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COMMON OR LOCAL NAMES OF  
COMMERCIAL FISH AND SHELLFISH OF ALASKA

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Many species of Alaskan fishes are known by different names in different localities. In some instances, the same fish may be known by several names in the same locality. This confusion of common names often creates problems in the orderly marketing of Alaskan fishes both in Alaska and in the continental United States.

Leading biologists and taxonomists do not always agree on the proper common names for an animal or plant. For positive identification they rely on the scientific name, which is always in Latin. Reference to the list of Alaskan fishes below will make it very obvious that the layman--the fisherman, the wholesaler, the retailer, or the housewife--would be even more confused than now if suddenly the Latin rather than the common or English names were used in the markets.

One of the long-range major objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Service is to standardize, as much as possible, the many local names now in use for American fishes. The purpose of this leaflet is to compile the names given each species of Alaskan fish so that reference to the list will provide producers and marketers with a common denominator of understanding regarding each species under consideration.

The list of suggested common names has been checked against various published papers on the fisheries of the Pacific Coast. In addition, it has been reviewed by personnel of the Service and the Alaska Department of Fisheries.

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COMMERCIAL FISH AND SHELLFISH OF ALASKA

Suggested Common Name	Other Common Names	Scientific Name
Atka mackerel		<i>Pleurongrammus monopterygius</i>
Cod	Pacific cod, Codfish, Gray cod, True cod	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>
Dolly varden trout	Dolly, Arctic char, Salmon trout, Bull trout	<i>Salvelinus malma spectabilis</i>
Eulachon	Hooliyan, Oolijan, Smelt, Candlefish, Needlefish	<i>Thaleichthys pacificus</i>
Flounder:		
Arrow-toothed flounder	Arrow-toothed halibut, Arrow-toothed sole, Longjaw flounder, Pastard halibut, Turbot	<i>Atheresthes stomias</i>
Dover sole	Slime flounder, Slime sole, Slippery flounder, lemon sole	<i>Microstomus pacificus</i>
English sole <sup>1/</sup>	Lemon sole, Pointed-nose sole	<i>Parophrys vetulus</i>
Flathead sole	Flathead flounder, Jowl, Paper sole	<i>Hippoglossoides elassodon</i>
Lemon sole	Lemon flounder, Alaska plaice	<i>Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus</i>
Petrale sole <sup>2/</sup>		<i>Eopsetta jordani</i>
Rex sole	Witch sole, Long-fin sole	<i>Glyptocephalus zachirus</i>
Rock sole	Rock flounder, Roughback sole, Rough sole	<i>Lepidopsetta bilineata</i>
Sand sole	Sand flounder	<i>Psettichthys melanostictus</i>
Starry flounder	Roughback sole, Grindstone, Emerywheel	<i>Platichthys stellatus</i>
Yellowfin sole	Yellowfin flounder, Northern sole, Mud dab, Alaska dab	<i>Limanda aspera</i>
Hake	Whiting	<i>Merluccius productus</i>
Halibut		<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>
Herring	Pacific herring, Kodiak herring	<i>Clupea pallasii</i>
Kelp greenling	Kelp cod, Rock trout, Kelp trout	<i>Hexagrammos decagrammus</i>
Lake trout	Mackinaw trout	<i>Salvelinus (=Cristivomer) namaycush</i>
Lingcod	Ling, Blue cod, Cultus cod, Buffalo cod, Greenling	<i>Ophiodon elongatus</i>
Pollock	Alaska pollock, Walleye pollock, Hake, Whiting	<i>Theragra chalcogramma</i>
Ratfish		<i>Hydrolagus coliei</i>

<sup>1/</sup> Lemon sole in British Columbia, Canada

<sup>2/</sup> Brill in British Columbia, Canada

**Suggested  
Common Name**

**Other Common Names**

**Scientific Name**

**Rockfish:**

Black rockfish	Black bass, Sea bass	Sebastodes melanops and several other species
Pacific ocean perch		Sebastodes alutus
Red rockfish	Red snapper, Alaska red snapper, Red rock cod, Red cod	Sebastodes ruberrimus and several other species
Sablefish	Black cod, Sable, Coal fish, Skilfish	Anoplopoma fimbria
<b>Salmon:</b>		
Chum salmon	Dog salmon, Keta salmon	Oncorhynchus keta
King salmon	Chinook salmon	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha
Pink salmon	Humpback salmon, Humpy salmon	Oncorhynchus gorbuscha
Red salmon	Sockeye salmon, Alaska red salmon	Oncorhynchus nerka
Silver salmon	Coho salmon	Oncorhynchus kisutch
<b>Shark:</b>		
Grayfish	Dogfish	Squalus suckleyi
Sleeper shark	Mud shark, Greenland shark	Somniosus microcephalus
Soupin shark		Galeorhinus galeus
Sheefish	Inconnu, Cheetfish, Cony, Yukon char, Yukon salmon	Stenodus leucichthys mackenzi
Steelhead trout	Salmon trout, Sea run rainbow	Salmo gairdneri
Tomcod	Frost fish	Microgadus proximus
Whitefish		Coregonus species

**Crustaceans**

<b>Crab:</b>		
Dungeness crab		Cancer magister
Korean horse crab	Horse crab, Hairy crab	Erimacrus isenbecki
King crab	Alaska king crab, Spider crab	(Paralithodes camtschatica (Paralithodes platypus*)
Tanner crab	Spider crab	Chionoectes opilio
<b>Shrimp:</b>		
Coon-stripe shrimp		Pandalus hypsinotus
Humpy shrimp		Pandalus goniurus
Pink shrimp		Pandalus borealis
Side-stripe shrimp		Pandalopsis dispar
Spot shrimp	Prawn	Pandalus platyceros

\* *P. camtschatica* is the species primarily taken in the commercial fishery. *P. platypus* is found from the northern Bering Sea northward and is taken in small quantity in the Nome area for the local market.

Suggested Common Name	Other Common Names	Scientific Name
<u>Mollusks</u>		
Abalone		<i>Haliotis kantschatkana</i>
Clam:		
Butter clam		<i>Saxidomus giganteus</i>
Cockle		<i>Cardium corbis</i>
Little neck clam	Steamer	<i>Paphia staminea</i>
Razor clam		<i>Siliqua patula</i>
Pacific oyster	Japanese oyster	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>
Octopus	Devilfish	<i>Polypus bimaculatus</i>
Scallop:		
Bay scallop		<i>Pecten hindsii</i>
Giant scallop		<i>Pecten caurinus</i>
Rock scallop	Rock oyster, Purple hinge scallop	<i>Hinnites giganteus</i>