

Deacon Rockfish Blues

To the tune of Steely Dan's "Deacon Blues"

Lyrics by Gregory C. Jensen

This is the tale
Of a mysterious fish
That went by the name
Sebastes mystinus
It seems like only yesterday
I gazed through my mask
At *Laila*
And *Tealia*
That's all in the past

The names have been changed
At a bedazzling speed
Molecular markers
Frequently plant the seed
Just when I learn a name
Someone says "it's not the same"
My brain cannot hold
All the names I've been told

(Chorus)

Learn the name, that's my goal
Oh, no matter how I feel
Know that rockfish, anywhere
Reef or beach or creel
They've got a name for the blues in Monterey
One we can no longer use
They call California by that old name
Call ours Deacon Blues

A blotch on the side
A slightly different jaw
This is for me
A difference I never saw
Finding the things we never love
That make it so hard
Meristics
Statistics
They're all in the cards

I glide like a mola

Through the temperate seas
Fill out my REEF forms
I.D. the crabs with ease
But when it comes to fish
Grant me one final wish
Please only announce
What we can pronounce

(Chorus)