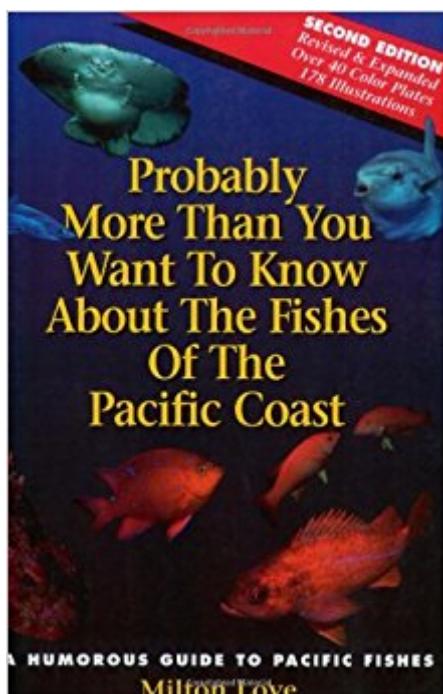


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Probably More Than You Want To Know About The Fishes Of The Pacific Coast



Synopsis

Book by Love, Milton

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book by Love, Milton

I really liked it, but the target audience is very small. The overlap between people interested in the life history of thirty different species of rock bass but are not ichthyologists and those who enjoy sarcasm in their biology are few and far between. If you're attracted to the title, you're probably going to enjoy it. If you think the title is ridiculous, save your money. I learned quite a bit and enjoyed reading it. I want him to do a sequel for the Atlantic coast, but I think that's a little out of his realm.

Best book I know of regarding information about fishes of the Pacific coast where I lived and dove for 20 years. More information on the fishes than any other reference I am aware of. 1st edition has only line drawings but 2nd has a few color plates including one of the author's tattoo of a deep water angler fish. Reading this book is like an Easter egg hunt for it is full of riotous observations and asides from the preface on through the end of the book. Just try to imagine what the sarcastic fringehead (yes it is a real fish), Elvis, Squaggy Zornak, and the star Betelgeuse have to do with each other.

What a book! This book is written with a sense of humor, but not to clinical, so you can understand what you are seeing /catching on the coast. The pictures are great, and there are interesting anecdotes about many of the fish. I highly recommend this to California Saltwater sportsmen. It even covers the "oddball" fishes of California---and I'm not referring to the Hollywood folk!

This is something I leave in my car and read while I'm waiting at the DMV or waiting to get a haircut. There are short articles about every fish you're likely to encounter in California along with a short section on common parasites you might see when preparing fish and if they're edible or not. It is also a quite humorous book and I laugh all the time while reading it. It will tell you about the life cycle of some fish and fun facts about others.

It wasn't at all what I expected based on the title. Pictures were poor, unclear and black and white. Description was barely ok. Without a good clear color picture the description doesn't mean much!!

Without a doubt, the funniest taxonomic work on Ichthyology you will ever come across- and extremely and extensively informative to boot. Even the preface is a delight to read, where Love discusses the intelligence of fish (stupider than the stupidest mouse to ever live), if fish sleep, how their names relate to Communism, if they will harm us emotionally, and Love's relative intelligence when compared to other marine biologists. Then he goes through, fish by fish, all the main species off the Pacific Coast, from BC to SoCal. (If you're looking for fish from the Gulf of Alaska, you will be disappointed.) He begins with Myxini and Petromyzon, moves to Chondrichthyes, and then onto Osteichthyes. (Hagfish, Lampreys, Sharks and Rays, and Bony Fish- for fish are actually four different creatures, as separate from each other as Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals are from each other.) Each section looks at the identifying characteristics, distribution, anatomy, commercial fishery, and extra tidbits, still with that trademark humor. And then there's a bit of the parasitic at the tail end of the book. Perhaps my favorite line: "Your average hagfish can take a bucket full of water and almost solidify it with slime in a few minutes. (I don't know about you, but that makes me proud to be American.)"

This is an excellent book for anyone wanting to learn about common fish local to the California area. It's a scientifically structured field guide chalked full of quips and funny little anecdotes. So if you want a good laugh while learning a huge volume of information (even the meaning of each fishes

scientific name!), then i suggest you get this book. Dont forget to read the other information in this book like the 'preface' and even the copyright page. Youll never know where youll find the next laugh in this book.I have worked briefly in Milton Love's lab personally and he is even funnier in person. He is one of the few people ive had the chance to meet whom after i walk away laughing i realized that i actually learned more than i did in a regular class. He knows an enormous amount of knowledge about fishes which is why i also feel this book has merit. Plus he references Ted Pietcsh, who if you have read the news discovered the world's smallest fish as released in January 2006.

If you have any interest at all in the fishes of the Pacific Coast, this is THE book. I recommend it to the students in my Marine Biology class as one of the most accurate and fun (!) works they will find. The information is up there with the classics by David Starr Jordan, whose books are now collectables. Dr. Love, who is legendary in the world of Fisheries for his research and publications, has added his distinct sense of humor to the usually dry descriptions of fishes. If you are interested in Marine Biology of Fishes you need this book.

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