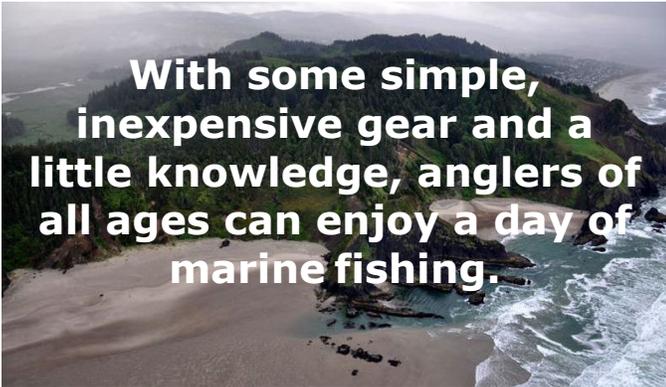




# Oregon marine shore fishing

## Opportunities from beach, pier and jetty



### Rockfish (a.k.a. sea bass or rock cod)



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 covered in venom and bacteria, so avoid poking yourself. Many rockfish species are full-size at about 16 inches.

**Fish facts:** Rather than lay eggs like most fishes, rockfish bear live young. 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 bottomfish fish-finder rig.

## What might bite?

### BOTTOMFISH

“Bottomfish” and “groundfish” are terms used for fishes found mostly around rocky headlands, jetties, nearshore reefs and offshore pinnacles. It includes rockfish, lingcod, greenling, cabezon and flatfish. All of the bottomfish described here 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 (pg. 5). Bottomfish are enticed by fresh bait such as sand/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, bottomfish are often caught during incoming tides. Most bottomfish do not venture far from cover, so resist the urge to make long casts away from rocks and jetties unless you are fishing 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.**

### REGULATIONS

Be sure to check for inseason regulation changes before fishing. Inseason changes can be found on [MyODFW.com](http://MyODFW.com) or by calling your local ODFW office. Persons 12 years or older must have an Oregon angling license and all anglers, regardless of age, need a combined angling tag to fish for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or Pacific halibut.

### Lingcod (a.k.a. ling)

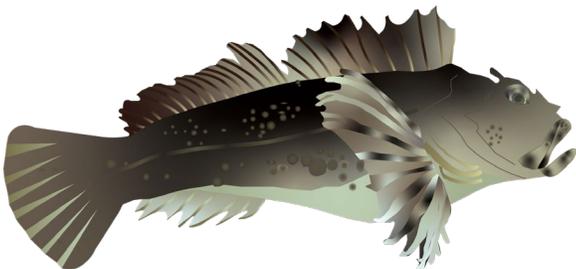


Lingcod have large mouths and large, sharp teeth. They are generally mottled gray or brown, sometimes with green or blue. A green-colored "ling" should not be confused with a greenling. Lingcod may reach lengths of 5 feet, although those caught in Oregon average between 2 to 3 feet.

**Fish fact:** Lingcod are about 1 foot long by their first birthday and about 3 feet long when 10 to 12 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.

### Cabezon (a.k.a. bullhead)

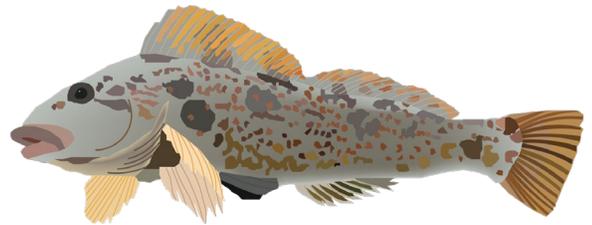


This is a red, brown, or green mottled member of the sculpin family with smooth, scaleless skin. Deemed ugly by some, cabezon are nonetheless very tasty. However, avoid eating the eggs and liver since they are poisonous to humans. Cabezon can grow to over 2 feet.

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

**Technique:** Use the bottomfish fish-finder rig. Cabezon live around kelp beds and rocky headlands over hard bottoms.

### Greenling (a.k.a. sea trout)



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 can grow to about 2 feet.

**Fish fact:** Most fishes have just one lateral line along each side of their body 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 (a.k.a. soles, flounders, and sanddabs)



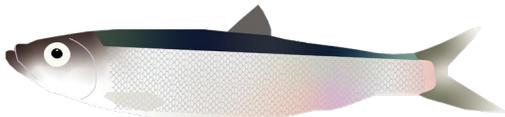
Flatfish are dark on the upper side, lighter underneath and, as one might guess, they are flat. Shore anglers can catch sand sole and English sole over sandy bottoms near the mouth of bays and starry flounder in estuaries. Many flatfish reach lengths of 1 to 2 feet.

**Fish fact:** Flatfish begin life with one eye on each side of the head and they swim upright in the water, like other fish. Later, they settle to the bottom onto one side. The eye on the bottom gradually migrates to the upper side.

**Technique:** Try 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.

## OTHER MARINE FISHES

### Herring, anchovy and sardine



These typically blue-green and silvery fish are an important food source for larger fishes, sea birds and marine mammals. People also enjoy such treats as anchovy pizza, pickled herring and herring roe. Anchovies may grow to 9 inches and herring to 18 inches.

**Fish fact:** Pacific herring otoliths (ear bones) have been found in deposits more than 3 million years old.

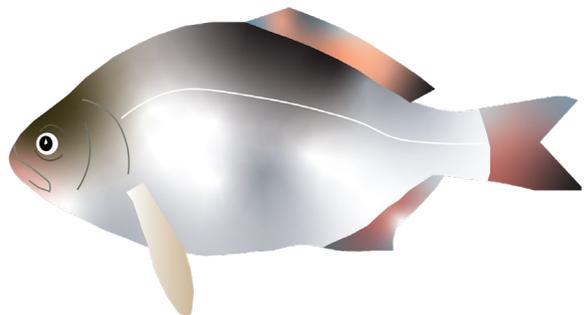
**Techniques:** These are schooling fish, commonly caught during spawning seasons. Pacific herring, northern anchovy and sardine are caught in bays with multiple-hook herring jigs.

## SAFETY

**Be aware of changing tides and weather.**

- 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 or near the surf. Every year in Oregon people are killed by logs.
- Don't let your chest waders fill with water when surf fishing.

### Surfperch



Surfperch are disc-shaped and come in a variety of colors. Redtail surfperch and silver surfperch are found mostly in the surf. Striped seaperch, pile perch, white seaperch and shiner surfperch all live near rocks, docks or pilings in bays. "Shiners" are full-size at 5 inches, other species at 12 to 18 inches.

**Fish fact:** Surfperch live in large schools and bear live young up to 2 inches long.

**Techniques:** Some anglers use a #4 to #6 hook secured 24 to 30 inches below a 1- to 2-ounce sinker on 8- to 10-pound line. Other anglers use a bottomfish fish-finder rig. Baits can be both real and artificial and include sand and kelp worms, sand shrimp, clam necks and mussels. Keep the line close to rocks or alongside pilings, places favored by surfperch. Fishing for "redtails" in the surf requires a surfperch surf-fishing rig (pg. 6).



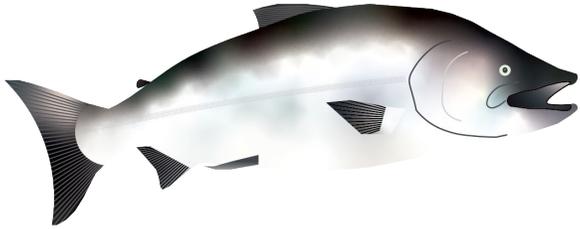
## LITTER

Seabirds are entangled in discarded fishing line, turtles suffocate while trying to swallow 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.**

## ANADROMOUS FISHES

Anadromous fishes are those that migrate from the ocean into freshwater to spawn.

### Salmon



Salmon anglers should know how to distinguish between a Chinook (king) and a coho (silver) salmon. Steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout are also occasionally taken in saltwater.

**Fish fact:** Pacific salmon such as Chinook and coho die after spawning, but steelhead and sea-run trout can live to spawn again another year.

**Technique:** Shore anglers use spinners or bait in autumn. Chinook are usually caught with larger plugs, herring, spoons, spinners, or metal jigs and coho are primarily targeted using spinners and spoons inside the estuaries.



### 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.

### Sturgeon



Both green sturgeon and white sturgeon are found in Oregon. In most areas, retention of sturgeon is not allowed, but anglers can try their hand at catch-and-release. Historical records list one white sturgeon tipping the scales at 1,500 pounds and measuring 20 feet. Those caught in Oregon, however, usually measure less than 12 feet.

**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 single 6/0 or 7/0 barbless 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. Release the fish immediately if retention is not allowed.



### 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. Recreate responsibly and **TAKE ONLY THE FISH YOU NEED.** Help protect the resources for future generations.

## Which fish live where?

### BAYS AND ESTUARIES

Shore anglers have access to a variety of fishes living in bays, estuaries, and tidal waters. Rocks and jetties are the best places to fish year-round for bottomfish such as **rockfish, lingcod, greenling** and **cabezon**. 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.

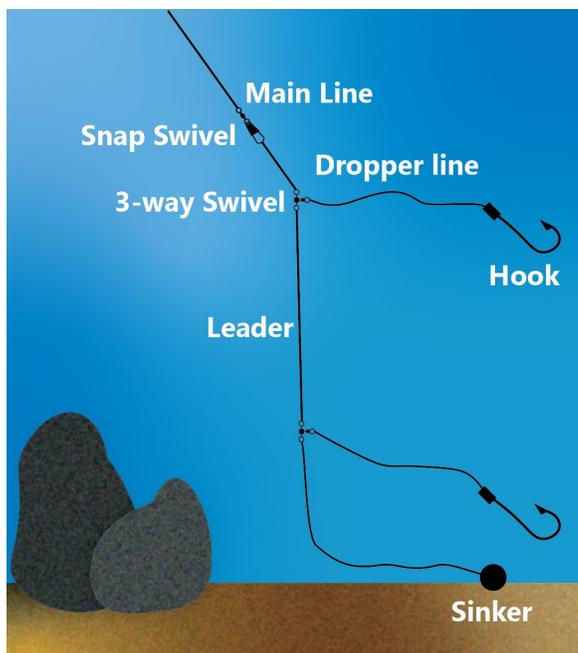
### OCEAN BEACHES

Most anglers on the beach target **redtail surfperch**, primarily during the spring and summer months. However, the fish are present year-round and available to hardy winter anglers.

## What rigs work?

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

### BOTTOMFISH FISH-FINDER RIG



**Main line:** Use 15- to 20-pound line from jetties and rocks

**Leader and dropper lines:** These should be 2 to 4 pounds lighter than the main line and attached with 3-way swivels

**Hooks:** #1 to #6 snelled baitholder hooks

**Sinker:** ½- to 6-ounce depending on the current

**Bait:** Sand/ghost shrimp, pile worms, herring or squid

**Snap swivel:** Optional; for the ability to easily change gear

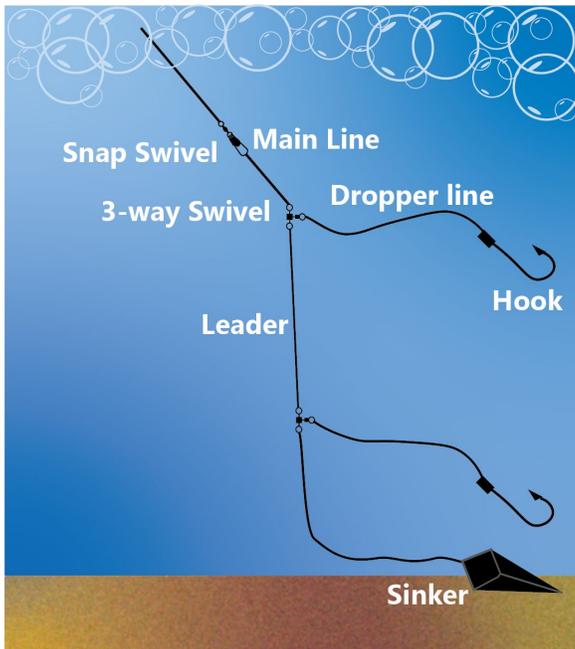
#### How to use:

1. Let the rig sink to the bottom.
2. Raise your rod about 12 inches, reel in the slack line, then allow the rig to sink again.
3. Repeat until you have a bite. Make sure to periodically check your bait.

A variation, in place of a sinker and snelled baitholders, is to use a ¼- to 1-ounce leadhead jig with a rubber worm or rubber minnow. Drop it to the bottom then slowly retrieve.



## REDTAIL SURFPERCH SURF-FISHING RIG



**Main line:** Use 10- to 20-pound line

**Leaders:** 24 inches

**Dropper lines:** 8 to 12 inches, attached with 3-way swivels

**Hooks:** #2 to #4 snelled bait holder hooks

**Sinker:** 1- to 6-ounce pyramid or long tailed Sputnik sinker

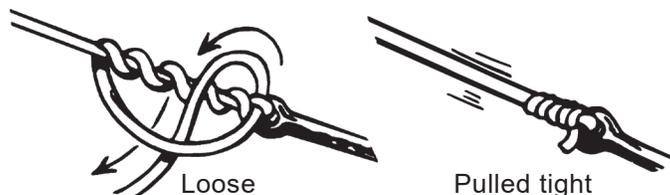
**Bait:** Sand or kelp worms, sand shrimp, clam necks or mussels. Some anglers attach a piece of colorful yarn to each hook.

**Snap swivel:** Optional; for the ability to easily change gear

### Tips:

- Look for places where the beach drops off steeply or where freshwater enters the ocean.
- The best fishing is in spring and summer.
- At high tide, redbtail surfperch are closer to shore so you will not need to cast far.

## FISHERMANS KNOT (a.k.a. improved clinch knot)



### For Further Information:

Visit [MyODFW.com](http://MyODFW.com). There you will find information about recreational fish and shellfish opportunities. You may also contact the ODFW Marine Resources Program by phone at (541) 867-4741 or in person. Consult your local library or bookstore for fish identification guides and books on marine fishing. For more information about boating, visit the Oregon Marine Board online at [Oregon.gov/OSMB](http://Oregon.gov/OSMB) or call them at (503) 378-8587.

### 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.

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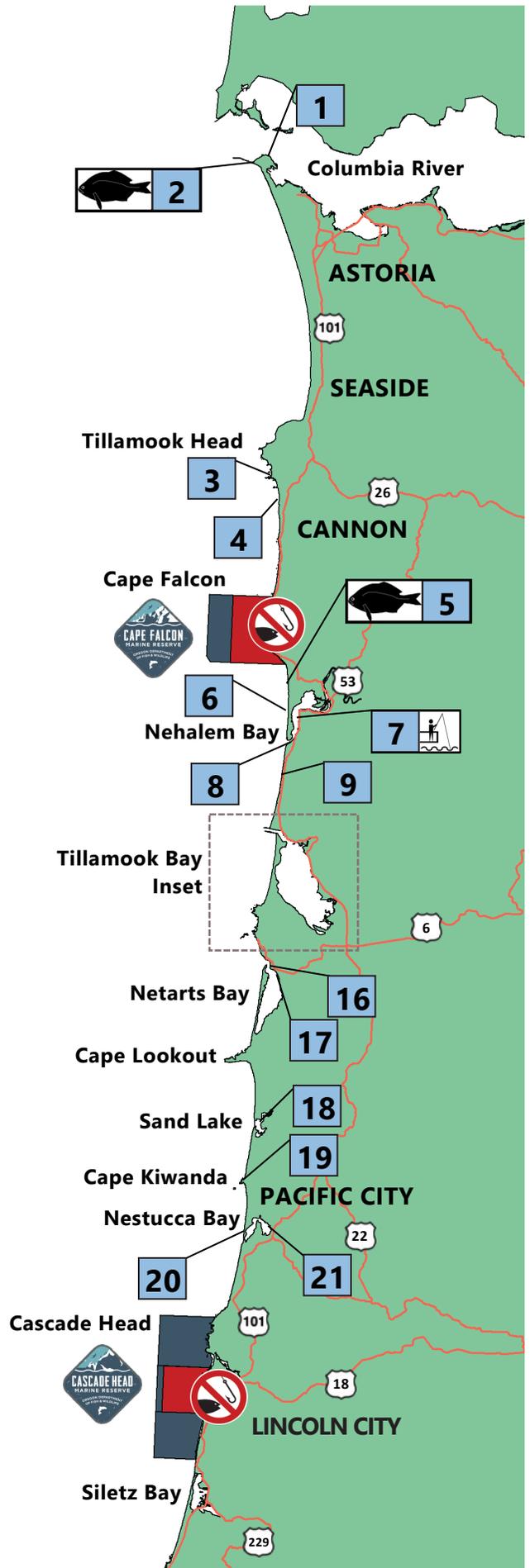
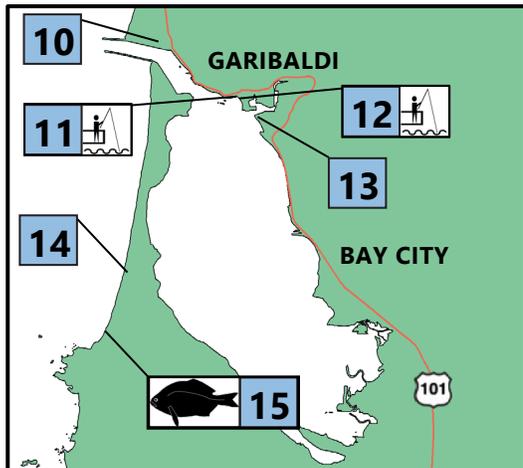
Map location	North Coast fishing access areas		
		Rocks or jetty	Ocean beach
1	South Jetty, Fort Stevens SP Parking Area D	●	
2	South Jetty, Fort Stevens SP Parking Area C	●	●
3	Ecola State Park	●	●
4	Cannon Beach		●
5	Manzanita Beach		●
6	Nehalem Bay State Park	●	●
7	Wheeler Boat Ramp		●
8	Nehalem Bay South Jetty	●	●
9	Rockaway Beach		●
10	Tillamook Bay North Jetty, Barview Park	●	●
11	Pier's End Fishing Pier	●	●
12	Port of Garibaldi		●
13	Hobsonville Point	●	
14	Bayocean Spit and South Jetty Access	●	●
15	Beach Access, Cape Meares		●
16	Happy Camp		●
17	Netarts Landing Ramp	●	
18	Whalen Island County Park	●	
19	Pacific City Beach at Cape Kiwanda	●	●
20	Bob Straub State Park	●	●
21	Fisher Point Launch	●	

 **Popular redbtail surfperch spot**

 **Fishing pier**

 **Marine Reserves** – For more information about marine reserves and their regulations, visit [Oregonmarinereserves.com](http://Oregonmarinereserves.com)

**TILLAMOOK**



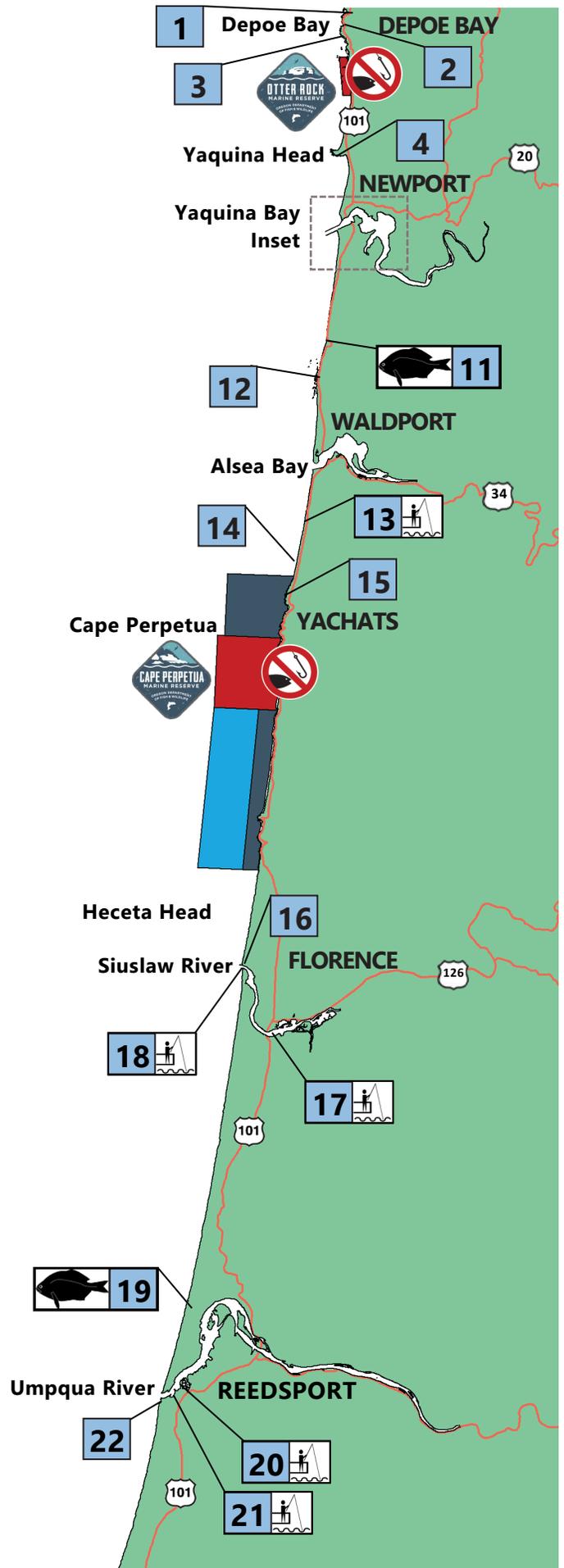
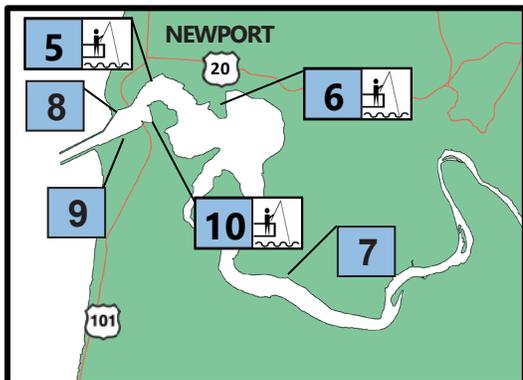
Map location		Rocks or jetty	Ocean beach	Fishing pier /dock
1	Boiler Bay State Park	•		
2	Port of Depoe Bay	•		
3	Rocky Creek State Park	•		
4	Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area	•		
5	Newport Bayfront and Abbey Street Pier	•		•
6	Northwest Natural Gas, Bay Road	•		
7	Channel Marker 25, Bay Road	•		
8	Yaquina Bay North Jetty	•	•	
9	Yaquina Bay South Jetty	•	•	
10	Newport Marina and Fishing Pier	•		•
11	Ona Beach State Park		•	
12	Seal Rock State Park	•	•	
13	Port of Alsea, Waldport		•	•
14	Smelt Sands State Park	•	•	
15	Yachats State Park	•	•	
16	Siuslaw River North Jetty	•	•	
17	Florence Public Ramp and City Park Dock			•
18	South Jetty and Pier, Oregon Dunes NRA	•	•	•
19	Sparrow Park Road Beach Access		•	
20	Salmon Harbor Boat Basin	•		•
21	Windy Cove County Park Pier	•		•
22	South Jetty and Triangle Jetty, Winchester Bay	•	•	

 **Popular redbtail surfperch spot**

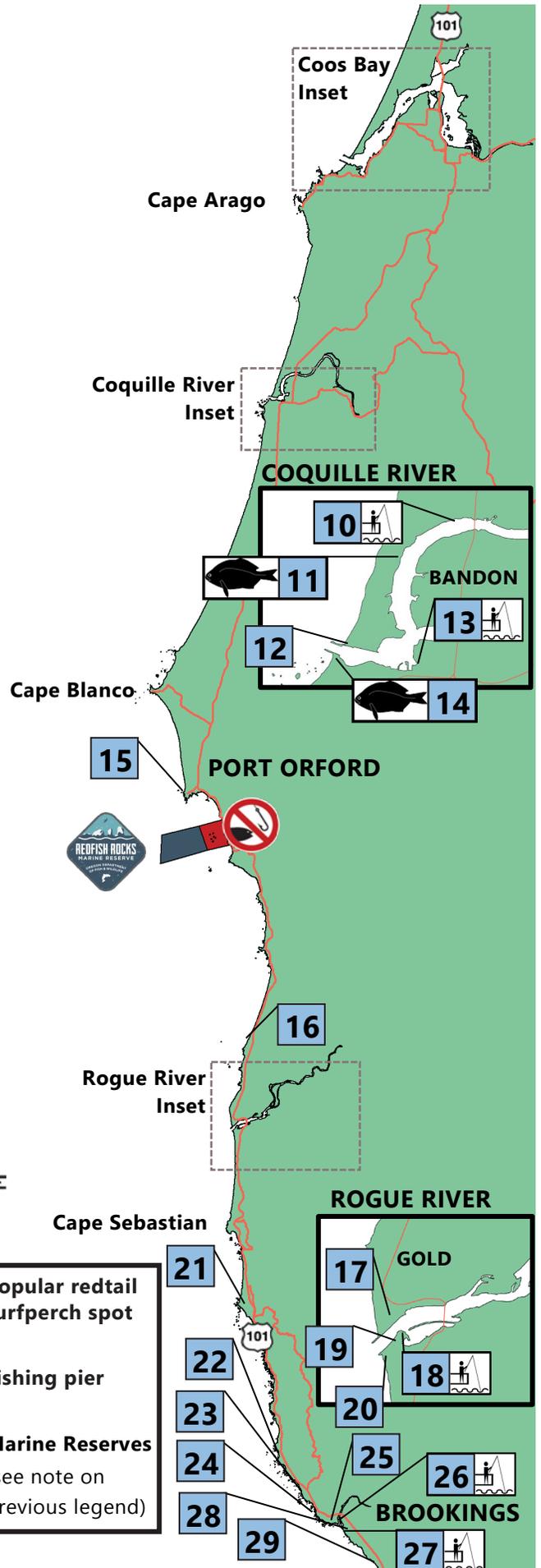
 **Fishing pier**

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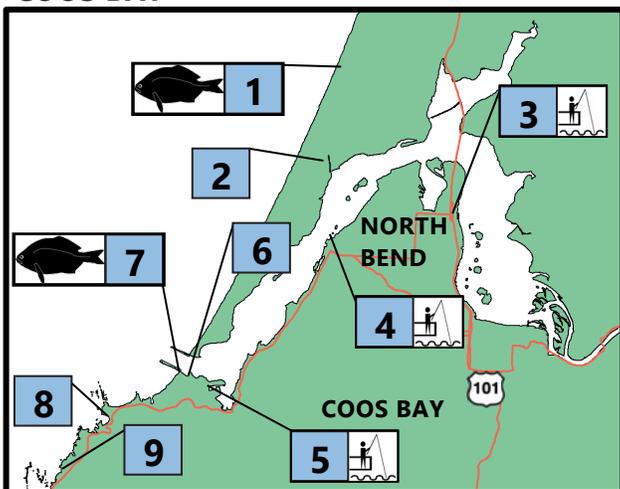
### YAQUINA BAY



Map location	South Coast fishing access areas	Rocks or jetty		
		Ocean beach	Fishing pier /dock	
1	Horsfall Beach, Oregon Dunes NRA		●	
2	North Spit Ramp, Coos Bay	●		
3	North Bend Ramp			●
4	Empire Ramp and Pier			●
5	Charleston Boat Basin	●		●
6	South Jetty, Coos Bay	●	●	
7	Bastendorff Beach County Park		●	
8	Sunset Bay State Park	●	●	
9	South Cove Beach, Cape Arago State Park	●	●	
10	Bullards Boat Ramp			●
11	Bullards Beach		●	
12	North Jetty, Coquille River	●	●	
13	Port of Bandon and Weber Pier	●		●
14	South Jetty, Coquille River	●	●	
15	Port of Port Orford and Jetty	●	●	●
16	Nesika Beach, Ophir		●	
17	North Jetty, Rogue River	●	●	
18	Port of Gold Beach			●
19	South Jetty, Rogue River	●	●	
20	Gold Beach Visitor Center		●	
21	Pistol River		●	
22	Whaleshead Beach	●	●	
23	Lone Ranch Beach	●	●	
24	Harris Beach State Park	●	●	
25	Chetco Point Park		●	
26	Port of Brookings	●		●
27	South Jetty and Pier, Chetco River	●	●	●
28	McVay State Park		●	
29	Winchuck State Recreation Site		●	



**COOS BAY**



-  Popular redbait surfperch spot
-  Fishing pier
-  Marine Reserves  
(see note on previous legend)

**ROGUE RIVER**

