



STRIPED PERCH (*Embiotoca lateralis*)



Striped Perch, like other members of this fish family, are deep-bodied, meaning they are bigger from back to belly than they are side to side. They are a colorful fish that is golden yellowish or coppery in color with a series of blue and orange horizontal lines that run the length of its body. There is a series of blue spots and stripes on the head.

OVERVIEW

- **Oregon Conservation Strategy Species**
- **Size:** Up to about 16 inches long
- **Weight:** Up to about 2.1 pounds
- **Lifespan:** Up to 10 years
- **Key Strategy Habitats:** Nearshore, Estuaries
- **Similar Species:** Other members of the family Embiotocidae, which are typically known as perch, surfperch, or seaperch. Strategy Species in this family include Pile Perch, Shiner Perch, and Redtail Surfperch.

RANGE AND DISTRIBUTION

In Oregon: Striped Perch can be found throughout the state's marine waters and in estuaries.

Everywhere Else: Striped Perch range extends from southeast Alaska to northern Baja. Generally found at depths less than about 100 feet.

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Small crustaceans such as isopods, copepods, amphipods, barnacles, crabs, and shrimp. They also eat worms, brittle stars, snails, mussels, clams, fish eggs, and algae.

- Striped Perch are members of a family of fishes, Embiotocidae, that have internal fertilization and give birth to live young.
- Broods of young perch have been documented to have up to 9 different fathers.
- Striped Perch are inactive at night and have been observed hovering near the bottom.

LIFE HISTORY AND ECOLOGY

Striped Perch, like other members of their family, have internal fertilization during mating and embryos that develop inside females that are then born live. Females give birth to between 18 and 92 young that are 1 to 2 inches long between March and September. The young are often found in habitat with vegetation such as eelgrass or kelp. Striped Perch females mate with multiple males and store the



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sperm for several months. The young fish in a brood may have up to 9 different fathers. Broods of more than 45 embryos appear to be rare. Older females give birth earlier in the season than younger females. Striped Perch generally mature at 2 to 3 years of age and can live up to 10 years.

Striped Perch are generally found in rocky habitats often with vegetation, but they are also found over mudflats and around piers and pilings.

Known predators of Striped Perch include Cabezon, rockfish, Lingcod, sculpins, cormorants, Common Murres, and harbor seals. Humans also prey on Striped Perch. Their bones have been found in Native American midden sites in Oregon and California. Striped Perch are frequently caught by recreational anglers along the west coast fishing from piers, jetties, and shore. They are sometimes also caught from boats.

DIET AND FORAGING

Striped Perch eat a variety of things including isopods, copepods, amphipods, barnacles, crabs, and shrimp. They also eat worms, brittle stars, snails, mussels, clams, fish eggs, and algae. They feed both on and above the bottom. Striped Perch visually pick individual prey items preferring the largest prey they can fit in their mouth.

HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

Striped Perch live in marine and estuarine waters. They generally live around some sort of structure like rocks, piers, pilings, jetties, kelp beds, or eel grass, but are also sometimes found over sand and mudflats. They are most common from the intertidal zone out to about 100 feet, but have been reported in depths of about 300 feet.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Threats: Striped Perch may be vulnerable to overfishing, but this is not thought to currently be a problem.

Conservation and management: Striped Perch are entirely under state management and are not part of any of the federal fishery management plans. There have been no formal stock assessments for Striped Perch. The limited information about population status or trends comes from what is gathered by state agencies. These data come from monitoring fisheries catch. Fisheries for all species in this family are considered data-poor. Recreational fisheries compose the majority of the catch coastwide. The only commercial fisheries occur in California where they are a small part of the total catch.



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