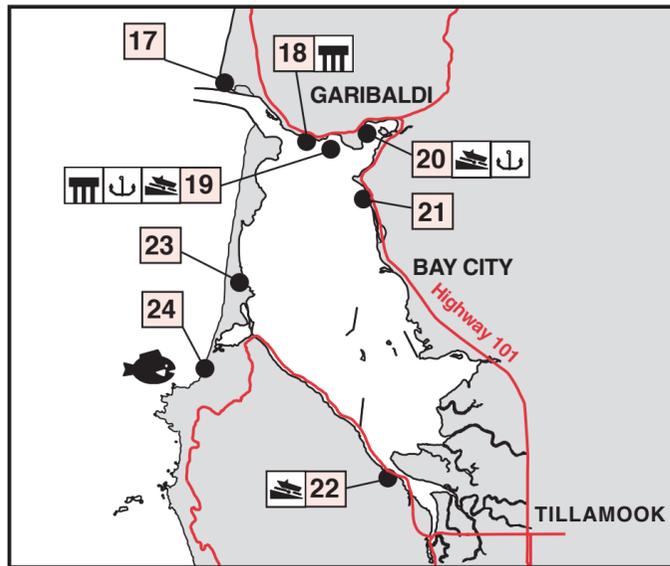


Map Location	North Coast Angling Access Areas										Shore Angling		Boat Angling	
	Rocks or Jetty	Ocean Beach	Fishing Pier or Dock	Day Use Fee	Launch Type	Launch Fee	Moorage	Rental Boats	Charter Office	Bait & Tackle	Fish Cleaning Station	Rest Rooms	RV Hook-ups	
<b>COLUMBIA RIVER</b>														
1														
2					P									
Fort Stevens State Park:														
3														
4					B									
5					P									
6					P									
<b>NECANICUM RIVER</b>														
7														
<b>OCEAN</b>														
8														
9					B									
10														
<b>NEHALEM BAY</b>														
11					P *									
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14					P									
15														
<b>OCEAN</b>														
16														
<b>TILLAMOOK BAY</b>														
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<b>OCEAN</b>														
24														
25														
<b>NETARTS BAY</b>														
26					P									
<b>SAND LAKE</b>														
27					G									
<b>OCEAN</b>														
28					B									
<b>NESTUCCA BAY</b>														
29					P									
30					G									
<b>LITTLE NESTUCCA RIVER</b>														
31					G									

**A** = Approachable  
 Structures are relatively flat with a hard surface and should be manageable by most people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. These structures have not been determined to comply with the existing Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines 2004, Section 1005 - Fishing Piers and Platforms.

**Launch Type:**  
**P** = Paved Boat Ramp  
**G** = Gravel Boat Ramp  
**B** = Beach Launch  
**\*** = Launch fee included in day use fee

## Tillamook Bay



## LITTER

Seabirds are entangled in discarded fishing line, turtles suffocate in plastic bags, boat propellers become tangled in debris, and the landscape is degraded by empty cans and Styrofoam bait cups. 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.

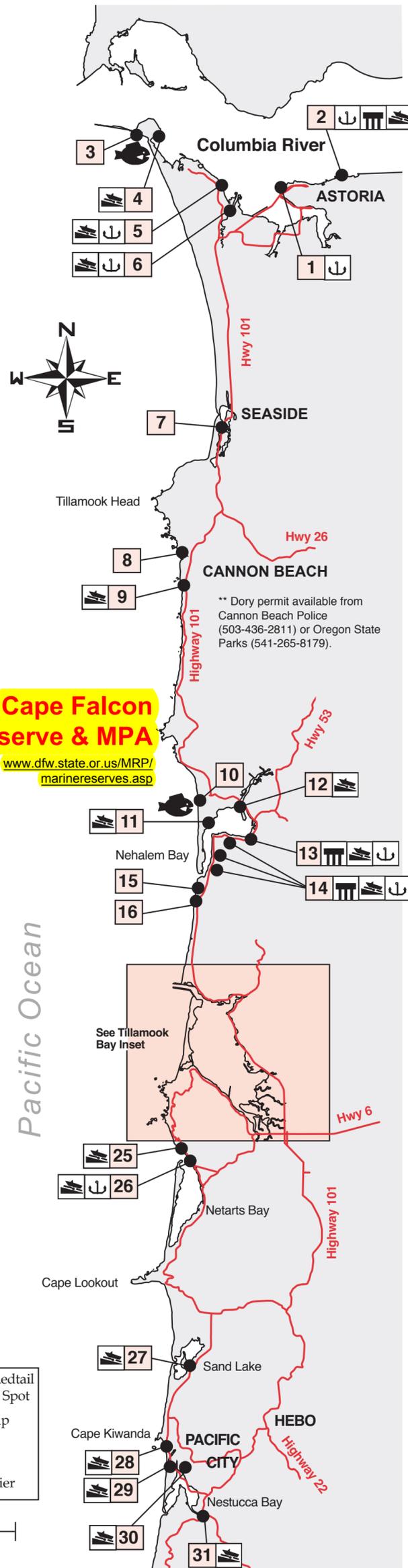
## TAGGED FISH

Tag recoveries provide biologists with valuable information about the distribution, migratory patterns, and growth of fish. Look at your catch carefully: tags may be tubular or flat and any color. If you catch a tagged fish, record the tag number and color; the date, location and depth of capture; and, if possible, the length of the fish. For further instructions, contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at (541) 867-4741.

## 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 fish populations while providing enjoyment 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.

Treat Oregon's waters, shores, public facilities, fellow anglers, and your fish resources with care. Ask permission before entering or crossing private land. Be a RESPONSIBLE ANGLER.



## Cape Falcon Marine Reserve & MPA

[www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/marinereserves.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/marinereserves.asp)

\*\* Dory permit available from Cannon Beach Police (503-436-2811) or Oregon State Parks (541-265-8179).

- Popular Redtail Surfperch Spot
- Boat Ramp
- Moorage
- Fishing Pier

5 miles

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, sturgeon 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) 947-6101.