

It is one of the brightest colored fishes in the southern California coast. The average size of the fish is 36 cm. Its physical appearance has a deep, compressed, perch-shaped body with some large blue scales, a strong head, small mouth, large lips, and yellow eyes. The dorsal fins are joined and extend from above the pectoral fin insertion to posterior of the anal fin base, and the second one is higher. The tail fin is forked and the tips of both lobes are rounded.

Adults are bright orange and the fish gets its common name, Garibaldi, from the 19th century Italian leader by the same name whose famous army wore flashy red/orange coats into battle.

One interesting feature is that *Gyogypops rubicundus* is a remarkably territorial fish. Both males and females defend large home territories against each other and other intruders. *Gyogypops rubicundus* usually lives over rocky bottoms and in clear water. They can be found occupying reef and kelp beds near crevices and small caves in the upper 30 meter of the water column.

*Gyogypops rubicundus* feeds on a variety of invertebrates, but most often on attached, sessile organisms, such as sponges, mollusks and bryozoans. They may occasionally eat algae, worms, nudibranchs and small crustaceans. The main predators is Harbor seals, *Phoca vitulina*, and bald eagles. *Holocentrus leuccephalus* prey on *Gyogypops rubicundus*. It has an average lifespan of a little more than 15 years.

Basic behavior and traits of the *Gyogypops rubicundus* is its promiscuous behavior. Once the male has created an inviting nest it must next attract a female with