

## THE MARINE FAUNA OF LUNDY PISCES (FISHES)

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### INTRODUCTION

The fishes of Lundy are a major attraction for visiting divers. The rich variety of habitats around the island supports a large and varied fish fauna. Sublittoral rock faces, boulder slopes and mud, sand and gravel substrates are all well represented (Hiscock, 1971; Hoare and Wilson, 1976). The only habitat poorly represented is the littoral zone. The few areas which contain rock pools, such as Hell's Gates and Lametry Beach, are small and very exposed. The sublittoral species are diverse, colourful and, in the case of the wrasses, very approachable and relatively unafraid of divers. Lundy is also an excellent location for observing large and spectacular near-surface species such as basking shark and sunfish. It contains moreover the only known shallow water location in the British Isles where the red band-fish can be easily observed by divers (Atkinson and Pullin, 1976).

The only published information on the fishes of Lundy are the lists given by Harvey (1950) and Boyden and Hudson (in Hiscock, 1971). It is perhaps surprising that a more detailed fish list has not been published until now. The main reason for this is probably that the common species, seen on almost every dive, are so well-known as to be taken for granted, and the compilation of the fauna list has been concentrated on lesser known groups. Also many of the identifications made by divers, anglers and fishermen have been based on observation only and few specimens have been collected for thorough examination and confirmation of identification. Identifications in the field are acceptable for common and easily-recognised species but are unsatisfactory when two or more reasonable possibilities for identification exist. A few such observations have been excluded from the present list and it is worth noting that some common species, for example, the dragonets of sand and mud grounds still require definite identification.

The classification used is that of Greenwood, Rosen, Weitzman and Myers (1966) and nomenclature, including common names, is taken from Wheeler (1969), with the single exception of the revised nomenclature for the leopard-spotted goby (Miller, 1969). Wheeler (1969) has become the generally accepted text for identification of British fishes and the present list omits synonyms to encourage this uniformity. No attempt has been made to research Lundy and North Devon common names for fish, but this could prove an interesting future project.

The list contains no surprises and most if not all the species can be found in other long established fauna lists from British waters (e.g. Bruce, Colman and Jones, 1963; Marine Biological Association, 1957). Distribution maps are given by Wheeler (1969). It is, however, surprising that some more southerly and Mediterranean species, e.g. rainbow wrasse, *Coris julis*, that might reasonably be expected to visit Lundy waters have not been recorded so far. There are records of comber, almost certainly *Serranus cabrilla* (Linnaeus, 1758), but confirmation of identification is required. Also the occurrence of corkwing wrasse, *Crenilabrus melops* (Linnaeus, 1758) requires confirmation (Hudson, in Hiscock, 1971). It would be surprising if *Crenilabrus melops* was absent from Lundy. The fact that it has not yet been collected from the very well-searched rock pool areas perhaps illustrates their limited nature. A further problem that requires clarification are the records by several observers of the three-bearded

rockling, *Gaidropsarus vulgaris* (Cloquet, 1824) from rocky shores. According to Wheeler (1969) this species never occurs on the shore and is therefore omitted from the present list, which gives only the confirmed records for *Gaidropsarus mediterraneus* (Linnaeus, 1758), the shore-rockling. According to Tucker (in Bruce, Colman and Jones, 1963) the British three-bearded rocklings require revision, and collection of specimens from Lundy could help with this. Finally, a single record of the Eelpout (Viviparous Blenny) *Zoarces viviparus* (Linnaeus, 1758) has also been omitted from the present list in the absence of a specimen to confirm the identification. This species is normally restricted to Scandinavian, Scottish and North Sea coasts and would be an unlikely resident at Lundy.

The information given in the present list derives almost entirely from summer observations. Indications of depth ranges are therefore not always reliable as many of the species, for example the wrasses, are likely to be either absent or in deeper waters in winter. Because of the large number of people involved in recording and identifying Lundy fishes, references to some observers have been omitted for the commoner species. The names of observers and identifiers have been abbreviated as follows:-

Mr A. Andrews (AA), Dr R. J. A. Atkinson (RJAA), Mr M. J. Bates (MJB), Dr C. R. Boyden (CRB), Dr F. A. Dipper (FAD), Mr A. Double (AD), Professor L. A. Harvey (LAH), Dr K. Hiscock (KH), Dr R. Hoare (RH), Mr W. W. Holman (WWH), Dr R. C. L. Hudson (RCLH), Mr D. J. W. Lane (DJWL), Dr C. G. Moore (CGM), Dr R. S. V. Pullin (RSVP), Mr R. Vallintine (RV).

## ANNOTATED LIST

### PISCES

#### Superclass AGNATHA

#### Class CEPHALASPIDOMORPHA

#### Order PETROMYZONTIFORMES

#### Family PETROMYZONTIDAE

#### *Petromyzon marinus* Linnaeus, 1758

## SEA LAMPREY (LAMPREY)

Single record, parasitic on pollack, *Pollachius pollachius* (Linnaeus, 1758). (WWH).

#### Superclass GNATHOSTOMATA

#### Class ELASMOBRANCHIOMORPHI

#### Subclass CHONDRICHTHYES

#### Order LAMNIFORMES

#### Suborder LAMNOIDEI

#### Family ALOPIIDAE

#### *Alopias vulpinus* (Bonnaterre, 1788)

## THRESHER (FOX SHARK)

Sitings off East side and South coast. None taken by anglers (WWH).

#### Family CETORHINIDAE

#### *Cetorhinus maximus* (Gunnerus, 1765)

## BASKING SHARK

Common off all coasts in the summer months; solitary or in small groups swimming at or near surface. (FAD, KH, WWH, RSVP).

#### Family LAMNIDAE

#### *Lamna nasus* (Bonnaterre, 1788)

**PORBEAGLE**

Common late May to October; few in winter (WWH).

Suborder SCYLIORHINOIDEI

Family CARCHARINIDAE

*Prionace glauca* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**BLUE SHARK**

Occasional sightings; always solitary (WWH); Rattles anchorage (KH).

*Galeorhinus galeus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**TOPE**

Several taken by anglers (WWH). One observed on East coast mud grounds during television survey (RJAA, RSVP).

*Mustelus mustelus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**SMOOTH HOUND (SWEET WILLIAM)**

Shoals reported in late spring-early summer (WWH).

Family SCYLIORHINIDAE

*Scyliorhinus caniculus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**DOGFISH (LESS SPOTTED DOGFISH, SANDY DOG, ROUGH HOUND)**

Common on rock grounds and soft substrates; West side, Jenny's Cove (RSVP). East side, all sand and mud grounds (RJAA, FAD, WWH, RSVP); Knoll Pins, Seal's Hole, Seal's Rock (KH), common at Rattles Anchorage (RCLH); found at all depths from 3 m (South Rat Is.) to 30 m (Seal's Hole).

*Scyliorhinus stellaris* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**NURSE HOUND (LARGE—OR GREATER—SPOTTED DOGFISH, BULL HUSS, CATFISH BOUNCE, HUSS)**

Several taken by anglers, East side (WWH).

Suborder SQUALIOIDEI

Family SQUALIDAE

*Squalus acanthias* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**SPUR-DOG**

Common in late spring; shoals of several hundred (WWH).

Order RAJIFORMES

Suborder RAJOIDEI

Family RAJIDAE

*Raja clavata* Linnaeus, 1758

**ROKER (THORNBACK RAY)**

East side, particularly in spring; large specimens up to 72 Kg taken by anglers (WWH).

*Raja brachyura* Lafont, 1873

**BLONDE RAY**

Common on East side bank and at North-East corner; large specimens up to 100 Kg reported (WWH).

*Raja naevus* Müller and Henle, 1841

**CUCKOO RAY**

Few taken by anglers on West side (WWH).

Order TORPEDINIFORMES

Family TORPEDINIDAE

*Torpedo nobiliana* Bonaparte, 1835

**ELECTRIC RAY**

Occasionally trawled inshore off East side bank (WWH).

Class **TELEOSTOMI**  
Subclass **OSTEICHTHYES**  
Infraclass **ACTINOPTERYGII**  
Division **CHONDROSTEI**  
Order **ACIPENSERIFORMES**

Family **ACIPENSERIDAE**  
**Acipenser sturio** Linnaeus, 1758

**STURGEON**

One specimen caught 15 miles off Lundy, 1948 (see Anon, 1973).

Division **TELEOSTEI**  
Order **ANGUILLIFORMES**  
Suborder **ANGUILLOIDEI**

Family **ANGUILLIDAE**  
**Anguilla anguilla** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**EEL**

Common at MTL in rock-pools at Hell's Gates, especially in long gullies with abundant algal debris in summer (FAD, RCLH, RSVP). Occasionally on shores (CRB).

Family **CONGRIDAE**  
**Conger conger** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**CONGER OR CONGER EEL**

Fairly common in wrecks and rocky areas, especially boulder slopes (LAH); taken by anglers mainly at the Hen and Chickens; a few at Lee Rocks (WWH); one East of Rat Is. (KH); Carmine Filomena (RCLH).

Order **GOBIESOCIFORMES**

Family **GOBIESOCIDAE**  
**Lepadogaster lepadogaster** (Bonnaterre 1788)

**SHORE CLINGISH (CORNISH SUCKER)**

Few in MTL-LWN rock pools, summer Hell's Gates (CRB, RSVP). Common at Ladies Beach (RCLH).

Order **LOPHIIFORMES**  
Suborder **LOPHIOIDEI**

Family **LOPHIIDAE**  
**Lophius piscatorius** Linnaeus, 1758

**ANGLER (FROGFISH, MONKFISH)**

Common, especially on soft substrates on East side, (RJAA, WWH, CGM, RSVP); one at Lee Rocks (RH).

Order **GADIFORMES**  
Suborder **GADOIDEI**

Family **GADIDAE**  
**Merlangius merlangus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**WHITING**

Occasionally present as large shoals (WWH); others found in wrecks, overhangs e.g. Carmine Filomena, depth 5 m (KH).

**Gadus morhua** Linnaeus, 1758  
**COD (CODLING)**

Taken by anglers off Lee Rocks in winter (WWH).

**Pollachius pollachius**

**POLLACK**

Common on rocky coasts (LAH); juvenile fish in shoals of c. 10 (4-6 cm) in rock pools at LWN Hell's Gates with good algal cover, July (RSVP); adult shoals of 20-30 fish all along East side (FAD); other sitings at Knoll Pins, Landing Bay, Tibbett's Point (FAD); Gull Rock, Gannet's Rock, North Point, Jenny's Cove (KH); Lee Rocks (RH); solitary individuals in *Laminaria* at Landing Bay, Mousehole and Trap (RCLH); specimens of up to 6 Kg taken by anglers (WWH).

**Trisopterus luscus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**BIB (WHITING POUT, POUT, POUTING)**

Two records at Gannet's Rock in rock crevices near muddy sand, 20-30 m (KH, RSVP); taken in fish trap at Carmine Filomena, 13 m (RCLH).

**Trisopterus minutus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**POOR COD**

Few solitary individuals in rock crevices and boulder refuges at Quarry Bay; most around 20 cm standard length, 60 g, confirmed by angling; 16 m (RSVP); larger groups found in caves among boulders at North Gannet's Rock, 30 m (KH).

**Molva molva** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**LING**

Taken by anglers at Lee Rocks, winter (WWH).

**Gaidropsarus mediterraneus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**SHORE ROCKLING**

Several in MTL rock pools at Hell's Gates; one at Lametry beach (FAD); juveniles in Landing Bay, 1 m (CGM).

**Ciliata mustela** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FIVE BEARDED ROCKLING**

In MTL rock pools, Lametry beach (FAD). Recorded as quite common from rocky shores (CRB, LAH, WWH); common at Hell's Gates (RCLH).

Superorder ACANTHOPTERYGII

Order ATHERINIFORMES

Suborder EXOCOETOIDEI

Family BELONIDAE

**Belone bellone** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**GARFISH (GARPIKE)**

Found mixed with mackerel shoals (WWH); juveniles common over East side mud grounds, e.g. Quarry Bay, Halfway Wall Bay (CGM).

Order ZEIFORMES

Family ZEIDAE

**Zeus faber** Linnaeus, 1758

**DORY (ST PETER'S FISH, JOHN DORY)**

Single records from Quarry Bay, 10 m and Rattle Anchorage, 24 m August (KH). Occasionally taken off East side especially in early May (WWH).

Order GASTEROSTEIFORMES

Family GASTEROSTEIDAE

**Spinachia spinachia** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**SEA STICKLEBACK (FIFTEEN-SPINED STICKLEBACK)**

Occasionally found in rock pools, Hell's Gates (CRB, RCLH), Lametry Beach (WWH).

Suborder SYNGNATHOIDEI

Family SYNGNATHIDAE

**Nerophis lumbriciformis** (Jenyns, 1835)

WORM PIPEFISH

Rocky shores and rock pools, especially at Hell's Gates (CRB, LAH); found in rock pools containing the algae *Corallina officinalis* and *Ulva lactuca*, MTL-LWN (FAD); under boulders Hell's Gates and Lametry Beach (WWH); very common, East and South coasts (RCLH).

Order SCORPAENIFORMES

Suborder SCORPAENOIDEI

Family TRIGLIDAE

**Eutrigla gurnardus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

GREY GURNARD

Offshore on East side but occasionally close inshore at Quarry Bay (WWH).

**Aspitrigla cuculus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

RED GURNARD

Offshore on East side but occasionally close inshore at Quarry Bay (WWH).

Suborder COTTOIDEI

Family COTTIDAE

**Myoxocephalus scorpius** (Linnaeus, 1758)

BULL ROUT (SHORT-SPINED SEA SCORPION, FATHER LASHER)

Single record from a rock crevice, Knoll Pins, 12 m, July (RSVP).

**Taurulus bubalis** (Euphrasen, 1786)

SEA SCORPION (LONG-SPINED SEA SCORPION)

Common in MTL rock pools with fucoid algae, Hell's Gates and Lametry Beach (FAD); common in steep-sided gully, shallow depths at Surf Point (KH); Carmine Filomena and Rattles Anchorage (RCLH).

Family LIPARIDAE

**Liparis montagui** (Donovan, 1805)

MONTAGU'S SEA SNAIL

Single record North of Gannet's Rock in *Laminaria* holdfast (KH).

Order PERCIFORMES

Suborder PERCOIDEI

Family BRAMIDAE

**Brama brama** (Bonnaterre, 1788)

RAY'S BREAM

Rare, few autumn records (WWH).

Family CARANGIDAE

**Trachurus trachurus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

SCAD (HORSE MACKEREL)

Common in summer (WWH).

Family CEPOLIDAE

**Cepola rubescens** (Linnaeus, 1766)

RED BAND-FISH

Burrowing in mud on East side, Quarry Bay, Halfway Wall Bay, Gull Rock, Knoll Pins, Gannet's Cove (RJAA, RSVP); burrows found in clumps. 12 m to 15m and deeper.

Family SERRANIDAE  
**Dicentrarchus labrax** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**BASS**

Rare, a few summer records from anglers (WWH). One taken at Rat Is. (RCLH).

Family SPARIDAE  
**Pagellus bogaraveo** (Brunnich, 1768)

**RED SEA BREAM**

Occasional summer specimens (WWH).

**Spondyllosoma cantharus** (Linnaeus, 1758)  
**BLACK SEA BREAM (OLD WIFE)**  
Occasional summer specimens (WWH).

Suborder MUGILOIDEI

Family MUGILIDAE  
**Crenimugil labrosus** (Risso, 1826)

**THICK-LIPPED MULLET**

Occasional large shoals (WWH).

Suborder LABRODEI

Family LABRIDAE  
**Labrus bergylta** Ascanius, 1769

**BALLAN WRASSE**

Common among rocks and on boulder slopes on all coasts, particularly East side at Rat Is., Quarry Bay, Gull Rock, Knoll Pins, Tibbett's Point, Gannet's Rock, 3m-23 m, summer (FAD, WWH, RSVP). Common in *Laminaria* forest at Seal's Hole, Jenny's Cove (FAD) and in wrecks, particularly H.M.S. Montagu under large metal plates (KH), Rattles Anchorage, Mousehole and Trap (RCLH).

**Labrus mixtus** Linnaeus, 1758

**CUCKOO WRASSE**

Males and females common on lower boulder slopes and rocks all along East side especially at Quarry Bay, Gull Rock, Knoll Pins, Tibbett's Point, Brazenward, Gannet's Rock, 12 m-30 m, summer (MJB, FAD, KH, RCLH, WWH); also recorded at Seals' Rock 18 m -35 m, North Point, Jenny's Cove and North of Gannet's Rock, August (KH); at Rattles Anchorage, August (JDG, DJWL); young females recorded at shallower depths, e.g. 3 m at H.M.S. Montagu (KH).

**Ctenolabrus rupestris** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**GOLDSINNY (JAGO'S GOLDSINNY)**

Common in group of 3-6 on lower boulder slopes, rock refuges and under overhangs, particularly along East coast at Rat Is., Quarry Bay, Knoll Pins, Tibbett's Point, Brazen Ward, Gannet's Rock, found from 3 m to 25 m but mostly below the main algal cover and particularly abundant at the rock-mud/sand boundary, summer (FAD, WWH, RSVP), other frequent sitings at Seal's Rock, H.M.S. Montagu, Lee Rocks, Battery, Jenny's Cove, 3 m-20 m, summer (KH); Rattles Anchorage (RCLH).

**Centrolabrus exoletus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ROCK COOK (SMALL-MOUTHED WRASSE)**

Seen in small groups or as large solitary individuals all along East coast in rich algal cover on rocks and boulder slopes, less common than other wrasses, found 3 m-13 m and never below the main algal cover in summer (FAD, RSVP); single record from Jenny's Cove in *Laminaria* cover, 15 m, summer (FAD); Landing Bay, Mousehole and Trap (RCLH).

Suborder TRACHINOIDEI

Family TRACHINIDAE

**Trachinus vipera** Cuvier, 1829

WEEVER (LESSER WEEVER)

Common on sand and mud grounds (WWH).

Suborder BLENNIOIDEI

Family BLENNIIDAE

**Blennius (Lipophrys) pholis** Linnaeus, 1758

SHANNY

Very common in MTL-LW rock pools at Hell's Gates and Lametry Beach all sizes present from 0.6-52.2 g, July (FAD, CRB, RSVP); granite shores (LAH, WWH).

**Coryphoblennius galerita** (Linnaeus, 1758)

MONTAGU'S BLENNY

Rare at Hell's Gates (CRB); common (WWH); locally common at diving jetty, Landing Bay (RCLH).

Family PHOLIDIDAE

**Pholis gunnellus** (Linnaeus, 1758)

BUTTERFISH (GUNNEL)

Common on rocky shores at all seasons (WWH).

Suborder AMMODYTOIDEI

Family AMMODYTIDAE

**Ammodytes tobianus** Linnaeus, 1758

SAND EEL

Large numbers in summer (WWH).

**Hyperoplus lanceolatus** (Lesauvage, 1824)

GREATER SAND EEL

Large numbers in summer (WWH).

Suborder GOBIOIDEI

Family GOBIIDAE

**Chaparrudo flavescens** (Fabricius, 1779)

TWO-SPOT GOBY

Common as shoals among *Laminaria* at Quarry Bay and Brazen Ward, 3m-12 m, summer (KH, RSVP); shoals of juveniles in MTL rock pools, Hell's Gates, July (RSVP); in Landing Bay at 3 m, July (FAD); Shoals in *Laminaria* at Landing Bay, Mousehole and Trap, summer (RCLH).

**Gobius (Macrogobius) paganellus** Linnaeus, 1758

ROCK GOBY

Few in MTL rock pools at Hell's Gates, July (RSVP).

**Thorogobius ephipphiatus** (Lowe, 1839)

**Gobius (Zebrus) fosteri** (Carbin, 1958)

LEOPARD-SPOTTED GOBY

Common on all coasts at the margin of rock and boulder slopes with mud or sand, occupying refuges in crevices and under overhangs; Rat Is. and all East side, 3 m to 19 m (FAD, KH, RSVP); S. Surf Point, Long Roost (KH).



Suborder SCOMBROIDEI

Family SCOMBRIDAE

*Scomber scombrus* Linnaeus, 1758

MACKEREL

Common in summer (WWH); common in Landing Bay, summer (RCLH).

Order PLEURONECTIFORMES

Suborder PLEURONECTOIDEI

Family BOTHIDAE

*Scophthalmus maximus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

TURBOT

On banks (WWH).

*Scophthalmus rhombus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

BRILL

On banks (WWH).

Family PLEURONECTIDAE

*Limanda limanda* (Linnaeus, 1758)

DAB

On banks (WWH).

*Platichthys flesus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

FLOUNDER

Few spent fish on banks (WWH).

*Pleuronectes platessa* Linnaeus, 1758

PLAICE

On banks (WWH).

*Microstomus kitt* (Walbaum, 1792)

LEMON SOLE

On banks (WWH).

Suborder SOLEOIDEI

Family SOLEIDAE

*Solea solea* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SOLE (DOVER SOLE)

On banks (WWH).

Order TETRAODONTIFORMES

Suborder TETRAODONTOIDEI

Family MOLIDAE

*Mola mola* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SUNFISH

Solitary individuals seen every summer at surface (WWH). South coast (KH), Rat Is. (AD), East coast (AA, RV).

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### Red band-fish *Cepola rubescens*

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