

# Color the: ROUGHTONGUE BASS



USGS PHOTO

Roughtongue bass are tiny but very colorful reef fish that live on deep reefs. These fish are incredibly abundant, forming the food base for the entire deep-reef ecosystem.



USGS UNDERWATER VIDEO

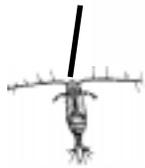
a school of roughtongue bass

roughtongue bass begin life as females then change to males later

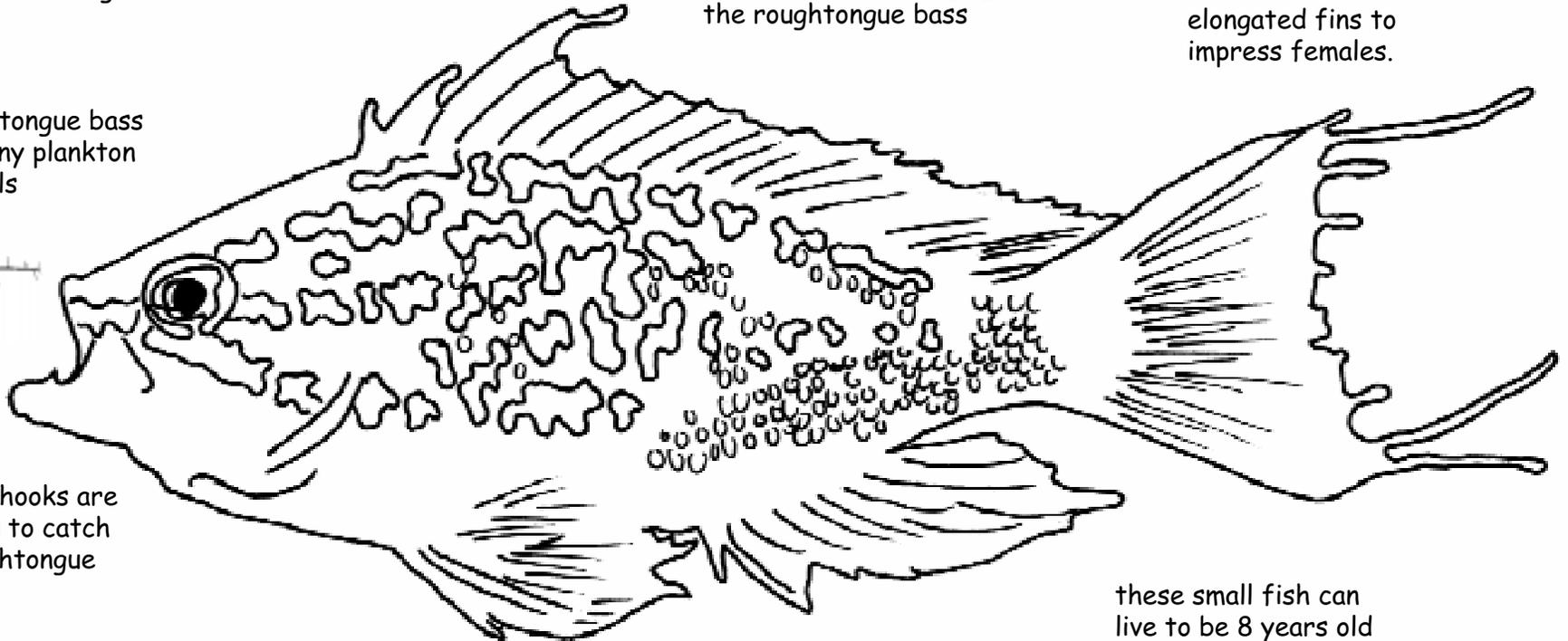
in deep blue water the red and yellow colors disappear, camouflaging the roughtongue bass

males have elongated fins to impress females.

roughtongue bass eat tiny plankton animals



tiny hooks are used to catch roughtongue bass



these small fish can live to be 8 years old