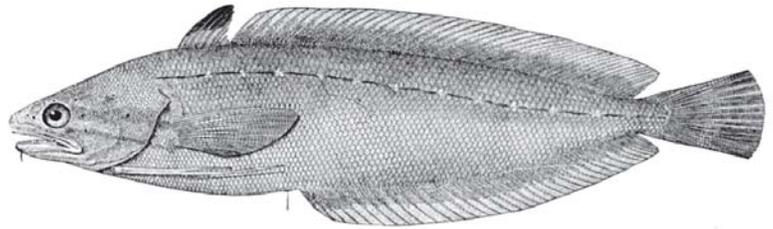


This Month

Spotted Hake

Scientific name:
Urophycis regius



Field Markings: Dull brown; darker above than below, with a lateral line darker than its body color and interrupted by white spots. The outer half of its first dorsal fin is black.

Size: Up to 16 inches long

Habitat: Under rocks and benthic vegetation along the continental shelf

Seasonal Appearance: Year-round

Although non-migratory, spotted hake may move into deeper waters to overwinter. Juveniles spend part of their time in estuarine habitats like Narragansett Bay, while adults can be found further offshore on the continental shelf and slope waters in cold temperature and arctic waters. The most frequent method of capture and observation has been by bottom trawl.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES AND BEHAVIORS

Spotted hake are a bottom-dwelling fish, camouflaged by a dark, dull brown color on their dorsal side. One of the smaller species of hake, they are build like predators. They have streamlined bodies, large well-developed eyes and strong teeth, and they catch their food by ambush. Like other members of the cod family, hake have a distinctive flesh barbel on their chin. Their diet includes shrimp, squid, crabs, bivalves and fish, including members of their own species.



Spotted hake have earned their name because their lateral line, which is darker brown than their body, is interrupted by white spots. Additional features that distinguish them from other hake species are: the outer half of their first dorsal fin is black and their pectoral fins reach back as far as the beginning of the anal fin.

RELATIONSHIP TO PEOPLE

Hake species are part of the cod family (*gadidae*, which includes cod, haddock and pollock) and are an ecologically and commercially important species to fisheries in the northwest Atlantic Ocean. Although spotted hake are relatively abundant, they are not as commercially important as red, silver or white hake, due to their small size and lesser quality meat. They are aggressive and thus, are often accidentally caught by recreational fishermen targeting other species.

HOW TO GET YOUR OWN COPY

RISAA members can purchase their own copy of *The Uncommon Guide To Common Life on Narragansett Bay* for \$15 from the RISAA Merchandise Committee. Stop by the committee table at any monthly RISAA meeting.



CATCH MONSTER BLOCK ISLAND BASS

PURAVIDA CHARTERS

captain **Jonathan Lewie**
phone **401.601.5499**
email **puravidacharters@gmail.com**
web **puravidacharters.org**

CHOOSE RELIABLE. REPOWER WITH THE EXPERTS!

ocean house marina

YAMAHA

GARMIN, Sweetwater, Harken, REGULATOR, Aqua Patio, MARITIME, Spirit BOATS, Sanpan, Rositar

WWW.OCEANHOUSEMARINA.COM | GO TOWN DOCK RD | CHARLESTOWN, RI 02813 | 401-364-6040