



SEATTLE AQUARIUM

# SCULPINS

Sculpins are small, bottom-dwelling fish that belong to the family Cottidae. There are around 300 species of sculpin. They can be found in both salt water and freshwater, principally in northern regions of the world. They generally have elongated, tapered bodies, usually with wide, heavy heads.

## Species common to Puget Sound



**Buffalo sculpin**  
*Enophrys bison*



**Cabezon**  
*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*



**Fluffy sculpin**  
*Oligocottus snyderi*



**Great sculpin**  
*Myoxocephalus polyacanthocephalus*



**Grunt sculpin**  
*Rhamphocottus richardsonii*



**Longfin sculpin**  
*Jordania zonope*



**Manacled sculpin**  
*Synchirus gilli*



**Red Irish Lord**  
*Hemilepidotus hemilepidotus*



**Ribbed sculpin**  
*Triglops pingelii*



**Rosylip sculpin**  
*Ascelichthys rhodorus*



**Roughback sculpin**  
*Chitonotus pugetensis*



**Sailfin sculpin**  
*Nautichthys oculofasciatus*



**Silver spotted sculpin**  
*Blepsias cirrhosus*



**Threadfin sculpin**  
*Icelinus filamentosus*



**Tidepool sculpin**  
*Oligocottus maculosus*

### Are sculpins endangered?



Sculpins are numerous and widespread in the wild. They are not on the list of endangered species. Sculpins are not part of human diet because of their distasteful meat.

### How long do sculpins live?



Sculpins can survive three to seven years depending on the species.

**Fascinating fact:** During low tide, shallow tide pools are sometimes isolated from the churning waves and become *hypoxic*, meaning they lack sufficient oxygen. This is not a problem for **tidepool sculpins**, because they can emerge partially or completely from the water and breathe air for several hours.

### What do sculpins eat?



Sculpins are carnivores. Their diets are based on crabs, amphipods, worms and small fish.

### Who are sculpin predators?



Natural enemies of sculpins are large fish, herons, otters and raccoons.

