

GEORGIA AQUARIUM ANIMAL FACT SHEET

Painted Greenling

Oxylebius pictus

Range/Habitat

- The painted greenling is a marine fish that occurs in the eastern Pacific from Kodiak Island south to Point San Carlos, central Baja California.
- It is a solitary bottom dweller found on or near hard bottoms from intertidal zone to depths of about 160 feet (49 m).
- This species is usually associated with rocks, but it is also found on oil platforms and sewage outfall pipes.
- It is commonly encountered hovering motionless over rocks and divers.

Physical Characteristics

- The painted greenling's body has a pale whitish background color with five to seven wide red or reddish brown vertical bars.
- Some individuals are heavily sprinkled with tiny white spots.
- The adult male is more brightly colored than the female, particularly during spawning season.
- The male will often turn nearly black during winter mating season.
- The painted greenling is generally 4 to 6 inches (10.1-15.2 cm) long with a maximum size of about 10 inches (25.4 cm).
- It has a pointed snout with two pair of cirri (fleshy tufts) on its head, above each eye and another between the eyes and the dorsal fin.

Diet/Feeding

- This species feeds on bottom-dwelling invertebrates such as crustaceans, polychaetes, small mollusks and bryozoans.

Conservation Status

- The painted greenling is not on the IUCN Red List.

Additional Information

- Adults are territorial and seem to stay in the same area for years.
- This fish is inactive (sheltering in holes) during the coldest and stormiest months. It is also inactive at night.
- The painted greenling can live up to 8 years, with the females living longer. Females also grow larger than males.
- The female lays egg masses in nests on exposed rock surfaces which are guarded by the male. A male may guard numerous egg masses in the same nest.

Sources

- www.fishbase.net
- <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/kopec/tr9/html/sp-painted-greenling.html>
- <http://classicscuba.com/Plants & Animals/Oxylebius pictus/index.htm>
- *Probably More Than You Want to Know About the Fishes of the Pacific Coast*. Love, M., pgs. 204–205