



References/reading list:

DFO, 2011. Pacific Region, Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, Groundfish, February 21, 2011 to February 10, 2013. <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/commercial/ground-fond/index-eng.htm>

DFO website, Aquatic Species At Risk (search rockfish species): <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/index-eng.htm>

Allowed activities within RCAs:

- Recreational fishing
- invertebrates by hand picking or dive
 - crab by trap
 - shrimp/prawn by trap
 - smelt by gillnet

- Commercial fishing
- invertebrates by hand picking or dive
 - crab by trap
 - prawn by trap
 - scallops by trawl
 - salmon by seine or gillnet
 - herring by gillnet, seine and spawn-on-kelp
 - sardine by gillnet, seine, and trap
 - smelt by gillnet
 - euphausiid (krill) by mid-water trawl
 - opal squid by seine
 - groundfish by mid-water trawl

Note that **no hook and line fishing** is allowed in Rockfish Conservation Areas



To report a fishing violation to a DFO officer, call **1-800-465-4336**

What YOU should know about Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) around Galiano Island



It will "rock" your socks off!



There are:

 **164** Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) on the west coast of Canada,

 **86** in the Strait of Georgia,

 **3** bordering Galiano Island!

Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) bordering Galiano Island



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True to its name, a rockfish will make a rocky nook its home, and guard it for life.

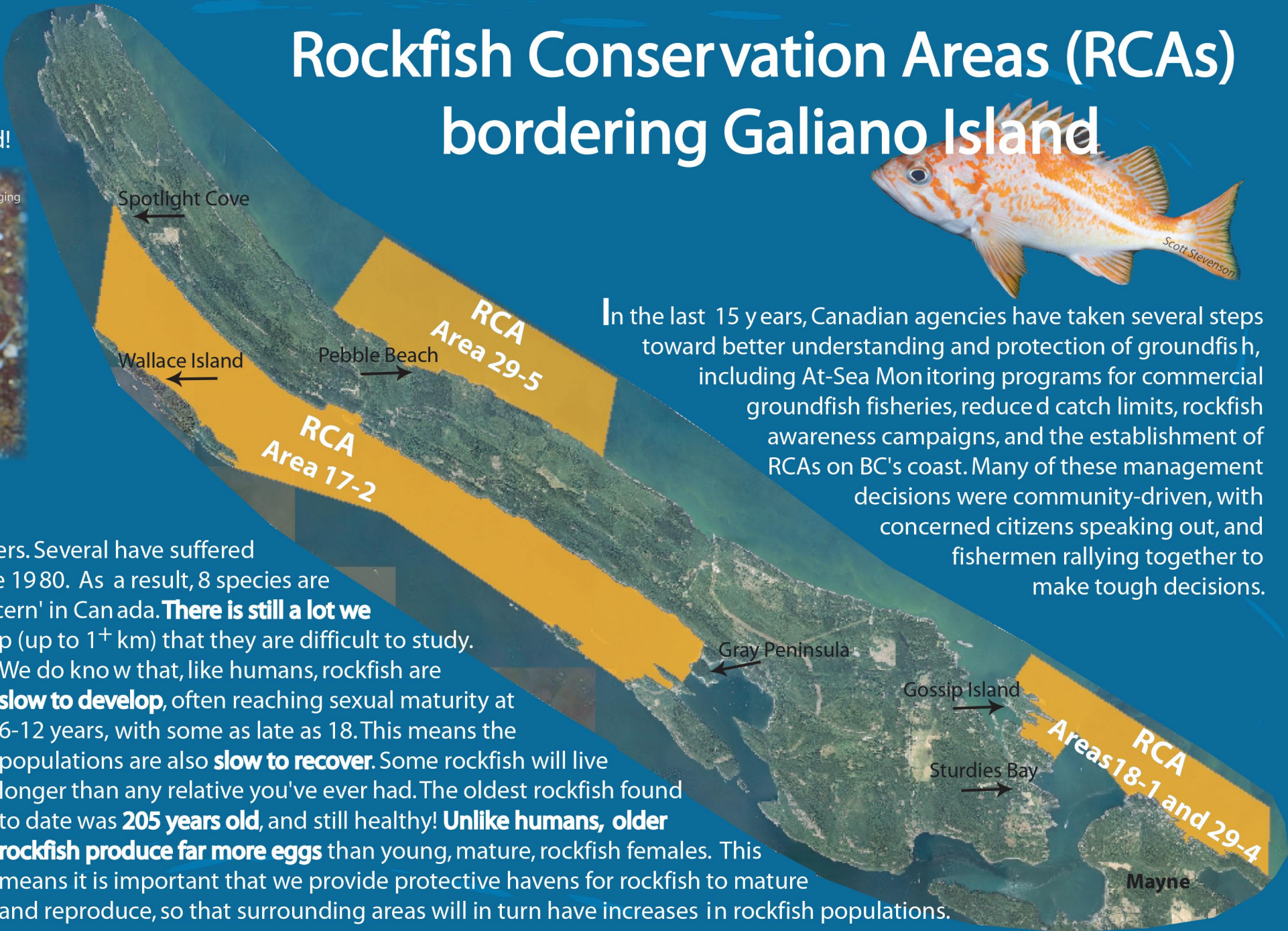
Rockfish still need your help.

At least 37 species of rockfish live in BC waters. Several have suffered **major population declines (up to 95%)** since 1980. As a result, 8 species are now listed as 'threatened' or of 'special concern' in Canada. **There is still a lot we don't know about rockfish** - they live so deep (up to 1+ km) that they are difficult to study.

We do know that, like humans, rockfish are **slow to develop**, often reaching sexual maturity at 6-12 years, with some as late as 18. This means the populations are also **slow to recover**. Some rockfish will live longer than any relative you've ever had. The oldest rockfish found to date was **205 years old**, and still healthy! **Unlike humans, older rockfish produce far more eggs** than young, mature, rockfish females. This means it is important that we provide protective havens for rockfish to mature and reproduce, so that surrounding areas will in turn have increases in rockfish populations.



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In the last 15 years, Canadian agencies have taken several steps toward better understanding and protection of groundfish, including At-Sea Monitoring programs for commercial groundfish fisheries, reduced catch limits, rockfish awareness campaigns, and the establishment of RCAs on BC's coast. Many of these management decisions were community-driven, with concerned citizens speaking out, and fishermen rallying together to make tough decisions.

It is up to **you** to ensure that you respect RCAs, and do your part to **help these areas truly be protective havens** for rockfish.