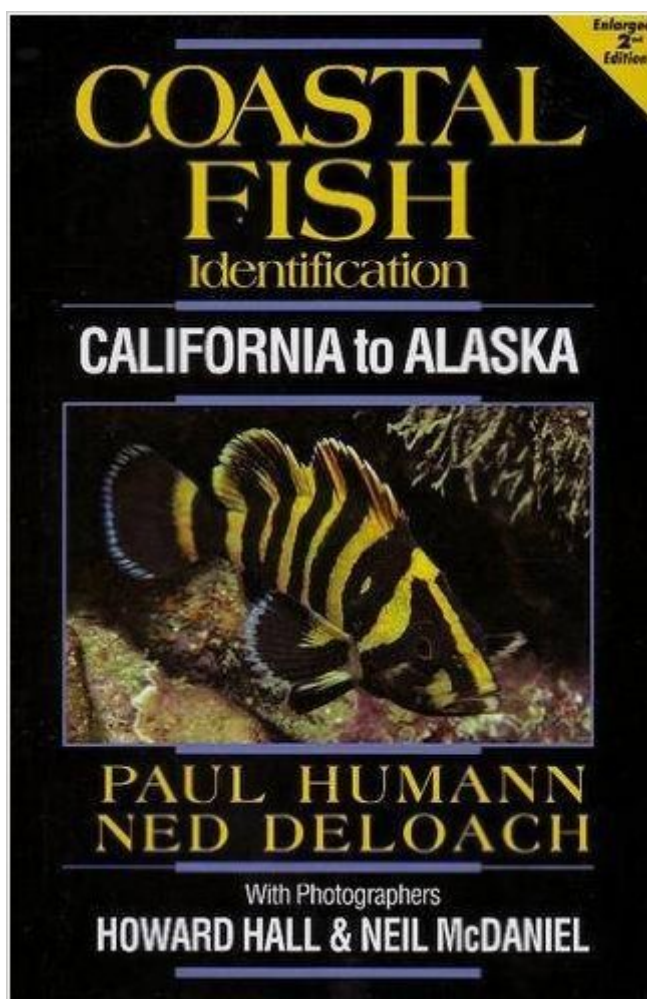


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Coastal Fish Identification California To Alaska 2nd Ed.



Synopsis

The updated and enlarged Second edition features more than 30 additional species and 70 new photographs. From the beautiful cool waters of Catalina Island to the frigid straits teeming with life in British Columbia, this book covers it all. This is the most comprehensive pictorial fish ID guide ever published for these waters. More than 320 superb color photos are presented in our popular, quick-reference format. Now in flexibinding (cloth stitched like hardcover, but a soft flexible cover like paperback).

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Customer Reviews

As a freediver along the coast north and south from San Francisco, I frequently refer to this book for reference of the fish I find in the kelp beds. I am able to find every fish I saw in the water in this book. The color photos are great for that purpose. Other books in my collection are sometime visually vague due to the lack of photographic images (paintings and/or black & white sketches). In this book the text along with the pictures are also informational: distinctive features, description, abundance & distribution, habitat & behavior, reaction to divers.

As an avid diver in the Puget Sound, I have found this book to be very useful. It features great photos to help me identify the fishes that I encounter while underwater. The format is easy to use because it is geared toward the underwater naturalist. I recommend it to all my diver friends.

This book continues the strong tradition of field guides produced by Human and DeLoach. If you've used any of their other guides before, you can rest assured that this continues the clear, informative format they've developed over the years. The first flaw that I've come across, however, isn't a problem with what's covered but what's not covered: Salmon. This field guide is aimed towards scuba divers, so I assume the authors made an editorial choice to focus on the fish likely to be seen by divers. However, if that's the case, then they should have mentioned in their introduction how they decided what to include and what to exclude. Even if the authors think divers are unlikely to focus much on salmon, I think the authors made an incorrect choice to exclude from this book one of the most characteristic groups of fish in this area.

The information is pretty standard field guide fair, but clear and concise. Also has a section in each species account devoted to reaction to divers. I'm not sure I agree with this part completely (I dive in Southern California, San Diego county) but it seems generally correct from my personal encounters. This book's pictures make it worth the price though. They are excellent shots that make the fish very easy to ID. This is especially invaluable with the rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.) which are confusing at the best of times.

Great pictures and very thorough. The spearfisher's bible. Would recommend for anyone who plans to start spearfishing, or just diving/snorkeling in general so you know what you're looking at. For many of the species they show pictures of the adults and juveniles, which makes identifying them very easy. As other reviewers have said, the book could use a little update as fish populations do change over time, but overall a very comprehensive book. Just wish it was waterproof.

This is the book you want to have for identifying West Coast fishes. It's not comprehensive, but it does show the fish one is likely to see. Its selectivity makes it easier to use than a more encyclopedic volume would be.

I truly appreciate the level of time and effort that goes into creating one of these volumes. The variety of species in a particular area of ocean is huge and attempting to capture most of them, along with decent photos is a truly massive undertaking. This is something that I certainly could not do and the relatively comprehensive nature of this work is well done. Of course, it can never be perfect. Species that were uncommon due to overfishing at the time of publication (such as the sevengill shark - which only receives a tiny mention in this book) have come back and photos are

readily available today. Others have gone the other direction and are now less common. I have not found others yet that I know are missing, again - this is a relatively comprehensive work and decently executed. I think at this point I would prefer an online resource. The technology is there and updating would be far simpler today than when this was published (1996). Overall I am happy to have a decent field guide to the fishes and creatures I see while diving. Hope that helps.

This book is for the most common fish that will be encountered along the West Coast of North America, and as such does not cover those that only spend a portion of their life in the marine environment, or those found so deep as to be available to ichthyologists only. I find this a great field guide for divers or snorkelers looking to identify fish, as well as learn a little bit about their life history. Also makes a good companion for fishing or trawling, when you're trying to decide which of many, many species of rockfish you have.

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