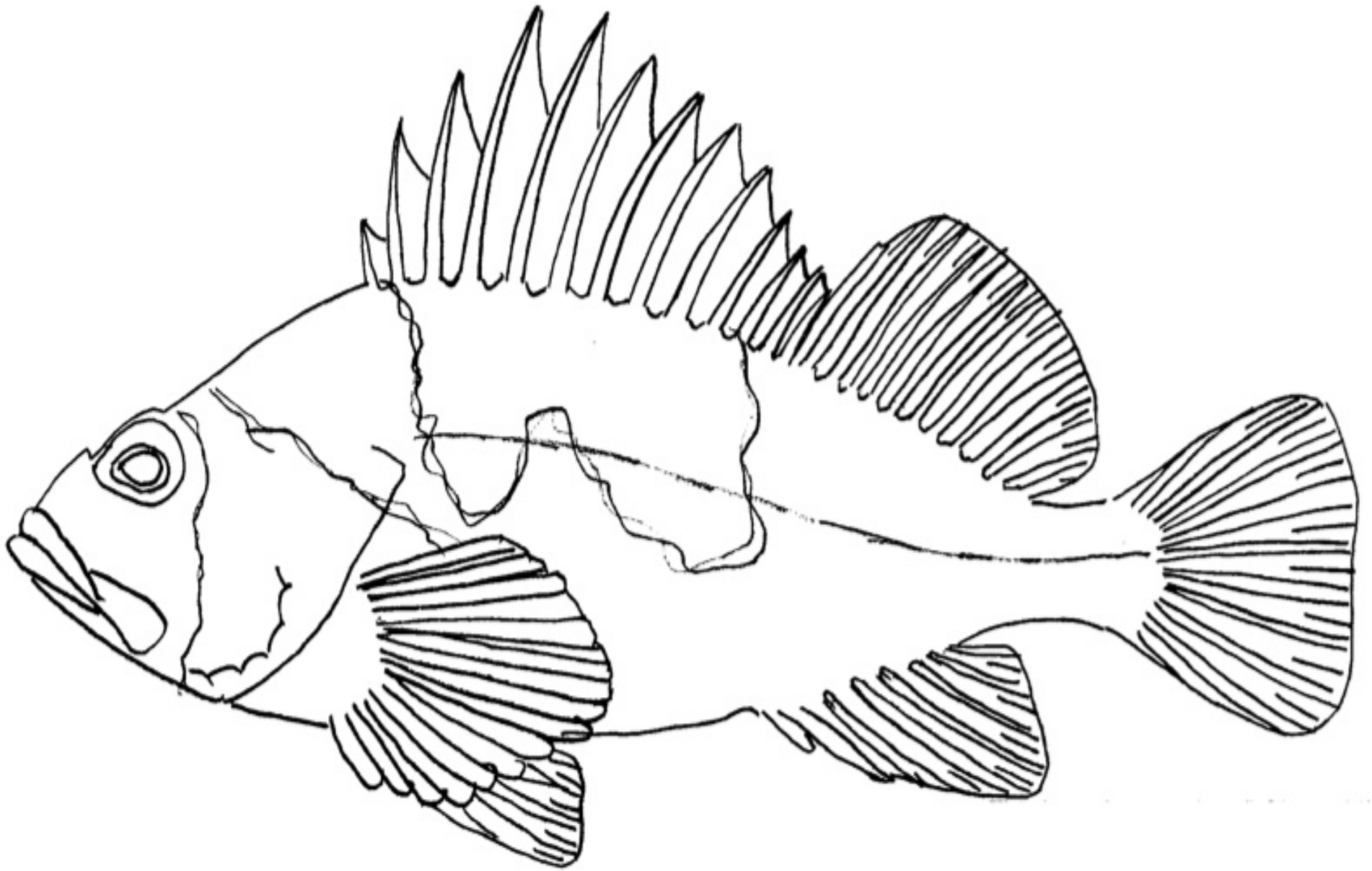


MARINE PROTECTED AREAS PROVIDE SANCTUARIES FOR ROCKFISHES AND OTHER MARINE ORGANISMS

Quillback Rockfish – *Sebastes maliger*



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Quillback Rockfish – *Sebastes maliger*

Other common names: speckled rockfish, orange-spotted rockfish, yellow-backed rockfish

Incorrect common names: brown rockfish, gopher rock cod, rock cod

Maximum recorded size: 61 cm (24 in)

Life Span: 95 years

Distribution: Southern California to the western Gulf of Alaska
Subtidal to 275 m (900 ft)

Key Characteristics:

- a/ body brown and yellow colour flecked with brown (no white lateral line);
- b/ dorsal fin high and spiny - spines deeply notched;
- c/ light white patch at base of the spiny dorsal fin;
- d/ juvenile finely spotted and barely recognizable.

Habitat: The Quillback Rockfish is named for the sharp, venomous quills or spines on the dorsal fin. It does not school; rather the Quillback rests on the rocky bottom, never far from cover. The Quillback has a long lifespan but it has had only three strong reproductive year classes in the last century in BC waters. It is often found “posing” within large cloud sponges, chimney sponges or rocky caverns.

Diet: Juveniles – zooplankton, shrimp, krill

Adults – herring, crustaceans, eg., crabs, amphipods, krill, copepods

COSEWIC Status (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada):

Threatened (November 2009)

References:

Lamb, A. and P. Edgell. 2012. *Coastal Fishes of the Pacific Northwest*. Revised and Expanded Second Edition. Harbour Publishing.

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Wikipedia - *Sebastes maliger*