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The material is very well presented. Most of the figures are in colour, but some are in black, white and grey. Tables and charts are well designed and easy to read with detailed descriptions. The map colours are those universally known in the area of geography and geology. Users with colour disabilities may have difficulties in reading these maps, but this is a problem with all maps.

Springer Reference is a well-known and respected publisher in the area of science. The editorial board is compiled of internationally known experts in the field of marine geoscience. The contributors are from large universities, institutes and other affiliations in the areas of marine research and geosciences. The list of contributors located in the front of the *Encyclopedia* provides name, rank, position, address, email and, in some cases, phone number. At the beginning of each subject the contributor's name and affiliation is provided to enable researchers to cross-reference this with the contributor list for contact information.

The table of contents is clear and easy to read. It is not cluttered with additional unneeded information. Along with the topic title is the name of the contributor. This makes it easy for the user if they only have the name of the contributor but the proper name of the topic. At the end of the *Encyclopedia* are both an author index and a subject index. A figure index would have been helpful if only to help in cross-referencing the articles.

There are other encyclopedias of marine geosciences available, but this *Encyclopedia* from Springer Reference is an excellent source. The information is clear, concise and easy to use for multiple levels of users. Those users at advanced levels can find additional information through the bibliography and cross-references. The figures, tables and charts are easy to read and not cluttered with extraneous information. The names and affiliations of the contributors makes this encyclopedia a resource that can be trusted as a basic foundation for information. Overall this is a good multilevel resource that can be used by all levels of university and a basic resource for the serious researcher in the area of marine geosciences.

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A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes: From Alaska to California

Val Kells, Luiz A. Rocha and Larry G. Allen

Johns Hopkins University Press

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2016

368 pp.

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In 2011, Luiz Rocha sent a message to marine science illustrator, Val Kells, complimenting her illustrations in the newly released guide, *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes: From Maine to Texas* (Kells and Carpenter, 2011). Rocha had recently moved from the University of Texas Marine Science Institute to the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco and wondered if Kells would be willing to collaborate on a similar guide for the west coast. She agreed, and along with author Larry G. Allen, began the creation of *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes: From Alaska to California*. This work describes over 157 fish families, 705 species and includes over 950 illustrations of adult fishes, juveniles and colour variants. Species included are brackish and marine fishes from the northern border of Alaska to the southern border of California. The area covered ranges from the intertidal zones to approximately 660 feet, or 200 meters. Species living in depths over 200 meters are excluded.

The book is organised into three sections, the Introduction, Families and Species. The Introduction begins by presenting an overview of colour patterns, anatomical features and shapes of fishes, clarified through colour illustrations. This section concludes with a brief mention of conservation issues. However, this information is not particularly insightful, as the approach is too broad and too brief to offer anything meaningful. The section on Families presents a succinct overview of 157 families of fishes found in this guide. Description includes an overview of anatomical features that aid in identification of fish at the family level. The majority of the book addresses species descriptions. Each entry is short, allowing five species per page, with the adjoining page showing a coloured illustration of the species. The description includes species' anatomical features; habitat, which is basically a geographic range; and biology, or a short summary (usually a one or two phrases) addressing the species'

behaviour, diet and/or ecology. The coloured illustrations are very well done and provide ample detail to identify a species. Additional sections include a three-page glossary and a description of 26 rare species. The rare species' descriptions parallel those of the more common fishes, but lack coloured illustrations. A three-page bibliography, 14-page index and brief biographical information on the authors conclude the book.

Although *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes: From Alaska to California* is the newest identification guide for this region, there are several other earlier guides that serve as competitors. Only one – *A Field Guide to Pacific Coast Fishes: From the Gulf of Mexico to Baja California* (Eschmeyer and Herald, 1996), part of the Peterson Field Guide series – covers a comparable number of species (more than 600). Unlike the work by Kells, Rocha and Allen, *A Field Guide to Pacific Coast Fishes* has coloured plates and black and white line drawings in the centre of the book, separate from the species' descriptions. The illustrations provide arrows that point to the most prominent identification features, which are reinforced in the species' descriptions that are located in a separate section of the book. Although this back and forth can be annoying, the Peterson Guide species' descriptions are more helpful than *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes* because of the emphasis provided on identification features, particularly the key differences between similar-looking species.

The other three guides covering Pacific coast fishes are much less extensive, each covering around 250 species, or approximately a third less than *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes*. In addition, these guides tend to be specialised for particular interests. *Ken Schultz's Field Guide to Saltwater Fishes* (Schultz, 2004) was written by the fishing editor of the magazine *Field and Stream*, and correspondingly includes species of interest to anglers. The illustrations are not as vivid as those done by Val Kells, but species' descriptions are longer. In the first edition of *Coastal Fish Identification: California to Alaska* (Humann and DeLoach, 1996) (there is also a 2008 2nd edition), the content is meant for divers. As a result, the reader gets brilliant coloured photographs of each species. Since there are only 250 species included, the descriptions are longer than in *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes*, and include a section on the species' reaction to divers. A more recent guide *Coastal Fishes of the Pacific Northwest* (Lamb and Edgell, 2010) addresses all interests, and includes special sections for catching tips for anglers, location hints for divers and beachcombers and cooking ideas for gourmets. This guide includes black and white illustrations plus coloured photographs. Unfortunately, some

of the photographs are dark, which make it hard to see species' details clearly.

In making a recommendation, if you were only to have one book I would err on the side of including more species than less. That leaves the *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes* and the Peterson Guide, which is currently out of print but commonly available. If I already own the Peterson Guide, I would still be inclined to purchase the book by Kells, Rocha and Allen because of the brilliant illustrations by Kells. No one creates as beautiful coloured illustrations of marine fishes. That said, the Peterson Guide does a better job at emphasising identification features. In short, they are both worth owning and since *A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes: From Alaska to California* is currently in print and covers so many species, I recommend all libraries consider adding it to their collection.

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The Horse Encyclopedia

Elwyn Hartley Edwards

Dorling Kinderley

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2016

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The core of this book is an account of over 150 breeds of horse and pony. The entries are in three categories; heavy, lighter and ponies. Each breed has a page or double page spread. There is a side view and a rear view that are used to