

#200Fish

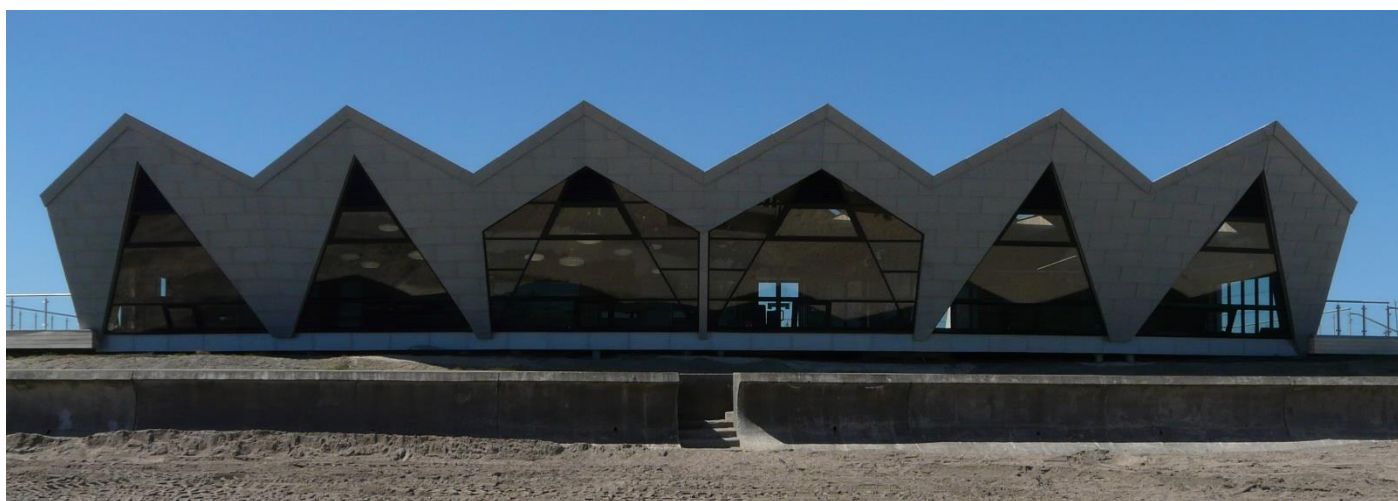
To bid, visit
www.bit.ly/200FishAuction

Art inspired by each species of fish found in the North Sea



The Auction

At the exhibition and by e-mail:
biffvernon@gmail.com



Bidding is open now by e-mail and at the gallery during the exhibition's opening hours. Bidding ends 6 pm Monday 3rd September 2018

The #200Fish Auction

Thanks to the many artists who have so generously donated their works to the Lincolnshire Time and Tide Bell Community Interest Company to raise funds for our future art and environmental projects, we are selling some of the artworks in the #200Fish exhibition by auction.

Here's how it works.

Take a look through this catalogue and if you would like to buy a piece send us an email giving the Fish Number and how much you are willing to pay. Or if you visit the North Sea Observatory during the exhibition, 23rd August to 3rd September, you can hand in your bid on paper. Along with your bid amount, please include your e-mail address and postal address.

After the auction closes, at 6pm Monday 3rd September 2018, the person who has bid the highest price wins and we'll send you an e-mail. Sold works can be collected from the gallery on Tuesday the 4th or from my house in North Somercotes any time later. We can post them to you but will charge whatever it costs us.

Bear in mind that the images displayed here are a bit rubbish, just low resolution versions of snapshots as often as not taken on a camera phone rather than in a professional art photo studio. If you like these images you can be confident that the real thing will look a lot better!

The Price of Fish

How much to bid? The best answer is to bid what you think the artwork is worth to you.

That said, some folk may want a few clues. The artists range from professionals who make their living from their art and have established reputations that allow them to sell their works for three and four figure sums. Others are students and new entrants to the arts who may one day become established artists, with their works commanding high prices, or not. Others are amateurs who enjoy making art for its own sake, though that is not to imply that their creations are in any way less worthy than those of professionals. And there are a couple of works by children. The written texts that are presented here are the words submitted by the artists themselves. On the website at <http://www.bit.ly/200Fish> there are links to the websites of some of the artists. For those you can find out more.

With most of artworks in the auction the artists are generously donating all the proceeds to the Time and Tide Bell CIC to help fund future art events, while a few artists have asked to keep a proportion of the proceeds to help cover their expenses. Even artists need to eat.

We are keen not to sell the works too cheaply. The worker is worthy of his hire, so most pieces have a reserve which will need to be met before a bid is successful. Some are a few tens of pounds, others a few hundred. A few works might make four figures. But we'd rather not say which is which. The important thing is to bid what you think the artwork is worth to you. Other people's opinions matter less.

Biff Vernon



Fish #001 Atlantic Hagfish, *Myxine glutinosa* Laura Mabbutt

Hand felted undyed wools and silks and included glass beads as teeth and gills.

Hagfish are often seen as ugly fish that live in the dark depths of the sea. I want to rethink this impression by creating a light, soft and beautiful creature from wool, with silk used to create the undulating tail. The rasping teeth of the hagfish and the gills are represented by glass beads. The position of my hagfish tries to emphasise the beautiful movement of the fish as it twirls about rasping food from a carcass.

I chose to create a Hagfish using wet felt-making techniques. This wet and soapy making process mimicked how I imagine a real hagfish might feel in my hands.



Fish # 03 Sea Lamprey, *Petromyzon marinus* ~ Helen Green

Faber-Castell oil based Polychromos pencils blended with a solvent 30 x 42 cm

I look like an eel but without the fins, long, agile and strong.
My mouth is large and jawless with lots of sharp teeth.
I am a parasite happy to live on my host in fresh or salt water.
With my suction like mouth I attach myself to the skin of my host.
My victim will eventually die from blood loss or infection.
Yet after I spawn I quickly die and become food for other fish.
Some Europeans even like to eat me!



Fish # 06 Longnose Velvet Dogfish, *Centroselachus crepidater* Ruth Bateman

Acrylic inks, watercolour and ink 13 x 23 cm

This fine shark specimen is known also as a sleeper shark and forms part of the Somniosidae family. He is predominantly found cruising along in the sub tropical seas of the Southern hemisphere, reaching depths between 230 - 1500m, and is found around the world including in British waters.

Longnose as we shall refer to him has notably two dorsal fins which are equal in size and length, he tends to be black or blackish brown in colour and has a very long distinct snout! - hence the name! Sleek and slender in stature he is ideally built for circumnavigating the depths and vastness of the sub tropics.

Biography: Ruth instinctively paints large expressive and often spontaneous landscapes; these reflect her passion and response to the immediate environment around her. Distinct in style she incorporates various techniques and materials into her work, she seeks to push and challenge the boundaries of traditional painting methodology

Painting acts as a visual voice or expression, capturing the essence of emotion that is often lost in the fast-paced world of today. Ruth's work is honest and a true reflection on her fascination and intrigue on the natural world, extending from landscapes through to nature, animals and beasts. Her paintings consist of layers of colour, often re-worked into, thus revealing an otherwise 'lost' moment in time, a memory recaptured. Paint is then systematically if not rather chaotically applied in the form of splashing, dripping, flicking, scratching and drawing.

Alongside her growing reputation within the painting scene, Ruth has become well established and known for her wire and mixed media sculptures, where wire is used to transform a drawn line into energetic three dimensional sculpture. The majority of Ruth's wire sculptures concentrate on her love of the Hare and bird-life. Fascinated and drawn to the colour, texture and the density that wire offers, Ruth sketches, and builds life into each piece, through a series of twists and binds. Movement is fundamental to each creation, allowing a life spirit to emulate and individuality and character to shine.



Fish #009 Birdbeak Dogfish, *Deania calcea*, Jonathan Bean

Digital collage 210 x 297 mm

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Chondrichthyes

Order: Squaliformes

Family: Centrophoridae

Scientific Name: *Deania Calcea* (Lowe, 1839)

Common Name(s): Birdbeak Dogfish, Brier Shark, Shovelnose Spiny Dogfish

Region: Europe

Characteristics: The tailfish of *Deania calcea* bear unusual resemblance to the hindquarters of a dog and its snout to the beak of the Oystercatcher, hence its common name "Birdbeak Dogfish". These traits have given *Deania calcea* a near mythical status.

Habitat/Ecology: On or near the bottom of the continental slope and abyssal plain in depths from 70 to 1,450 m.

Population: An extremely scarce mid slope species of deep water dogfish. Population unknown.

Current status: Extinct.

Additional Data: A species once prized both for the healing properties of its flesh and oil, and for its unusual bodily characteristics amongst collectors. Population diminished rapidly in the early half of the 19th Century, when it is thought to have been fished into extinction by black market traders. Occasional stories have surfaced of sightings but there remains no evidence, and the species is currently still classified as extinct.



Fish #011 Bramble Shark, *Echinorhinus brucus*, Carey Jones

Acrylic 30 x 23 cm

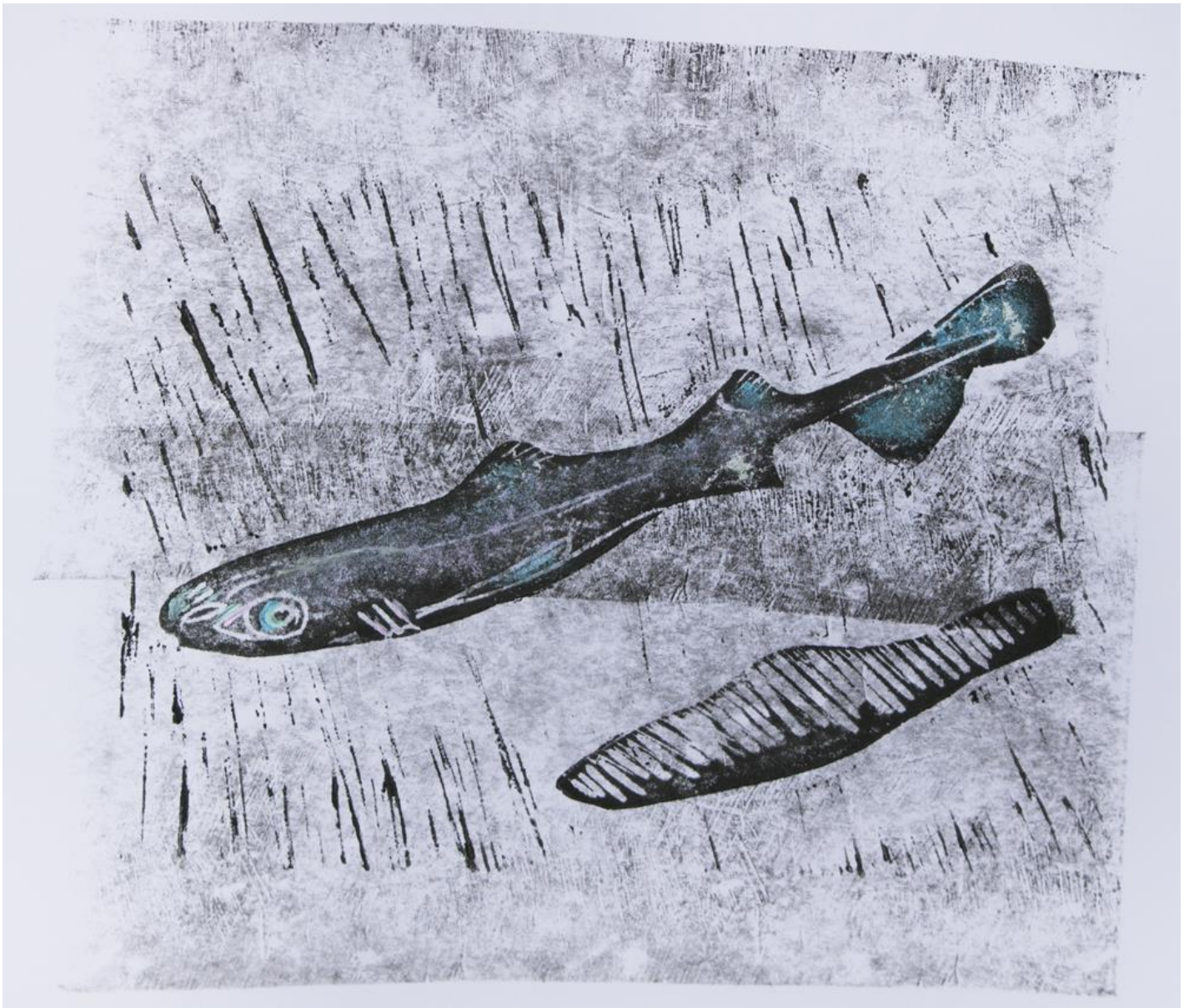
It's a wonder this shy and solitary shark doesn't have an identity crisis, originally described as *Squalus brucus* by Bonaterre in 1788, its name was later changed to the currently used *Echinorhinus brucus* (Bonaterre 1788). It's derived from the Greek echinos meaning "sea urchin, hedgehog" and from rhinos meaning "nose" which describes its appearance perfectly! It also has many other names the world over; a few follow:

In English: mango-tara, spinous shark, and spiny shark and, in many other languages, achinoskylopsaro, kavouromana & Karcharias (Greek), Alligatorhai & Brombeerhai (German), Braamhaai (Afrikaans/Dutch), chenille (French), civili köpek baligi (Turkish), kalb (Arabic), kikuzame (Japanese), murruna tal-fosos, murruna tax-xewk and murruna xewwikija (Maltese), okahai (Finnish), peixe-prego (Portuguese), peshkagen therrës etc. etc.

Despite being so widely named it is a rare shark living in the very deepest parts of the seas and isn't often seen or caught. When it is it's generally by anglers as a game fish or for traditional medicine in southern Africa.

Its short, stout, flabby body and sluggish nature are well suited to its life as a deep-sea dweller (c.900 metres) and the lack of a classic 'Jaws' dorsal fin means it isn't seen as a threat to humans. It varies in colour from olive or purple, to dark grey or black with metallic/luminous reflections on the dorsal side and its body scattered irregularly with distinct thorn-like projections and, occasionally, darker blotches.

According to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the bramble shark is a lonely soul - rare and drawn to deep water - and has only been recorded sporadically at widely dispersed localities throughout the world. Very little is really known about Bramble - it's likely to be a slow-growing, late-maturing species but its breeding habits etc. remain a mystery. The good news is that it is not taken in commercial fisheries due to the depth at which it occurs but the bad news is (as always) it is on the decline in the northeast Atlantic. However, due to the lack of data the IUCN has not categorised it as yet - it is anticipated, though, to reach the "Threatened" category as more data becomes available.



Fish #013 Velvet Belly Lanternshark *Etmopterus spinax* ~ Esme Dodsworth
Linocut 21 x 29 cm

Velvet Belly Lanternshark

Is a species of dogfish shark, found in the northeastern Atlantic ocean. One of the smaller sharks, normally no more than 45cm long, so named velvet belly due to its black underside and brown colouration over the rest of the body. It has been assessed as least concern by the IUCN, though heavy numbers are caught as bycatch in the deep water. However its slow reproductive rates are raising conservation concern.

Your velvet under
Makes you seem so soft
But you are a tiny shark
That is well and truly tough
One of the few
To keep going strong
A little Fighter
Keep Swimming along

Having Grown up in Boston, Lincolnshire, right by the Boston docks, I have grown with the sea and the fishing industry all around me. I have seen the way it has impacted many lives as a living, and also seen how the industry and climate change has changed the local landscape.



Fish #018 Basking Shark, *Cetorhinus maximus*, I Bella Bee 43 X 60 cms Oil on paper

Basking Sharks are the second largest shark on the planet, yet they are passive feeders, which means they do not actively hunt. Instead, they glide near the surface of the water, mouth agape, filtering zooplankton from these precious few nutrient-rich inches. It is often in death they are perceived as more monstrous, decomposition leaving the lower jaws to drop away; giving the appearance of a long thin neck. No wonder this beast has been called sea-serpent, or even a relative of the Loch Ness Monster when their corpses are found washed up on shore.

The tale of the Stronsay beast is an example of this. Washed up on the high tide line, 25th September 1808, local men discovered the corpse, one saying it was unlike anything he had encountered before. Lying on the rocks were the remains of a large serpent-like creature, with a long, eel-like neck and three pairs of legs.

The beast was described as serpentine, measuring exactly 55 feet long, with a neck measuring ten feet three inches long. The head was like that of a sheep, with eyes bigger than a seal's. Its skin was grey and rough to the touch. However, if stroked from the head down the back, it was said to be as "smooth as velvet".

We still know very little about this gentle giant. They winter in the Caribbean or Florida at great depths, yet little is really known about this creature, even where they give birth is unknown.

Sadly, still hunted for their 'leather' and fins, basking shark numbers are at a dangerously low level.

About Bella Bee

Inspired by life experience and environment, Bella's work exhibits her strong sense of place and time, which she hopes to convey in her distinct narrative. Her semi abstract pieces invite the viewer to interpret what they see with their own story.

Fine Art at Bath and Printmaking at Wiltshire College have been her main body of study with a return to ceramics in a private studio in Frome with work exhibited in various galleries including The Officers' Club, Bath; The Paintworks Bristol and MOMA Wales. Starting out as an oil painter, but working most recently in printmaking, namely collagraph, Bella finds herself beguiled by landscapes both literal and emotional. This is her conversation with it.

"I believe it is the job of an artist to open a dialogue with the viewer; to depict the scene not as a photograph, but as an idea or thought. It doesn't have to be a strong or powerful image, but it does need to have some quality which describes some human interaction. I hope that in printmaking I have achieved this"

<https://shoutout4370.wixsite.com/artspace>



Fish #018 Basking Shark, *Cetorhinus maximus*, II Bella Bee 43 X 60 cm Oil on paper

Basking Sharks are the second largest shark on the planet, yet they are passive feeders, which means they do not actively hunt. Instead, they glide near the surface of the water, mouth agape, filtering zooplankton from these precious few nutrient-rich inches. It is often in death they are perceived as more monstrous, decomposition leaving the lower jaws to drop away; giving the appearance of a long thin neck. No wonder this beast has been called sea-serpent, or even a relative of the Loch Ness Monster when their corpses are found washed up on shore.

The tale of the Stronsay beast is an example of this. Washed up on the high tide line, 25th September 1808, local men discovered the corpse, one saying it was unlike anything he had encountered before. Lying on the rocks were the remains of a large serpent-like creature, with a long, eel-like neck and three pairs of legs.

The beast was described as serpentine, measuring exactly 55 feet long, with a neck measuring ten feet three inches long. The head was like that of a sheep, with eyes bigger than a seal's. Its skin was grey and rough to the touch. However, if stroked from the head down the back, it was said to be as "smooth as velvet".

We still know very little about this gentle giant. They winter in the Caribbean or Florida at great depths, yet little is really known about this creature, even where they give birth is unknown.

Sadly, still hunted for their 'leather' and fins, basking shark numbers are at a dangerously low level.

About Bella Bee

Inspired by life experience and environment, Bella's work exhibits her strong sense of place and time, which she hopes to convey in her distinct narrative. Her semi abstract pieces invite the viewer to interpret what they see with their own story.

Fine Art at Bath and Printmaking at Wiltshire College have been her main body of study with a return to ceramics in a private studio in Frome with work exhibited in various galleries including The Officers' Club, Bath; The Paintworks Bristol and MOMA Wales.

Starting out as an oil painter, but working most recently in printmaking, namely collagraph, Bella finds herself beguiled by landscapes both literal and emotional. This is her conversation with it.

"I believe it is the job of an artist to open a dialogue with the viewer; to depict the scene not as a photograph, but as an idea or thought. It doesn't have to be a strong or powerful image, but it does need to have some quality which describes some human interaction. I hope that in printmaking I have achieved this"



Fish #020 School or Tope Shark, *Galeorhinus galeus*, Carey Jones Acrylic on canvas 25 x 20 cm

The School Shark has many names - the tope shark, snapper shark, and soupfin shark. The last name is a bit of a giveaway as to the reason for the (surprise surprise) over-fishing of this shark - it is prized the world over for its flesh, its fins, and its liver, which has a very high vitamin A content. Worse still there are very few fishing restrictions, with Australia, New Zealand, and California being the only regions to take any action to protect school sharks. There have also been too few studies to date so it's nigh on impossible to know how many School Sharks are really out there, and whether the few existing restrictions are enough to protect them. Despite the lack of information the IUCN is worried enough to classify the School Shark in its Red List of Threatened Species.

School Sharks favour temperate seas at depths down to about 800 m (2,600 ft) where it grows up to 2 m (6 ft 7 in) long. They are amazingly well travelled being a migratory species. Animals tagged in the United Kingdom have been recovered in the Azores, the Canary Islands, and Iceland. Sharks tagged in Australia have travelled distances of 1,200 km (750 miles) along the coast and others have turned up in New Zealand. They tend to travel in schools which are segregated by size and gender, the females give birth to up to 38 'pups' after a one year gestation period. They have very large, almond-shaped eyes which are fantastic at spotting their prey, typically bottom-dwelling fish, crustaceans, and molluscs. Thankfully this is one breed of shark where humans aren't on the menu, so, return the favour and don't eat him (or her)!!



Fish #023 Common Smooth-hound, *Mustelus mustelus*, Dave Wright

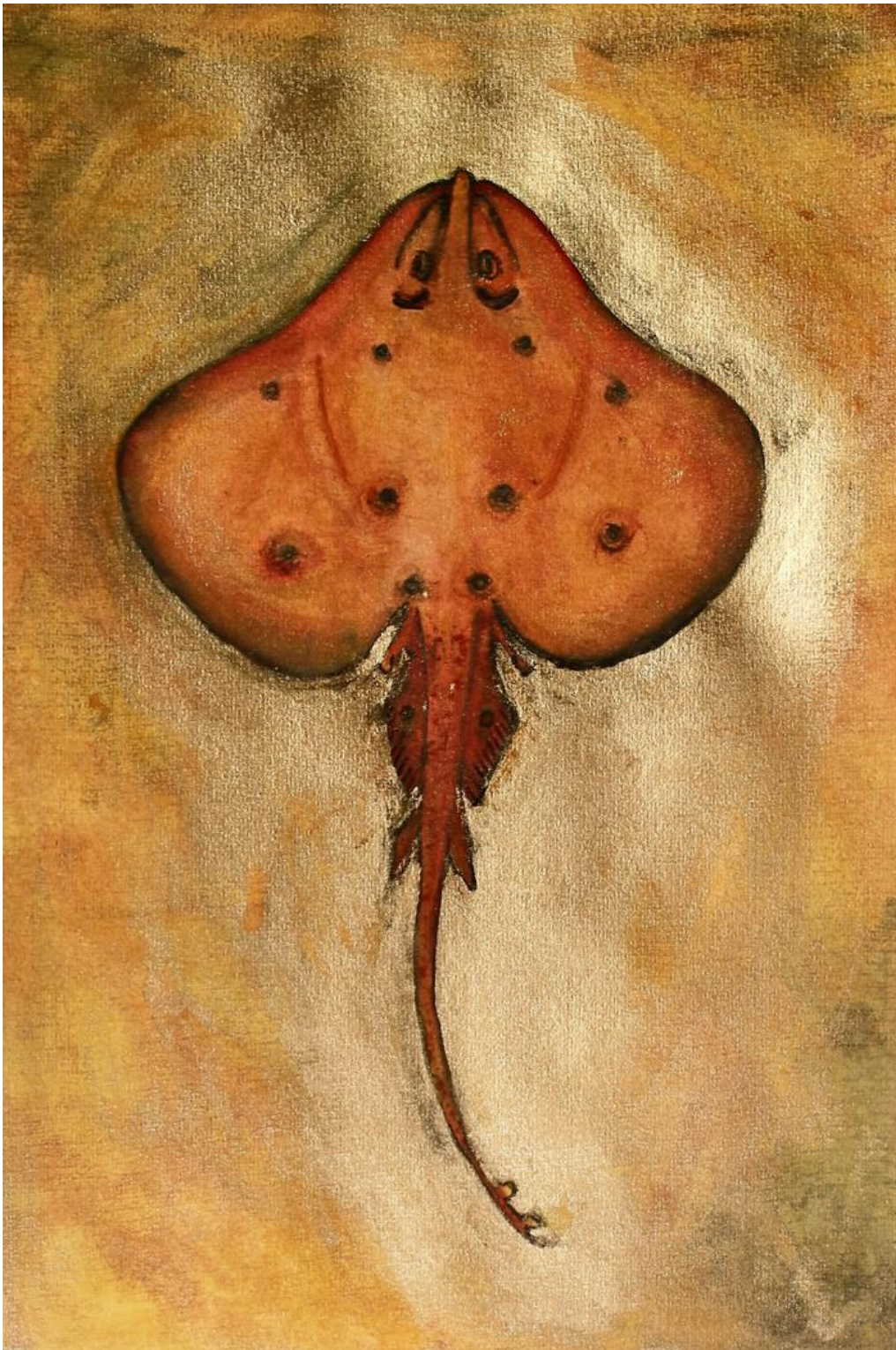
Pallet-wood boards 57 x 104 cm

Mustelus mustelus, Gummy Shark, Common Smooth-hound, Smut, Smooth Dogfish. If you happen to be a shrimp..... this small Shark is JAWS! This piece is made from broken down pallet wood which has been de-nailed, cut and sanded. Once prepared it is fixed together then backed for rigidity. A template of the subject is created, enlarged then recreated on the framework. Once on, it is cut out using a jigsaw, sanded again, finished then the shape is backed using thin plywood. The wood is 'aged' using a wax based boot polish, sanded a third time, framed and sealed using thinned down floor varnish which also seals. This piece can be free standing or mounted.

I enjoy making this type of piece, using wood that no one looks at twice, yet may have been around the World. Pallet wood is surprisingly good to work with, forgiving, beautiful and carries scars that are natural and man made. I cannot think of one single thing that did not sit on top of a pallet at some point. Back to the Smooth Hound.....



Fish #025 Small-spotted Catshark, *Scyliorhinus canicular*, Jenny Oyston



Fish #30 Sandy Ray, *Leucoraja circularis* Julia Colquitt Roach
Inks, Watercolour, Pencil and Finer Liner on A3 Watercolour Paper

The elusive offshore species the Sandy Ray, *Leucoraja Circularis* is usually 70cms to 120cms in length. The Sandy Ray's colouration is variable from a light to a red brown, though in some documentation it is suggested that it can also be dark brown. The underside is white and on each pectoral fin there are usually four to six spots. The sturdy tail is longer than the body and the snout has a beautifully pronounced tip.

There is limited information about the ray's diet, though the likelihood is that it feeds on various bottom dwelling invertebrates, particularly crustaceans and small teleost fish. There is little information about the Sandy Ray's reproductive cycle, eggs are laid in pairs in soft substrates.

The Sandy Ray dwells at depths of 100 metres and more in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea in sandy or muddy sea beds along the edge of the continental shelf and upper slope. It is taken as bycatch in multi-species trawl fisheries and offshore bottom longlines. The species is suspected to have declined overall by more than 50% in the last three generations (29 years) and the Sandy Ray is now classified as an endangered species.



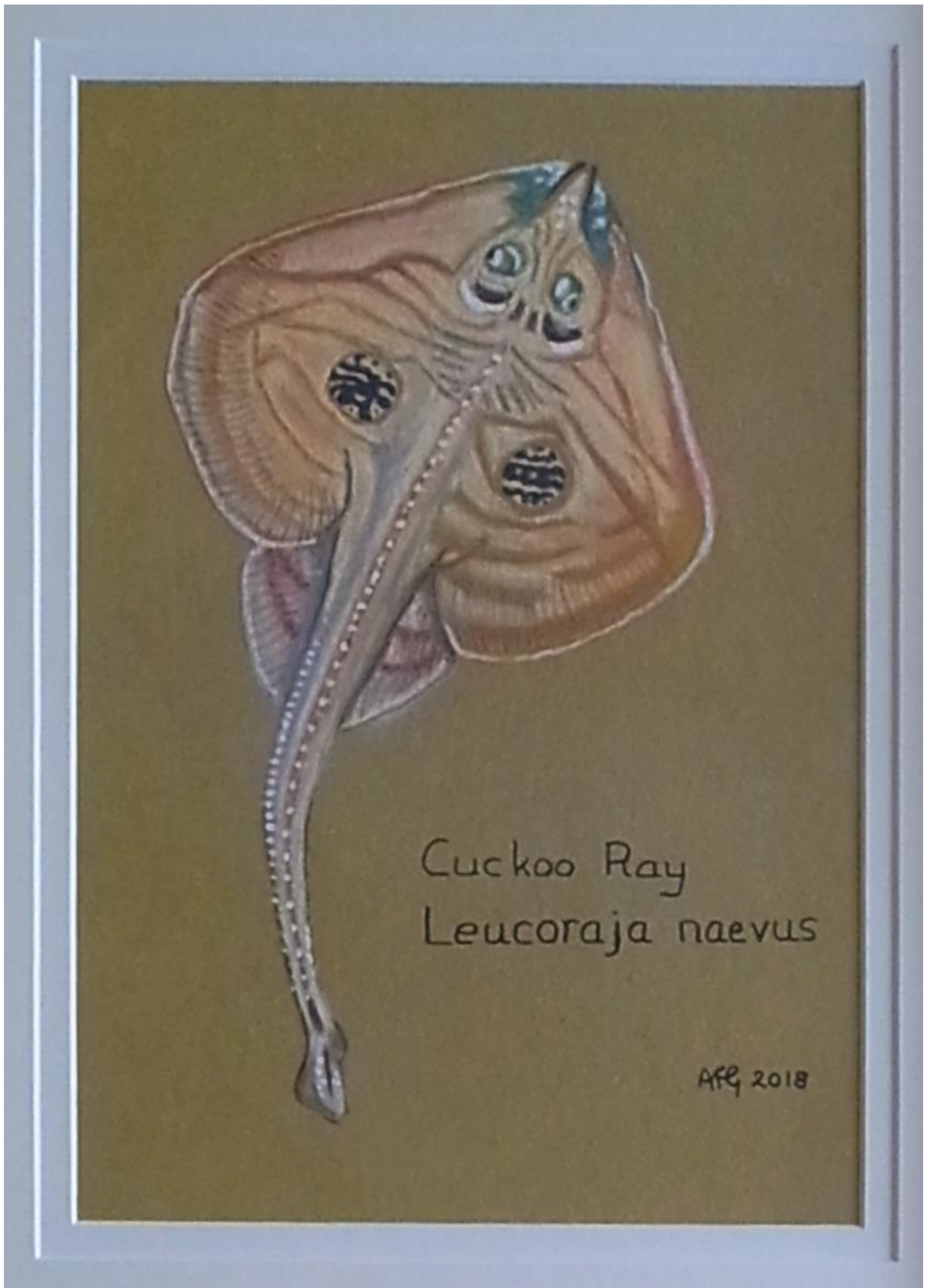
Fish #31 Shagreen Ray, *Leucoraja fullonica* Kenneth Hayden, 'Shagreen Ray at Sea Floor' Acrylic paint on wood, 26.6 x 20 x 1.5 cm

Proving to be an elusive creature judging by the limited imagery available on the Internet and it's favored habitat of deep, cold waters, I've done an interpretation of the Shagreen Ray, (aka, shagreen skate, fuller's ray, or leucoraja fullonica) as a cross between a creature swimming in a future algae-laden murk, thanks to global warming, while also giving a nod to it's most popular use as skin which is dried, dyed and tooled for covering a variety of decorative objects for the use of humans.

Leucoraja fullonica is actually a species of skate in the family Rajidae. According to Wikipedia, the shagreen ray can be "found in the eastern Atlantic Ocean, from Murmansk, Russia through Norway, southern Iceland, the Faroe Islands, the Celtic Sea, the northern North Sea and Skagerrak, to northern Morocco, including (infrequently) the western Mediterranean Sea and the Madeira Islands. It is absent from the shallow waters off England and Wales. This species occurs in relatively cold water on the upper continental slopes at a depth of 30-550 m. It is most common at depths of 200 m, but is found deeper in southern areas. It favors sandy and possibly also rocky habitats. The shagreen ray feeds on a variety of benthic animals, mainly fishes but also crustaceans."

About my image: the paper I've painted is heavy with layers of acrylic paint with has been sanded down, repainted sanded and the process repeated several times to give it an otherworldly surface and tactility.

<http://www.kennethhayden.com/>



Cuckoo Ray
Leucoraja naevus

AFG 2018

Fish #32 Cuckoo Ray, *Leucoraja naevus* Aileen Gilchrist Pastel 41 x 31 cm



Fish #34 Thornback Ray *Raja clavata* ~ Chris Ruston
Watercolour paper, Ink, Pen and Ink Drawing 17 x 24 cm

Information

Appearance: DarkBrown / Grey with light spots and yellow marbling. White underside with darker rim. Covered in thorns on its back and tail.

Max length: Female 130cm Male 105cm

Diet: Young feed on crab & shrimp, adults feed on crab, shrimp and fish.

Distribution: NE Atlantic and Mediterranean

Reproduction: Lays egg cases close to the shore. Egg cases are 50 - 90 mm and almost as wide.

Habitat: Live on the seabed at depths from 10 -300 metres. Prefer soft mud and sand.

Conservation Status: Red List - Near Threatened (likely to become threatened).

Further information

I found this wonderful description of rays in a second hand book - *A History of the Earth and Animated Nature* by Oliver Goldsmith, 1834. With the advent of publishing, curiosity about the natural world was beginning to be more accessible. One hundred and eighty years on, our focus turns to preserving these fragile environments!

Of Cartilaginous Flat-Fish or the Ray Kind

"The same rapacity which impels the shark along the surface of the water, actuates the flat fish at the bottom. Less active and less formidable they creep in security along the bottom, seize everything that comes in their way; neither the hardest shells nor the sharpest spines give protection to the animals that bear them; their insatiable hunger is such that they devour all. The whole of this kind resemble each other very strongly in their figure; nor is it easy without experience to distinguish one from another. The stranger to this dangerous tribe may imagine he is only handling a skate when he is instantly struck numb by the torpedo; he may suppose he has caught a thornback till he is stung by the fire-flare (stingray). The skate and thornback are very good food and their size, which is from 10lbs to 200 weight, very well rewards the trouble for fishing for them.

But it sometimes happens that the lines are visited by intruders, by the rough ray, the fire-flare or the torpedo. To all these the fisherman have the most mortal antipathy; and when discovered, shudder at the sight.: however they are not always so much upon their guard that they sometimes feel the different resentments of this angry tribe: and instead of a prize they find they have caught a vindictive enemy. When such is the case they take care to throw them back into the sea with the swiftest expedition..."



Fish #36 Round Ray, *Rajella fyllae*
Maris van Nijhuis
Acrylic on canvas 60 x 30 cm

The *Rajella fyllae* is part of the *Elasmobranchii* family, or rays and sharks. The round ray comes in anything from ash gray to chocolate brown on its rough upper surface, outfitted with large thorns in irregular rows. It has lighter colors on its lower surface and has a maximum length of 60 cm. You can run into this ray in the Northeast Atlantic, from Spitsbergen to southern Norway, southern Greenland, Iceland, Faeroe Islands to Shetlands, the western coasts of the British Isles and Bay of Biscay. It prefers to swim in deep water and feeds on bottom animals. The round ray is harmless to humans and is of no interest for the fishing industry. I selected this species first of all because I remember that when I was a young child my father was bitten by a sting ray -a different variety than the round ray here actually, which has its habitat in Southeast Asia. This made a big impression on me, as he was stung in his ankle and had a deep wound, which healed very slowly. Later in life, when I was traveling in the Caribbean, I managed to overcome my fear and swam in between large rays during a boat trip off the coast of Belize. For this painting I thought of the deep waters of the North Sea, and couldn't help but think of oil rigs -not the most environmentally friendly companions for fish. I included a young ray, since one of the most noteworthy facts I found about this species is that the young of the round ray tend to follow large objects....such as their parents!

About Maris van Nijhuis: Dutch painter and sculptor, specialized in oil and acrylic paintings. Maris grew up in The Netherlands and has lived and worked on 3 continents for the past 18 years, while traveling to over 50 countries. Maris' works are inspired by nature and an appreciation for the beauty and intricacy of everything around us.

<http://www.marisvannijhuis.com/>



Fish #37 Common Stingray, *Dasyatis pastinaca* Bryony Dickins

Acrylic on paper 21 x 30 cm

The Common Stingray (*Dasyatis pastinaca*) is found in the north-east of the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea. It lives in coastal waters preying on crustaceans, molluscs and small bottom dwelling fish. It is more active at night, often burying itself in sediment during the day. They are caught as a by-catch by trawlers, but although their livers are used for liver oil, and the livers can be considered a delicacy, their flesh is of limited value.

They typically measure about 45cm across with a whip-like tail 35cm long, although significantly larger specimens have been recorded. The serrated stinging spine is part way along the length of the tail which has a gland of venom. The spine is shed and replaced periodically. Females bear 4-9 young twice per year. The embryos feed on the yolk and as they develop their mother provides histotroph ('uterine milk'). The 'pups' measure about 8cm across when they are born and can live into their twenties.

I chose one of the many species of stingray because we were married on the 3rd September 2006 and I later found out that Steve Irwin had been killed the following day by a stingray. The transition from delight to tragedy is always a reminder that nature can confound us however much we believe we understand it.

The stingray plays and preys
in the sand fanned wonderland
Ride the tide to glide,
wander yonder and ponder
Explore the seaweed to feed
and sweep along in the deep
Swim and skim
into the starless darkness.



Fish #38 Common Skate, *Dipturus batis* Jane Rushby Crochet

I'd love to be able to tell you that I chose this fish because it was my father in law's favourite to eat, and as it happens he died during the period I was crocheting; indeed, I spent many hours crocheting at his home and in the hospice while my husband and mother in law cared for him in his last days and hours. However, the honest truth is that it was one of the few available fish I had actually heard of, and I liked its spots!

As it happens, research published fairly recently (2009 and 2010) shows that the species *Dipturus Batis* is actually two separate fish, the smaller southern flossada (blue skate) and the larger northern intermedius (flapper skate). The large fish is the largest skate in the world, reaching a length of over 9 feet.

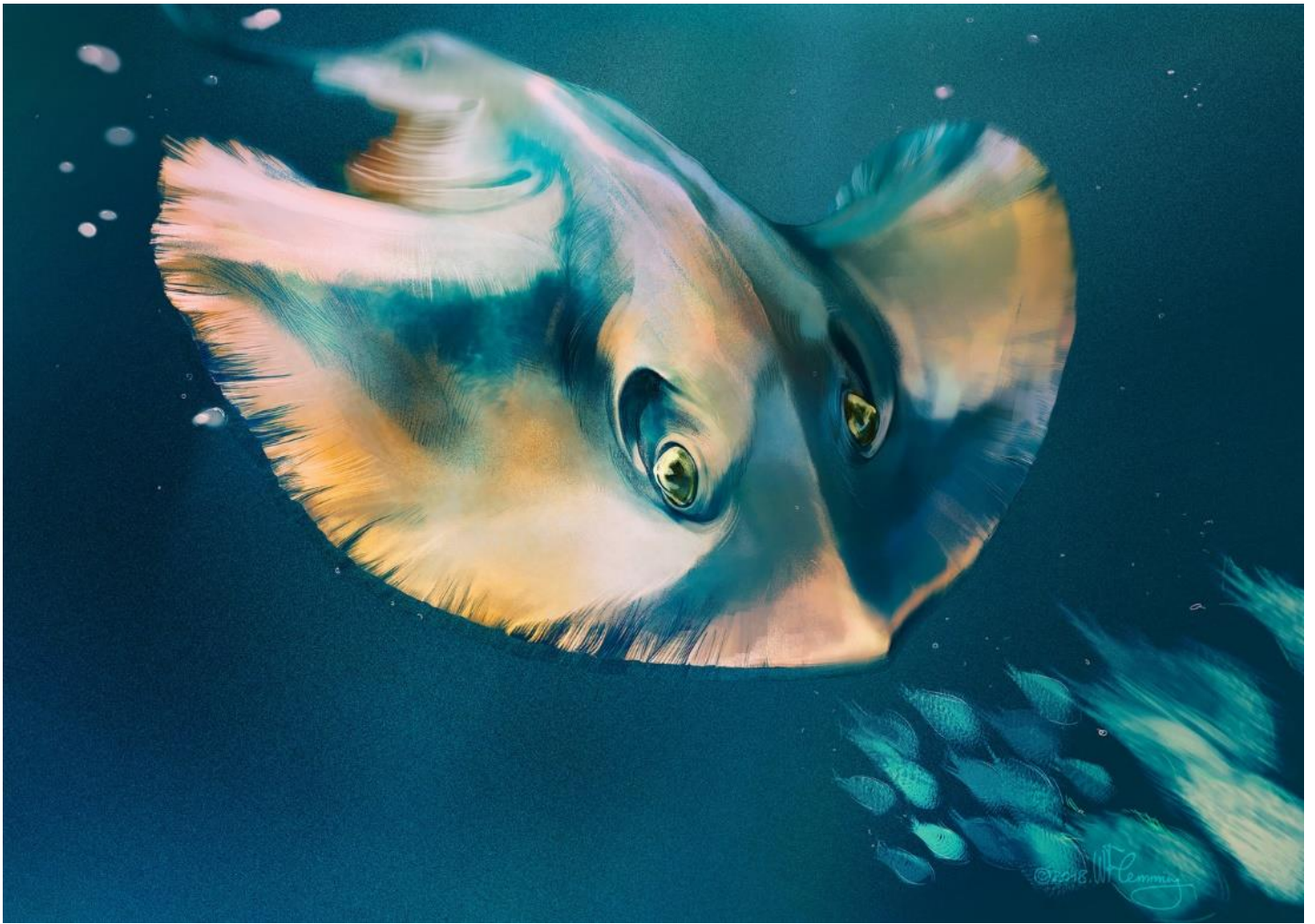
At the beginning of the C20 the fish was plentiful in the waters around the British Isles, where it was predominantly found at depths of 100-200m, as a bottom dwelling species, although it can occur as shallow as 30m and as deep as 1000m, such as along the edge of the continental shelf. It was reported by the Guardian in 2002 that the common skate is 'commercially extinct' however the thrust of the concern seemed to focus on the implications of this for stocks of other fish more popular for the table such as cod, herring and whiting which are also depleted owing to unsustainable fishing practices. The species was noted as 'critically endangered' in 2006 and its previous abundance in the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean sea has been severely compromised and depleted. The skate can live for 50-100 years, when they reach maturity they mate in the spring and females lay approximately 40 egg cases in sandy or muddy flats and the eggs develop for 2-5 months before hatching. When hatched, juveniles measure up to 9 inches long, so it seems I have inadvertently crocheted a baby skate!

The common skate is a bottom feeder, its diet includes crustaceans, clams, oysters, snails, and small to medium-sized fish, including other skates! Some skates ascend the sea to feed on mackerel or herring. The skate could at first glance be rather a boring grey fish, however, on closer examination it features a range of blotches, spines, thorns and spots. I've employed artistic licence clearly, when depicting my baby skate, as well as in my interpretation of the North Sea.



Fish #38C Common Skate *Dipturus batis* ~ Tristan Lathey

Earthenware glazed with coloured slip 20 x 32 x 5 cm



Fish #42 Pelagic Stingray *Pteroplatytrygon violacea* ~ W Flemming

Digital drawing

This mysterious creature, which was recorded for the first time in 1832 from the east coast of India, is believed to be a real cosmopolitan. Observed throughout tropical and subtropical areas of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, from the Galapagos Islands to The North Sea, it is very rarely encountered by humans - unlike most of its closest relatives, Whiptail Stingrays. Being the sole member of its genus, it even swims differently - gliding through water in a mesmerizing slow undulating motion, which reminds more of giant Eagle Rays. However, with its most common size of about 60 cm it is hardly gigantic.

So why is this stingray so special? The key is in its common name - Pelagic - which means "of or relating to the open sea". It is the only member of the family that lives in open ocean, rather than cosying in sandy bottom shallow waters. An active hunter, it feeds on free-swimming invertebrates, as well as small fishes such as herring and mackerel. After spending the winter season in the warmth of oceanic waters near the equator, it loves to take advantage of seasonal feeding of octopus, shrimp and squid while it migrates off the equator towards the North or the South for the summer, closer to the coast. The ocean world is truly its oyster!

Its world is also full of danger, mostly coming from its cousin, the oceanic whitetip shark or from longline fisheries around the world. It is caught frequently by tuna and swordfish longliners and mostly, sometimes even brutally, discarded as bycatch. That is why about ten years ago pelagic stingray was added to the "red list" of threatened species maintained by the World Conservation Union. Luckily, due to apparent lack of population declines, reported since the 1950s, coupled with its wide distribution and high reproductive rate, it is listed as "Least Concern" at the moment. Hopefully the future generations will still have opportunities to observe and admire this gracefully shy free-roamer of the ocean - and The North Sea.

W.Flemming is an artist and illustrator, living and working in the north of England.



Fish #44 European Sea Sturgeon, *Acipenser sturio* ~ Alan Durtschi

Coloured pencil and ink 36 x 43 cm



Fish #45 European Eel, *Anguilla Anguilla*, Keith Norman Hard pastel and watercolour 42 x 59 cm

European Eel

Anguilla Anguilla. So good they named you twice.

Serpent of river and sea and jellied for Pearly Kings and Queens

I caught you in a local stream

A length of 2x2 into the weed and drag you up the bank

As you slithered back to water refuge you were caught and sold for smoking

Half a Crown was your worth, if a decent size

Always mysterious in your life cycle

Starting in the sea, life in fresh inland or brackish coastal water and returning to the ocean to spawn and die

You once lived to a century or more and grow to enormous length.

But not now.

You've made the critically endangered list and too few grow to adolescence.

Since the 70s a decline of 95% with parasites, overfishing and barriers to migration blamed

Breeding projects tried to simulate your ocean phase but you're not fooled by artificial currents, hormones and special diets.

Snake like, slimy Eel you lack the glamour of other fishy friends

I repent the mistakes of youth and hope you once again bring the mystery of the Saragossa to our British shores.



Fish #46 European Conger, *Conger conger*, Carey Jones Acrylic on canvas 20 x 20 cm

Found in the English Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea, French Coast and Mediterranean.

Conger Eels are not to be messed with! A massive conger eel was caught in 2015 off the British coast - it was taller than a double-decker bus and weighed a whopping 59kg. This is disconcerting enough but add to this the fact that they are predators that will attack humans and they start to become the stuff of nightmares. For instance, in July 2013, a diver was attacked by a conger eel off Ireland at a depth of 25 metres (82 ft). The eel bit a large chunk from his face and the diver reported that the creature was more than 6 feet (1.8 m) in length and "about the width of a human thigh". Blimey!

Despite the above we still persist in fishing for them and have been since the 12th Century - the Norman taxation Pipe Roll recorded two 'éperquerie' in the Channel Islands which were designated places where conger eels were dried. Another claim to fame for the Conger is that it is one of the few fish that can swim backwards and is famous (or infamous) for living in ship-wrecks or eel pits which they often share with Moray Eels, as in this painting, from which they dart out and ambush smaller species such as fish, cuttlefish and squid.

Until recently it was thought that the Conger headed to the Sargasso Sea to breed but this is now in doubt with the view that they may actually only breed once, possibly in the very deep water off the UK coast, but it still remains somewhat of a mystery.



Fish #47 Slender Snipe Eel, *Nemichthys scolopaceus*, Frances Clayton
Watercolour, gouache and acrylic ink. 38 x 28 cm.

A DEEP SEA PREDATOR

Scientific name: *Nemichthys scolopaceus*

Size: up to 1.5m (5ft). Weighs less than 100g (3.5 oz).

Habitat: from the surface to thousands of meters.

Eats: shrimps, using its long bird like beak to sweep through the water to catch them.

Reproduction: broadcast spawning. It is believed to spawn just once and then die.

Lifespan: 10 years

Interesting facts: has more vertebrae than any other species - up to 750. Its anus is on its throat.

The Slender Snipe Eel

Five feet long and very wriggly

Yummy shrimp I like to eat

Vertebra times seven fifty

One hundred grams is just my weight.

Near the surface, in the depths

All around the world I wriggle

For ten long years both day and night

Then spawn just once and die.

No one wants me for my beauty

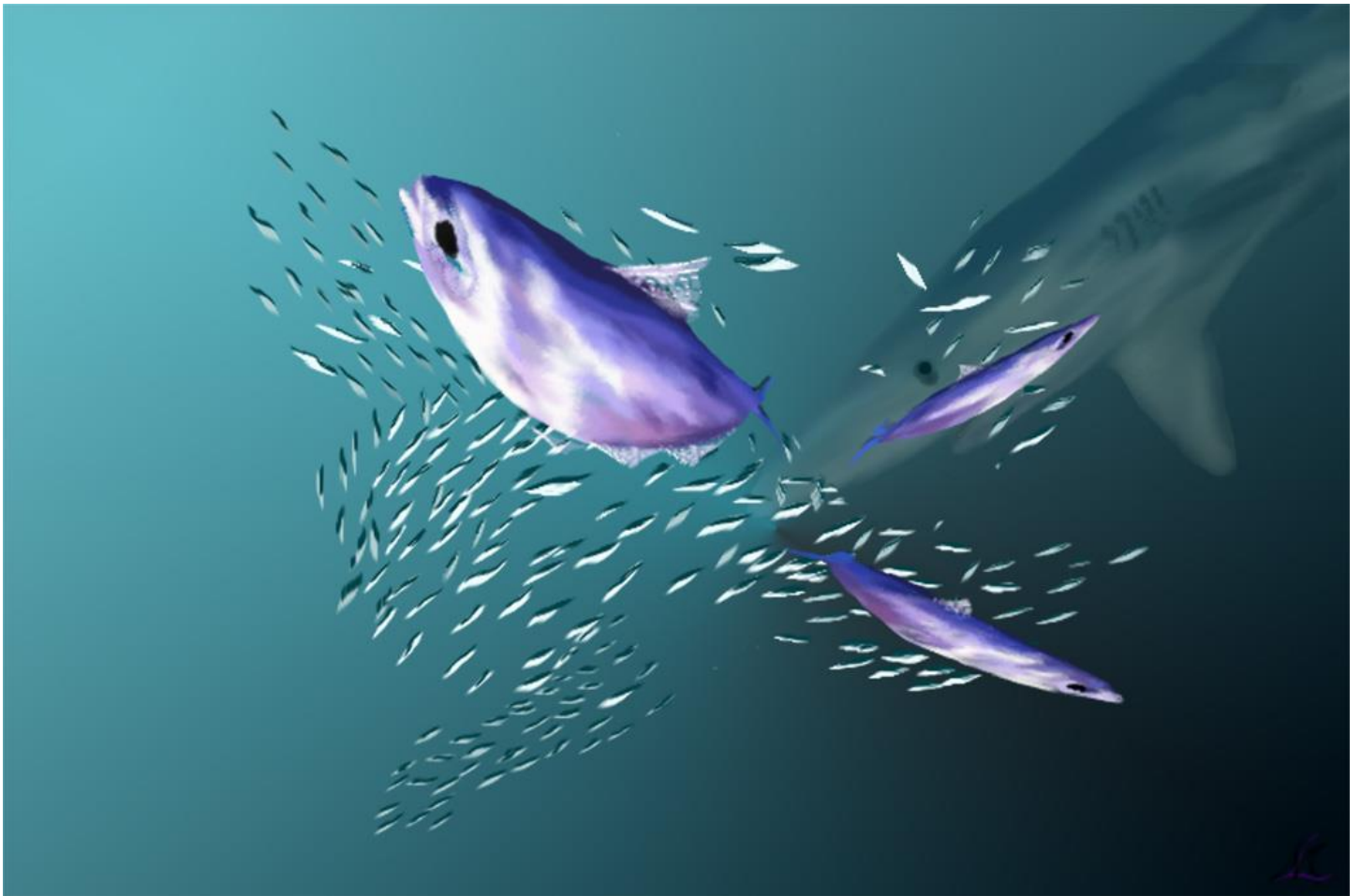
No one wants me on their table

In no danger of extinction

But vital to the eco-system.



Fish #51 European Anchovy, *Engraulis encrasicolus*, Barbara Godden
Mobile, crochet in silver cotton with threads of blue and green sewn in 50 x 16 x 16 cm



Fish #51 European Anchovy, *Engraulis encrasicolus*, Mark Loosemore Digital Art 20 x 30 cm

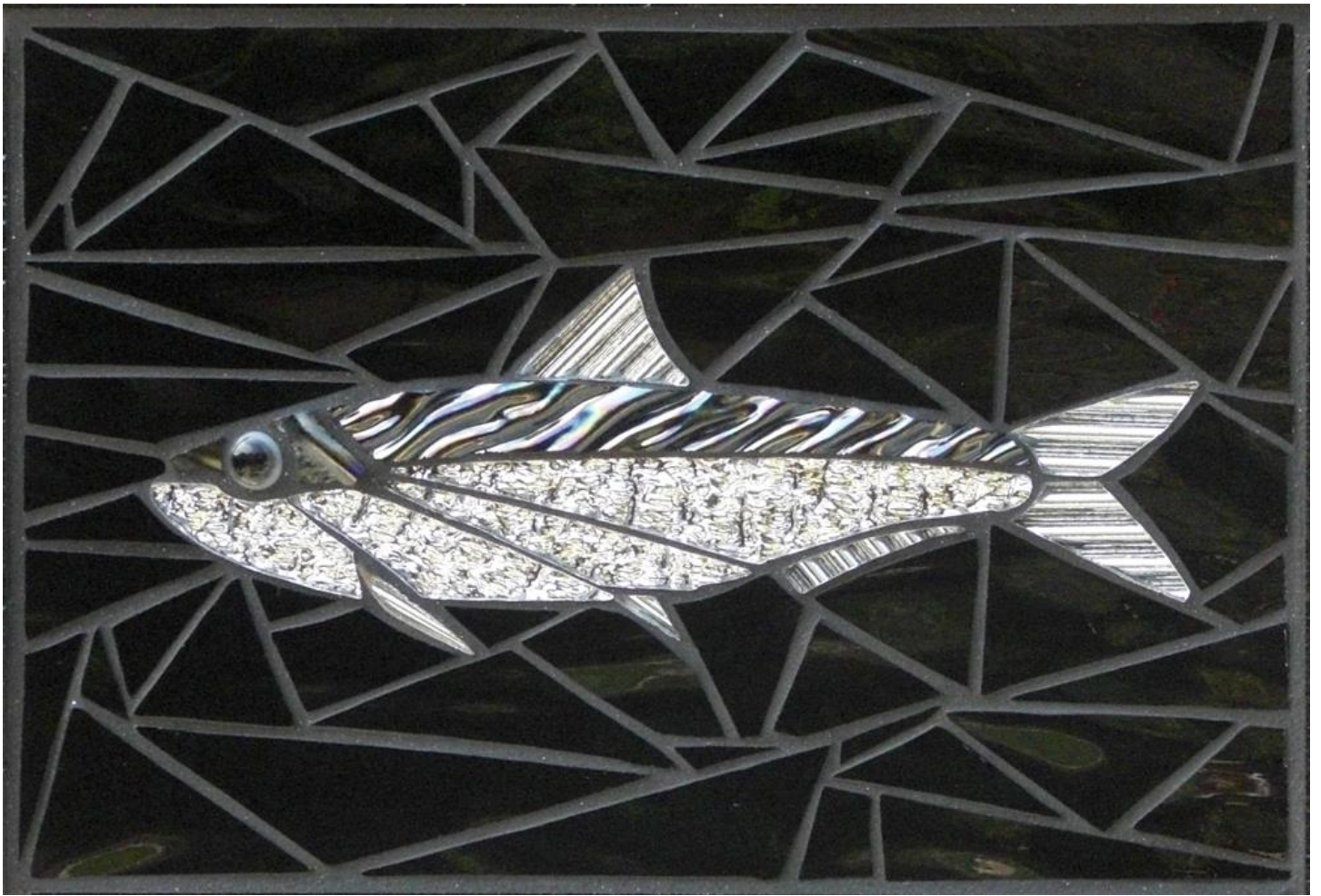
Commonly this fish attains a length of little more than 14 centimetres. It is mainly a coastal marine species, forming large schools. The reaction of anchovies to predators is intense. A school that may be spread over several hundred metres contracts at the approach of a predator to a moving, writhing sphere of thousands of fishes only a few metres across. In such a situation the predator cannot concentrate on a single individual and may be frustrated in its attempt to catch any fish. Anchovies tend to move further north and into surface waters in summer, retreating and descending in winter. Those unfortunate not to retreat quickly enough and caught by fishing fleets are likely to be marketed fresh, dried, smoked, canned, frozen or made into fish meal.

The artist is a retired Computer Software Analyst living in South Lincolnshire who has recently diverged from physical art to digital

An Anchovy's Tail

Every member of the shoal
Unless the shoal has fled
Remembers to stick close behind
One which the shoal has led.
Perhaps the way across the sea
Easily can be found
And anchovies of every size
Need to search around.

A fish as small as this must be
No slower than the rest,
Cause anchovies are perfect prey
How can he keep abreast
Of those who swim so fast.
Very many started out and some will not survive
Yet Anchovies who pass the test are glad to be alive.



Fish #52 European Pilchard, *Sardina pilchardus* ~ Kate Sell

Glass mosaic 16 x 24 cm

European Pilchard

Common names: European pilchard, Fair Maid, Pilchard, Sardine, Soused Pilchards, True Sardine, Cornish Sardine.

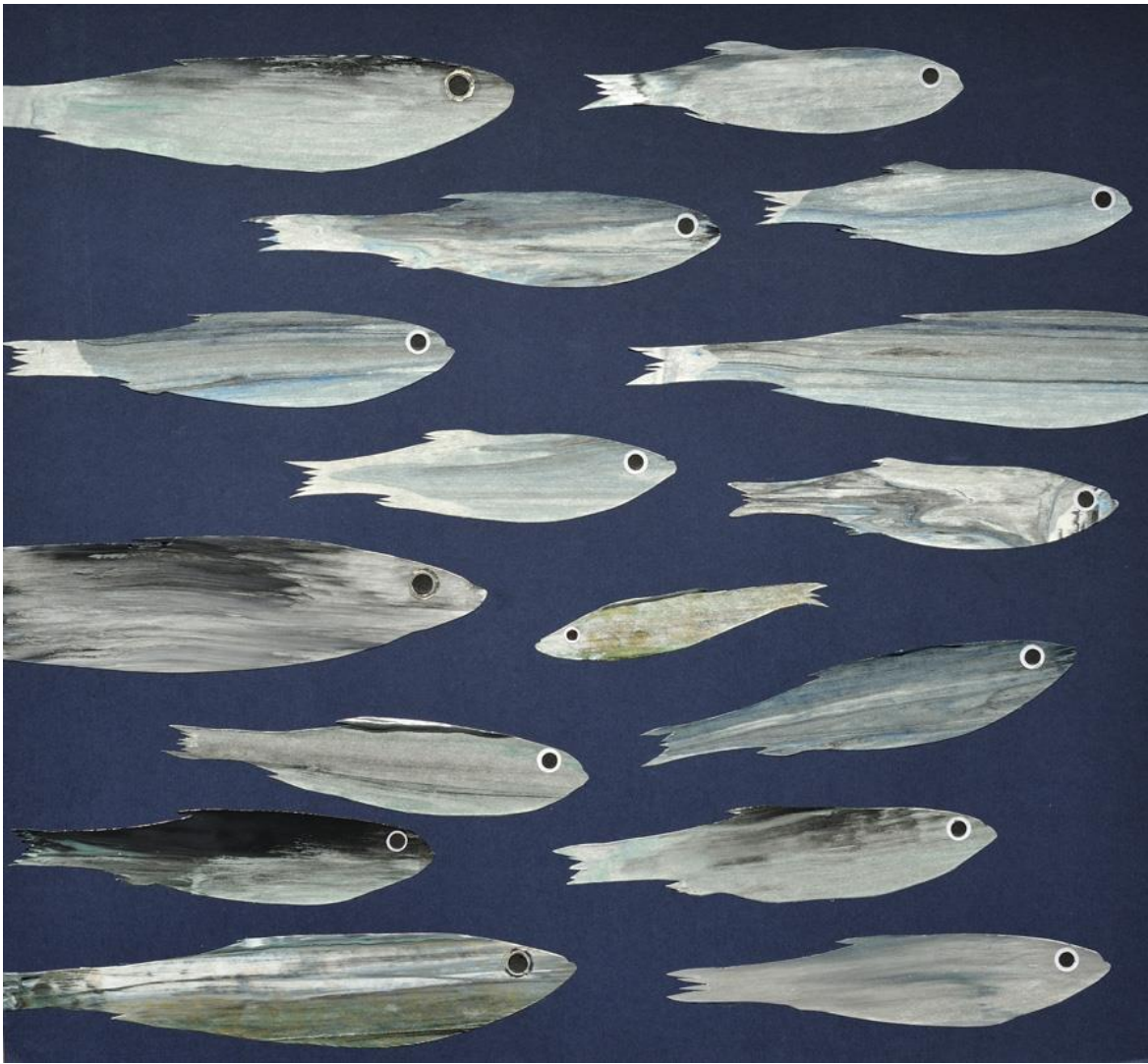
It is a small silvery shoaling fish found throughout Europe, particularly in the warmer waters of the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas, although it is also found around Britain and the colder waters of Scandinavian countries and Iceland. Varying in length between 15-20cm European pilchards are thought to live up to five years, close to shore and feed on small planktonic crustaceans. European pilchards are themselves a major source of food for all types of predatory fish and humans! They are also used as a commercial fishing bait on long-lines. However with this in mind, this species is classed as Least Concern by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).

They are a highly nutritious oily fish and are perfect when fresh, grilled on the barbecue with olive oil, lemon and salt or served with a rich tomato sauce.

A traditional dish in Cornwall is the Stargazy Pie, so called because the pilchard heads are protruding out of the top pastry layer, looking as though they are gazing skyward. I'm sure it is delicious as I understand that the oils from the fish flow back into the pie during cooking but I am afraid I cannot cope with a fish looking up at me from the plate!

I found it interesting to read that there is a game called Sardines, a variation of Hide-and-seek that I played as a child. Rather than one person counting and the others hiding as in hide-and-seek, one person hides and when the others find the hidden person they hide in that space too until there is one person left who then becomes the one to hide on the next game! This relates to the popular English phrase 'packed like sardines' used where people or objects are crowded closely together in a small space refers to tinned or canned sardines.

Kate Sell, Designer & Maker. Taking inspiration from her garden and the Lincolnshire countryside Kate continues to develop her unique method of making glass mosaic mirrors. Her art pieces are guaranteed to become a favourite feature in any garden.



Fish #53 European, *Sprattus sprattus*, Howard Yeomans Ink and card collage 30 x 28 cm

Sprattus is a genus of small oily fish of the family Clupeidae, which also includes herrings and pilchards. There are five species in the genus, all of which have a similar innocuous silvery appearance. Well-known for being a bit on the small size, the sprat grows up to about 15 cm / 6" in length, making it ideal for packing in food tins and just the right size for a snack, perhaps on toast. Widely consumed across northern Europe, the European sprat - also known as bristling, brisling or skipper in its younger days - is indeed an important food source for some.

Living in cooler waters, the sprat thrives around Great Britain, Scandinavia and in the Baltic sea, where it is to be found in large shoals, making them an easy catch once located. Sprat feed on tiny fish larvae and plankton and are themselves a major part of the marine food chain, given they are eaten by virtually all predatory fish. The sprat is also an important source of food for marine birds such as gannets and herring gulls.

Plata Passant

My mother was a Sprat,
My dad was one anawl.
I took both their names
To keep me individual.

I mostly spend my days
Going with the crowd.
Been a long while driftin'.
We're looking like a cloud.

Soon a ship will come along.
All futures marked by fate.
Net, freezer, factory door,
Tomato sauce, Great White plate.



Fish #57 Atlantic Salmon, *Salmo salar* ~ Mali Boyce

Acrylic on Paper 34 x 29 cm

Atlantic Salmon

The natural breeding grounds of Atlantic salmon are rivers in Europe and the eastern coast of North America and unsurprisingly there is a great deal of folklore from these countries about this beautiful fish, from Celtic, Norwegian and Native American stories, myths and legends, to Pictish stone carvings such as the stone in the Manse Garden at Glamis, Angus, which dates from the 7th century, and the novel *Salar the Salmon* by Henry Williamson. The Salmon is regarded as brave and wise, possessing determination and strength and it is believed that dreams about salmon show that person overcoming adversity and achieving success, which reflect the salmon's life cycle.



Fish #58 Brown Trout, *Salmo trutta*, Karen Hoyle Painted Silk 22 x 52 cm



Fish #59 Arctic Char *Salvelinus alpinus* ~ Lee Conybeare

Oil on canvas 30 x 49 cm

The name 'Char' is thought to derive from the Gaelic name for the fish which means red belly. As its name suggests the Arctic char is a cold water fish. It is a close relative of salmon & brown trout. There are two types of Arctic char. One form inhabits deep lakes in central northern Europe, including many lochs in Scotland, where they found themselves landlocked in northern lakes and fresh water lochs during the ice age.

The other form is migratory, commonly found in the most northerly reaches of Europe. They breed in rivers & spend their winters in the sea. Each have their own distinctive characteristics depending on their environment and the time of year. Generally the landlocked char are green/brown in colour with red and white spots on their sides. They rarely exceed 30cm/12" long. Migratory char are silvery with red/orange bellies and can grow up to 1m/3ft. In both forms they have small scales, with the base of the tail being quite narrow. The caudal fin is large and there is a small adipose fin. Both forms have white edges to the pectoral, pelvic and anal fins. Arctic char spawn between September and November mostly in tributary streams of their river homes and feed on aquatic invertebrates and small fish.

It is relatively rare to find Arctic Char on a menu although farming of this species is becoming more widespread in Iceland and other areas of Northern Europe due to their similarity to salmon and trout. Currently Arctic Char are not under great threat but where populations have been lost, it has been due to factors such as acidification & temperature change.

Recently the Arctic char has featured in public art; a handmade steel sculpture by Brian Fell and his son George depicting a shoal of Arctic Char is one of the latest installations to take its place for the 2018 Lakes Ignite Festival to celebrate the Lake District national park becoming a world heritage site. 'The Arctic Char is one of the Lake District's most notable examples of wildlife. The fish's presence in the lakes dates back to the Ice Age and its survival there is an inspiring example of conservation.' The West Morland Gazette

The Arctic Char appealed to me because no other freshwater fish is found as far north and I always seem to be drawn to things from the icy north!



Fish #60 European Smelt *Osmerus eperlanus* 'A Shoal of Smelt'
Rebecca Groom Soft Sculpture 100 x 45 cm

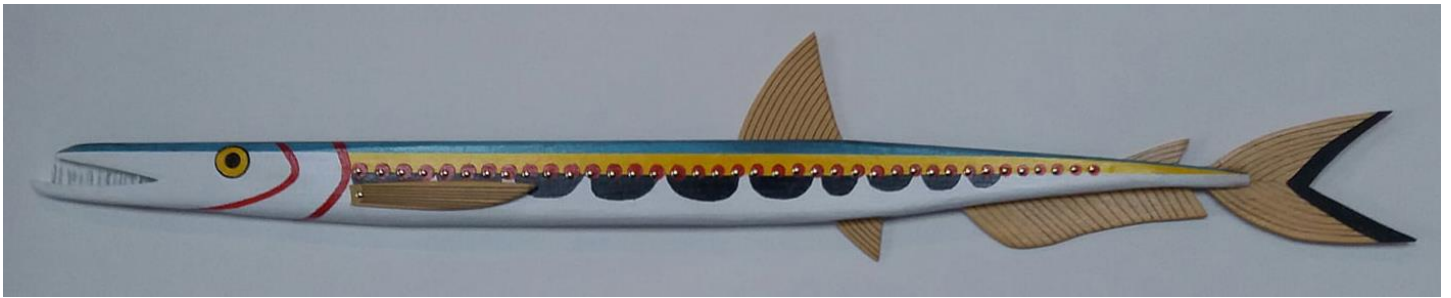
Eighteen "soft sculpture" European Smelt woven through a piece of discarded fishing net. The Smelt were digitally painted and sewn by the artist, their sizes are within the known range for adults of this species. Each of the Smelt is scented like cucumber and can be removed from the net to be handled and examined.

The European Smelt is a species of fish native to the coastal waters of Europe. The genus name *Osmerus* means "odorous", referring to the fact they give off a freshly cut cucumber-like smell when freshly caught. These fish reach sexual maturity when around 12cm long. Their average size is 15 to 18cm long, but the largest recorded individual was a whopping 45cm in length. They primarily inhabit marine midwaters and estuaries, with a freshwater form found in larger lakes in Northern Europe. They are carnivores with surprisingly ferocious teeth for their size, their diet consists primarily of crustaceans and shrimp, with larger individuals eating small fish. They are considered harmless to humans. They enter rivers to spawn between February and May, each female laying 8,000-50,000 small yellow eggs along lake shores and fast-flowing sandy or gravelly river beds. Many individuals die after spawning.

European Smelt are used by humans as food, as bait and as a source of fish oil. During spawning the fish can be easily caught

with nets as they travel upriver. They are considered of 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List, but local populations are threatened by pollution and barriers to their migration upriver to spawn, such as dams. Generally their populations are in good health. In the UK, the minimum size they are allowed to be caught at is 20cm long. This species is not of commercial interest in the UK so is rarely targeted by commercial fishermen. In Germany, Russia and Eastern Europe, Smelt are a regional specialty, where it is fried in butter and eaten whole without removing their soft bones.

About the Artist: Rebecca Groom is an artist with a background in science who specialises in designing and making realistic soft toys of various animals, both extant and extinct. Her plushies are created using modern techniques- she paints her patterns digitally, which are then printed onto fabric, cut out and sewn by the artist into 3D soft sculptures. The custom printed fabric allows greater creative freedom than working with plain fabric and lends her work its distinctive style. Rebecca has a passion for bringing extinct creatures to "life", informed by the latest scientific knowledge. This desire to communicate scientific understanding is reflected in her Palaeoplushies series, which includes animals such as dinosaurs, pterosaurs, marine reptiles and more recently extinct creatures such as the Thylacine, all presented in a tactile, easily understood form. Recently she has begun to make soft toy fish, inspired by her own tropical freshwater aquarium. The 200Fish project marks the creation of her first native saltwater fish design, which will hopefully not be her last!



Fish #64 Spotted Barracudina, *Arctozenus risso*, Tony Bellars
Wood, brass pins, acrylic paint and lacquer Length 60 cm (twice life size)

Arctozenus risso Bonaparte 1840. With many synonyms, it is a species of barracudina and not related to the tropical barracudas. It is named after the European ichthyologist Antonio Risso. It is found in all the oceans of the world except for the tropical equatorial zone. The fish is found from the surface to 2200 metres; its maximum length is 30 cm. It is found in small schools or by itself, feeding on shrimps and small fishes. It is regarded as of least concern in the IUCN red list status. It is not used by man but is caught as a by product in deep water fisheries. It is an important food source for dolphins, albacore and cephalopods. The earliest fossil record is from the upper-Tertiary Miocene period.

I have been fascinated by birds, boats and fish since childhood. With an enquiring mind, a house full of books, cigarette and trade cards to collect and indulgent parents who encouraged my early attempts at drawing. Living near the sea, I fished with rods, long lines and shrimp nets and enjoyed identifying the fish and shore creatures. I remember a lump sucker, *Cyclopterus lumpus*, and a Sun fish, *Mola mola*, washed up on the tide line. The latter I have seen on sailing trips crossing the North Sea and in the Mediterranean. In my early teens I once caught a twenty pound conger eel from the shore in Dorset.

A career boat building, art school and teaching were to follow. Always an artist and initially a painter I found making fish, boats and birds from wood more interesting. A chance gift from my late father's library, Victor Bellars, artist and fine angler. Author of fishing books. His gift included, Jonathan Couch's *A History of the Fishes of the British Islands and Fish of the World* by Hiroshi Aramata. This reprinted collection of 19th Century paintings introduced me to the earliest colour catalogue of exotic fishes. Dating from 1719 and published by Louis Renard and illustrated by Samuel Fallours, it is one of the rarest books in the world. His highly decorative fish have been an influence on my work, including my work the Spotted Barracudina.

I chose to do this fish as I am drawn to these streamlined fishes, mackerel, trout, pike, perch and the barracudas, although this fish is not related to them. I have made it twice life size and have used a richer pallet of colours in the naive manner of childhood, whilst taking liberties with the bone-like lateral line plates, mine being red dots and raised brass pins. I hope an ichthyologist might still recognise the species?

Further details of my varied work can be found at [TONY BELLARS ARTIST on Facebook](#)



Fish #69 Atlantic Cod, *Gadus morhua* Aimie Elliot Acrylic paint on board 12.5 x 17.5 cm

I chose to paint the Cod because it links times past and present for me. My maternal great Grandfather was a Grimsby skipper. When I was growing up, I was always told that you don't eat Cod because it's a scavenger. You sell the Cod on and keep the Haddock to eat yourself. I often think about this when I am in the fish and chip shop in Sutton on Sea buying lunch. My paternal Grandmother mended fishing nets which my dad remembers hung over the back walls of their terrace in Grimsby. This was paid piece work and a common source of income for women in those days. I also like the stoic sense that its simple name suggests.

Gadus morhua (Atlantic Cod) lives in the western Atlantic Ocean, cod has a distribution north of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and around both coasts of Greenland and the Labrador Sea; in the eastern Atlantic, it is found from the Bay of Biscay north to the Arctic Ocean, including the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, Sea of the Hebrides, areas around Iceland and the Barents Sea. The largest individual on record was 6 feet (1.8 m) long and weighed 211 lb (96 kg), however usually the cod is between 24 inches (61 cm) and 4 feet (1.2 m) long, and weighs 88 lb (40 kg). There is generally no difference in weight or size between sexes of Atlantic Cod. Atlantic Cod can live for 25 years, and usually attain sexual maturity between ages two and four, although cod in the northeast Arctic can take as long as eight years to fully mature. Colouring is brown or green, with spots on the dorsal side, shading to silver ventrally. A stripe along its lateral line (used to detect vibrations) is clearly visible. Its habitat ranges from the shoreline down to the continental shelf.

Several cod stocks collapsed in the 1990s (declined by >95% of maximum historical biomass) and have failed to recover even with the cessation of fishing. This absence of the apex predator has led to a trophic cascade in many areas. Many other cod stocks remain at risk. The Atlantic cod is labelled vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Stomach sampling studies have discovered that small Atlantic cod feed primarily on crustaceans, while large Atlantic cod feed primarily on fish. In certain regions, the main food source is decapods with fish as a complementary food item in the diet. Wild Atlantic cod throughout the North Sea depend, to a large extent, on commercial fish species also used in fisheries, such as Atlantic mackerel, haddock, whiting, Atlantic herring, European plaice, and common sole, making fishery manipulation of cod significantly easier. Ultimately, food selection by cod is affected by the food item size relative to their own size. However, providing for size, cod do exhibit food preference and are not simply driven by availability.

Atlantic cod are apex predators in the Baltic and adults are generally free from the concerns of predation. Juvenile cod, however, may serve as prey for adult cod, which sometimes practice cannibalism. The cod produces a protein similar to antifreeze so that the fish may survive the freezing temperatures found in the North Atlantic. Once a cod is hauled up from the freezing waters, its meat will instantly crystallize as the fish no longer produces the protein.

The Atlantic Cod has been referred to as the "sacred cod" for a few reasons. First, according to New England folklore, the cod was the fish which Jesus multiplied to feed the crowds of people. The other reason concerns the difference in lateral line colours between the cod and the haddock. Jesus was thought to have thrown the cod into the sea with his hands, leaving a white lateral line on the fish, whereas the haddock was thought to be cast into the sea by Satan, who left his black mark on the lateral line of the fish. There have been historical accounts of cod as large as men. In 1838, a 180-pound fish was caught off George's Banks and in 1895, a six-foot cod weighing 211 pounds was caught off the coast of Massachusetts.



Fish #072 Blue Whiting *Micromesistius poutassou* Biff Vernon Oil on board 61 x 61 cm

Blue Whiting is a small fish, reaching a maximum size of about 50 cm but commonly caught when 25 to 35 cm long. It prefers deeper water than the Whiting, *Merlangius merlangus*, so in the North Sea it is mostly found west of Norway. The greatest abundance of Blue Whiting, is on the continental slope west of Ireland and Scotland where enormous shoals form in the spring at depths of 200 to 500 metres. After spawning they migrate northwards towards the Arctic, dispersing over a large area. The commercial fishery concentrates on the dense shoals in the springtime breeding season. There was little fishing for this species before the introduction of echo-location in the 1970 but then the annual catch grew to over two million tonnes in the early 2000s. Weighing some 200 grams each, that represents about ten billion fish.

From the fishmonger's and consumer's point of view, Blue Whiting presents a few issues. The fish goes off rather quickly, just a few days when packed in ice. It needs quick freezing and quick processing. Consequently, only a small part of the catch is eaten by humans, and then mostly in products such as fish fingers, pies, and sticks. You don't often see Blue Whiting fillets in the fishmonger's window.

Most of the Blue Whiting catch goes for 'industrial use', turned into fishmeal and then added to feed for farmed salmon, pigs and poultry or even fertiliser. Over the last decade the catch has dropped from its 2004 peak of 2.4 million tonnes and it is now regarded that one million tonnes may be a sustainable quantity. Whether we are justified in taking so many fish from the sea to feed the chicken we eat, or whether we should leave them for the tuna and whales to eat is a thought we might dwell upon.



Fish #082 Fourbeard Rockling *Enchelyopus cimbrius* Iverna Keating
Acrylic on paper 21 x 29 cm

A long slender lotid fish, found in the North Atlantic ocean. It has four barbels, one on its chin and the rest on its snout. Its skin is slimy and the scales are not easy to see. It is a bottom-dwelling fish, living on muddy sand between patches of hard substrate, or on the smooth, soft ground of the deep sinks of the continental slopes of the Atlantic. It feeds on crustaceans, polychaete worms, molluscs and other invertebrates. It migrates inshore in autumn and winter, and offshore in spring and summer. Its depth range is about 20 to 500 m (66 to 1,640 ft). It usually breeds between February and August, releasing the spawn in deep water after which the eggs float towards the surface. It is of minor importance in commercial fisheries.



Fish #083 Shore Rockling *Gaidropsarus mediterraneus* Jean Melville Watercolour 27 x 37 cm

APPEARANCE: Small elongated eel-like fish, mottled brown (good camouflage). Three barbels on its head (one above each nostril, one on the lower jaw). Dorsal fin and anal fin run along the main length of the body.

HABITAT & GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD: Found around the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea (north-west Africa, southern Europe) and all the way north to the coasts of the UK and Norway (eastern Atlantic). Usually found in rocky areas with plenty of algal cover.

DEPTH: It can be found at various depths down to 27 metres.

SIZE: Normally it will grow to 50cms in length.

WHAT IT EATS: Principle food is crustaceans, worms and small fish but will eat anything including rotting fish.

WHAT EATS IT: Its main predators are common grey and harbour seals.

COMMERCIAL STATUS: Although a member of the cod and hake Family (Lotidae) commonly fished for commercial purposes, this particular Family member is not commercially fished but used as a by-catch and processed as fishmeal. It is sold fresh at markets but due to its slimy skin it is not commonly eaten.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Classed as "least concern" due to its common occurrence. Its abundance is considered a pest by anglers fishing for other species.

ORIGIN OF NAME: *Gaidropsarus*: from Greek, ga, ge = the earth + ydro = water + Greek psaros = speckled, starling.

IN GENERAL: A common fish which seems to be not readily edible ... by humans anyway! Like all things in life it must play its part in the complete cycle of life and place in the food chain.

MY CHOICE OF FISH: I live within a fairly artistic family household ... two artists (myself and my daughter Dee Dee) and a musician (my son-in-law George - his little ditty contribution below). Dee Dee chose a fish based on its rarity and I followed suit but chose a common 'associate' of the sea! Although the Shore Rockling doesn't seem under any threat, there's the considerable threat to the seas as a whole. At the end of the day all things deserve quality of life and this 'quality' is depreciating by the day for all the planet's marine environments. Dee Dee's Dealfish may represent the broker of a fairer 'Deal' for all sea creatures but my Shore Rockling would represent the many fishes of the sea that stand behind those brokers in their plight.

As the Scottish saying goes 'many a mickle makes a muckle' I hope my painting, 'Spot the Fish', represents one mickle impression making an accumulating muckle impact on our future sensitivity about how we treat our fellow planet dwellers.



Fish #84 Three-bearded Rockling *Gaidropsarus vulgaris* ~ Alison Thwaite



Fish #087 Roundnosed Grenadier *Coryphaenoides rupestris*
Leanie Piek



Fish #088 European Hake *Merluccius merluccius* Jessica Bell
Pencil



Fish #089 Greater Forkbeard *Phycis blennoides* Teresa Hodges
Acrylic 20 cm x 50cm

Phycis Blennoides, the Greater Forkbeard, is found throughout European waters, from Norway and Iceland, the North Sea and the NE Atlantic, to the western Mediterranean and the coast of Senegal. They grow up to 3ft in length, and weigh up to 7lb. Living in deep offshore waters, with larger specimens moving into even deeper places, they are happy with seabeds ranging from rock and coral to sand and mud. Smaller fish feed on marine worms, dislodged shellfish, prawns and shrimps. Larger fish are also partial to small fish and squid.

The Encyclopaedia Metropolitana (1845) describes the name, *Phycis*, as from the Greek 'psári,' "so-called from being supposed to live among sea-weed." On the west coast of Ireland, it has long been known by fishermen as Sweaty Betty, a name recently taken up by an enterprising fishmonger and restaurateur. In Cornwall, it is known as Plus-Fours. In "Food in the Ancient World A-Z" Andrew Daley notes it was one of several fish known in Latin as *Asellus*, "little donkey," and its minced flesh used in "milk patina," an ancient version of a kind of blancmange, a dish I think should perhaps remain in ancient times...

Not commonly used in cooking, it has recently been proving popular on plates in Galway, partly as a result of the Fisheries Discard Plan, the policy of not discarding unwanted catch championed by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. However, the Marine Conservation Society has given the Greater Forkbeard its highest rating of 5 (avoid eating). As a deep water species, it and its environment are under threat from commercial deep sea trawling, and its deep water habitat poses problems in assessing population numbers.



Fish #091 Giant Oarfish, *Regalecus glesne*
Jane Haigh
Canvas board 30 x 10 cm



Fish #092 Dealfish *Trachipterus arcticus* Dee Dee Dewar
Watercolour and Mixed 34.5 x 51 cm

APPEARANCE: As a member of the ribbonfish family this fish has a pink dorsal fin running the length of its body (like a ribbon). Eel-like long slender body, bright silver in colour with faint black spots. No pectoral, pelvic, or adipose fins.

HABITAT & GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD: Home is the North Atlantic Ocean from the U.S, Norway and Iceland to Madeira Islands. Also present in the North Sea.

DEPTH: Although they are found in 300 to 1000 metre water depths they live in the mid-water zone (pelagic zone). They have been found swimming very close to the shore in small groups of two, or three (reason unknown).

SIZE: Maximum size of this species is probably 8-9 feet in length but usually found approximately half this size.

WHAT IT EATS: Natural prey is small fish and squid.

WHAT EATS IT: These fish are elusive and not much is known about them so what preys on them is speculative ... possibly bigger and meaner fish!

COMMERCIAL STATUS: They are not commercially fished. Their flesh is compressed due to living at greater depths and therefore unpalatable.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Not listed on any endangered species list.

ORIGIN OF NAME: *Trachipterus*: Greek, *trachys*, -eia, -ys = rough + Greek, *pteron* = wing, fin.

APPEARANCE IN FOLKLORE: Not much seems to be mentioned about the Dealfish itself but it could be amongst the 'sea serpent' myths of old. These 'sightings' are more associated with the Oarfish which is also a ribbonfish – both the same Order of fish but a different Family (Order Lampriformes, ray-finned fish). They are similar in appearance but the Oarfish is larger. Another mention in folklore is when Oarfish wash ashore it is an omen of a potential earthquake ... **!BEWARE!** grouping of some Dealfish washed ashore (have we found a reason previously unknown ... a natural seismometer!?!).

IN GENERAL: These fish are a bit of a mystery with being elusive and rarely encountered. They seem to live a solitary life other than the occasional groupings. Encounters are mainly, and unfortunately, when they are found dead when washed up ashore.

MY CHOICE OF FISH: We all hear of the plight of our sea creatures as we use the oceans as dumping grounds for all sort of things ... currently the main focus is on plastics but the marine environment is constantly under threat from one thing, or another (overfishing, global warming, acidification, water pollution, etc.). The Dealfish name shouted out to me asking the question "are our sea creatures getting a fair Deal?" ... the answer is "NO!". The Dealfish could potentially be the broker of a fairer deal! It's either fairer deal ... or no Deal(fish) at all!!! ... hence the Title of my art representation "Deal ... or no Deal".



Fish #93 Blackbellied Angler *Lophius budegassa* ~ Helen Green

Faber-Castell oil based Polychromos pencils blended with a solvent 30 x 42 cm



Fish #099 Mediterranean Flyingfish, *Cheilopogon heterurus*, Molly Davies
Acrylics and ink 30 x 40 cm

My first interest in this fish was sparked by a BBC nature documentary, from my childhood I have been drawn to the sea and coast. In his early years my father worked for the Ministry of Fisheries in relation to the North Sea, and this connection brought the project to my attention.

Mediterranean flying fish grow to a maximum length of 40cm, they have been observed in oceans worldwide. They spawn during summer in the eastern Atlantic. They are preyed on by Scombridea, finfish and bony fish. They feed on zooplankton. Flying fish are not commercially exploited but it has been noted they are very tasty; they have been used in Japanese cuisine. The biggest threat to their existence is the pollution in the seas.

Flying fish actually glide rather than truly fly. They launch themselves into the air by beating the tail very fast and spreading their pectoral fins to use as wings. The extraordinary flying fish uses its fins and tail to glide up to 100 metres; this may be used as a means to escape danger. There are 52 different species of flying fish which are found in the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (BBC, Nature, and Wildlife). The BBC nature news have documented evidence of flying fish fossils as far reaching as China.



Fish #100 Three Spined Stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeatus* Twink Addison Mixed media 20 x 15 cm



Fish #102 Longspine Snipefish *Macroramphosus scolopax* Mark Loosemore Digital art 20 x 30 cm

An occasional visitor to the North Sea it occurs mainly in the Western Atlantic from the Gulf of Maine to Argentina and also in the Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Indo-West Pacific mostly in temperate latitudes. It will be found between the seabed and midwater on the lower continental shelf, over sand. Juveniles have been found in oceanic surface waters whereas adults normally live close to the bottom, normally in 50-350 m depth. The Longspine Snipefish otherwise known as Bellowfish or Trumpetfish is gregarious. Juveniles feed mainly on pelagic invertebrates, mainly copepods, while adults feed on bottom invertebrates. The juvenile snipefish is silvery with a bluish black back whereas the adult is reddish above and silvery below. Some variations in colour appear due to the highly reflective nature of the body which is free of scales but is nonetheless armoured. They reach a normal maximum size of about twenty three centimetres.

All the names by which this fish is known obviously relate to the extensive spine on the dorsal fin not clearly shown in the illustration but which can be erected as with all dorsal fins if needed to defend against predators. The reference to bellows and trumpets are clearly evident in the extensive snout.

As with all sea-life the threat posed to the Snipefish by pollution is all too real and even bottom feeders in the depths of our oceans are not exempt from this potentially damaging situation. It is therefore vitally important that all countries address the problem before it becomes irreversible.



Fish #102 Longspine Snipefish *Macroramphosus scolopax*
Sheila Rudling
Watercolour 14 x 23 cm

This fish is a species that is in abundance. They are found in large schools and their habitat ranges widely from the Pacific and Indian Oceans to the Mediterranean to the Atlantic Ocean. They are normally found at depths of 50 - 350 metres but have been found at a depth of 600 metres. It is found in many fishery zones and is therefore taken as a by catch. They feed on zooplankton. They grow to a length of 20cm (7.9 ins) and have a silver and reddish colour.



Fish #107 Lesser Pipefish *Syngnathus rostellatus* Hazel Owens Lino print 29 x 20cm

Around the UK's shores, in shallow, sandy areas, amongst the sea weed and grasses you may find the Lesser Pipefish *Syngnathus rostellatus*. This green/brown relative of the seahorse has no scales, nor a crest on it's head. Instead they have bony plates along their bodies, and a dorsal, caudal and pectoral fins. They thrive in warmer waters, and breed in the spring/summer months. Just as with their relatives, the eggs are carried by the males until they can fend for themselves.

There are no current concerns for the population of the Lesser Pipefish, their population is affected somewhat by temperature changes and the salinity of the water they live in. They say that this fish has no commercial use, so there is minimal amount of data collected, however it seems that the Lesser Pipefish lives in relative peace as far as we know.



Fish #108 Broadnosed Pipefish *Syngnathus typhle* Emily Jennings
Textile 33 x 25 cm

The Broadnosed Pipefish is a member of the Syngnathidae family, which includes pipefish and seahorses. It is hexagonal in cross section and instead of scales, has small bony plates. It is a mottled green with a yellow belly, has a fan shaped caudal fin, and a flattened snout. The average broad nosed pipefish is about 20cm long.

Like sea horses, the usual male/female roles are reversed during reproduction. Both sexes compete to attract a mate, and when chosen, the pair perform a ritualised dance. The female then deposits eggs in the male's pouch, where they are fertilised by the male, and gestate for about 4 weeks. Broadnosed Pipefish mate with multiple partners in a season, and a male may have eggs from several females in his pouch at the same time. Once the eggs hatch, the male provides all the care for the fry, whom also continue to use the pouch as a safe haven. Their average lifespan is three years. Broadnosed Pipefish feed on plankton and small crustaceans, which they suck into their snout. They like to rest in a vertical posture camouflaged amongst the seaweed, hiding from predators and prey alike. The loss of sea grass meadows and other shallow water habitats therefore impacts the species.



Fish #109 Short-snouted Seahorse *Hippocampus hippocampus* Janet Bennetts Watercolour 42 x 30 cm

"Hippocampus" comes from the Ancient Greek word 'hippos' meaning 'horse' and 'kampos' which means 'sea monster'. The Short-snouted Seahorse, *Hippocampus hippocampus*, is a species of seahorse in the family Syngnathidae. It is actually a fish, related to pipefishes, although instead of having scales like most fish, it has a bone structure that is made up of little plates covered with a thin layer of skin. The seahorse is the only fish with a neck and the only species on Earth in which the male gives birth. They are able to change colour like chameleons. I was surprised to find out that seahorses could be found in the North Sea but apparently they do sometimes venture into the southern North Sea - more frequently as temperatures rise. More usually they are found in the Mediterranean Sea and parts of the North Atlantic, particularly around Italy and the Canary Islands. In 2007, colonies of the species were discovered in the River Thames around London and Southend-on-Sea.

Adults can grow up to 15cm. They are thought to live for 3-5 years. They are usually found in seaweed and seagrass beds in shallower waters. The seahorse mimics the green or yellow coloration of plants allowing it to hide among the vegetation. This ability likely plays a role in seahorse feeding strategy and in predator avoidance. It makes limited daily movements within very restricted home ranges. It may over-winter in deeper water. Adult dispersal over large distances is probably caused by strong wave action during storms or when it anchors itself to floating debris. They blend invisibly into the background and, using their short snouts, they suck up plankton such as copepods and other small crustaceans like a vacuum cleaner. They are incredibly stealthy and their chameleon-like eyes can move independently of one another, allowing them excellent vision. They use their prehensile tails to anchor themselves to plants.

They are ovoviviparous, which means that the male carries the eggs and gives birth after the female deposits eggs into the male brood pouch. Newly hatched young are thought to have a planktonic stage that lasts at least eight weeks. During the mating season, mature males and females have been observed to change hue, i.e., become brighter, when greeting, courting, or mating. They are faithful to their partners - although not necessarily for life.

In the United Kingdom they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. In 2010, the London Zoo, which operates a Short-snouted Seahorse breeding programme, saw the birth of 918 baby seahorses. Due to the small size and vulnerability of the seahorse, it has numerous predators within its natural environment. Crustaceans such as crabs, fish and rays are all common predators of the seahorse along with humans who harvest the seahorse for use in traditional medicine. The seahorse is also vulnerable to bad weather as in storms seahorses are often thrown from the place that they were clinging to and onto the shore.

HIPPOKAMPOI (Hippocamps) were the fish-tailed horses of the sea. They were depicted as creatures with the head and fore-parts of a horse and the serpentine-tail of a fish. Hippokampoi were the mounts of Nereid nymphs and sea-gods, and Poseidon drove a chariot drawn by two or four of the creatures. The Ancient Greeks and Romans believed the seahorse was an attribute of the sea god Neptune/Poseidon and as such, the seahorse was considered a symbol of strength and power. Chinese cultures believed that the seahorse was a type of sea dragon; they were revered for their power and thought to be symbols of good luck. Unfortunately this has led to seahorses being used in traditional medicine.



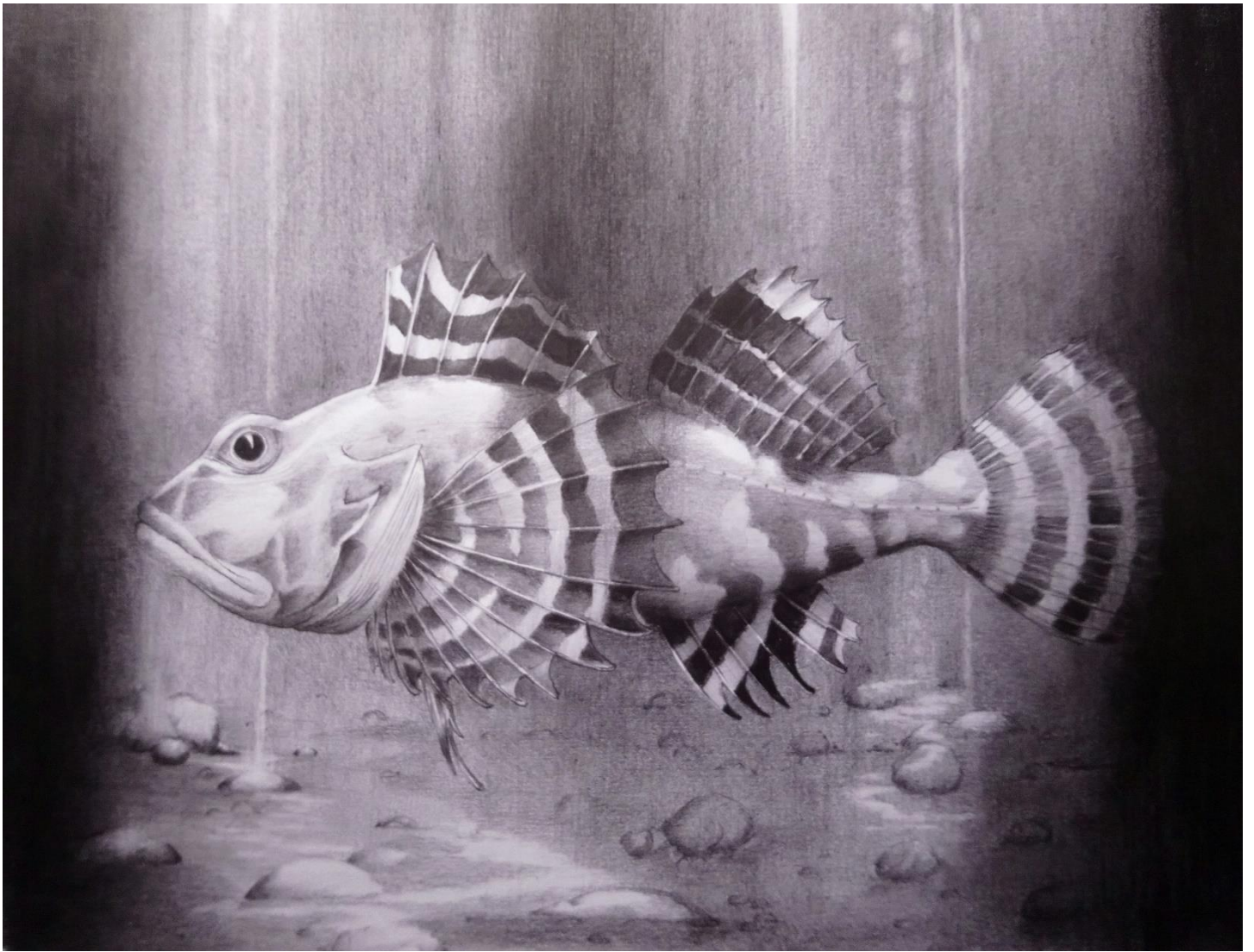
Fish #111 Armed Bullhead *Agonus cataphractus* ~ Barbara Melling

Batik on Cotton 40 x 50 cm

'Choose me', called the Hooknose, Pogge or to use it's proper name Armed Bullhead, when I was searching the list for a fish to draw, so I did. Why? Because I enjoy the slight air of mystery it exudes, living on the sea bed and keeping secrets about it's habits. I like that it's body has limited flexibility due to the paired rows of hard, bony plates which cover it's breast, that it's snout has strong spiny hooks and many barbels beneath it's flattened head, and that they are not very big, usually only 10 to 15 cms. I use batik techniques (hot wax and dyes on fabric) and thought it might feel at home drawn onto a piece of cotton material, something about being comfortable as it's habitat is a sandy sea bed with no stones. You may meet one if you are lucky and dive in the coastal seas of the British Isles, Norway, the Faeroes or the North Sea, as they live at depths between 2 and 20 metres, but best to look in the Summer as their Winters are spent 270 metres down. If you do visit, take a gift of small crustaceans, molluscs, brittle stars and worms, but don't bother to wait for the babies to arrive, you'll be hanging around for 10 months or more.

I am a textile artist working mainly in batik techniques, using hot wax resist and dyes on fabric. I chose this fish because I love the shape and textures it has, with its covering of hard armour and its whiskers. I also like the slight air of mystery it has, living on the bottom of the sea bed and little being known of its habits.

I sell and exhibit my work and hold classes in textiles and pottery at The Old Forge Art Studio.



Fish #112 Atlantic Hookear Sculpin, *Arctiellus atlanticus*, Simon Wardell Graphite pencil 34 x 44 cm

The Atlantic Hookear Sculpin is a relatively rare find in the North Sea with recorded instances being around the Orkney Islands. It is more commonly found in the North West and North Eastern areas of the Atlantic Ocean. It belongs to the Sculpin (Cottidae) family of Scorpionfish (Scorpaeniformes) and like many of this order are excellently camouflaged allowing them to wait patiently for food to come close and then darting quickly forward and capturing its prey, small molluscs and occasionally small crustaceans in its mouth. It is a small fish, typically between six and ten centimetres in length with larger recorded specimens being up to fifteen centimetres. They live singly at depths of up to nine hundred metres on sandy or muddy sea beds.



Fish #116A Shorthorn sculpin *Myoxocephalus scorpius* ~ Deborah Challender

Ceramic 30 x 49 cm



Fish #116 Shorthorn sculpin *Myoxocephalus scorpius* ~ Deborah Challender

Needle felted on wet felt 38 x 50 cm



Fish #116C Shorthorn sculpin *Myoxocephalus scorpius* ~ Deborah Challender

Woodcut print 23 x 29 cm



Fish #124 Common Seasnail *Liparis liparis* Marcelle Seabourne

Acrylic on foil collage 22 x 17 cm

Liparis Liparis - English names: Common Seasnail, Striped Seasnail, Ringbug or just plain Sea-snail. The Common Seasnail is, of course, not a snail at all, but an unusual-looking fish with a large front part of the body and a flattened tail end. It has a bony head with two pairs of nostrils on its snout. It has large pectoral fins which join beneath its body and a pelvic fin in the form of a large sucking disc. Living for about three years, the Seasnail grows to between 8cm and 14cm long. It lives on the seabed, from the shallow, sub-tidal zone to depths of 300m, feeding on small crustaceans such as shrimps or crabs, polychaete worms and small fish.

Despite being quite common, few people have seen a sea snail, as it is rarely caught in nets or traps, though it may attach itself to the weights and floats of nets. The near-shore habitat of the common Seasnail has been impacted by pollution discharges, such as sewage and industrial waste, over much of the last century or more. However, this species has a good recovery record and effects are thought to be localised, so the presence of Seasnails may indicate a cleaner marine environment. I made this image of a common Seasnail from a piece of aluminium foil (pre-used in the kitchen), using acrylic paint for the surface markings and then adding a monoprint background.



Fish #126 Blackbelly Rosefish *Helicolenus dactylopterus* Sylvia Causer
Watercolour and acrylic ink Fishy Tales 1: 29 x 21 cm. Fishy Tales 1: 21 x 29 cm.

Let me introduce you to Blackbelly rosefish or, to use its Sunday name - *Helicolenus dactylopterus*. With a name evoking images of pirates, this fish's behaviour includes threatening and dastardly deeds similar to that of a marauder...Shiver me timbers! Typically, it is a sit-and-wait predator with a highly cryptic colouration. A versatile fish, hovering at depths between 50 and 1,100m, it is usually found in a range of 150 to 600m. It can be found patrolling the western seas from Nova Scotia to Venezuela and in the east, from Iceland to South Africa including the entire Mediterranean Sea. Depending on availability, it feasts on crustaceans, fishes, squid and sometimes, worms and sea urchins. Obviously, it can only tackle prey smaller than itself, but it is nonetheless, ruthless in its pursuits. Spines are its armaments, and as with other species of scorpionfish, they contain toxic venom capable of injuries to humans but little is known of its particular brand of poison. An arsenal of spines possibly contributes to its longevity, a whopping 43 years, and with an average length of 25 cm, a feisty fish for one so small. Blackbelly rosefish is the most commercial of the scorpion species in the Mediterranean, and due to a depletion of traditional resources, it is fast becoming a bycatch fish with important economic value. I understand it's quite tasty too.

Blackbelly rosefish called to me initially because of its name, and on discovering its beautiful form, pink colouration and, its audacious character, I was hooked. As an artist, Pink is a big part of my life; I am a performance artist in a duo called Pink and grAy, I'm often dressed in pink, and whenever there is an opportunity to paint in hues of my favourite colour, I'm first in the queue!



Fish #126 Blackbelly Rosefish, *Helicolenus dactylopterus*, Suzanne Barratt
Acrylic, ink and digital media 21 x 29 cm.

Despite the fact that many people say this fish is ugly, I think it's very cool and also rather quirky! For starters you can't tell from simply looking at it, but the blackbelly rosefish is named for its belly. On the outside the belly of the fish looks like the rest of its body, but the internal lining of its belly is black. It also goes by the name of a bluemouth because (you've guessed it!), the inside of its mouth is blue and redfish because, well, that hardly needs explaining.

This is one of the most common bony fishes on the continental slope where its cryptic colouration is perfect for a 'sit and wait' feeding behaviour. It has no swim bladder so with this fish it really is a case of 'sink or swim' and deep soft sea bottoms are the ideal place for them to stand on their pectoral fins and wait for a juicy morsel to come their way. When it does, the attack is speedy and violent. The blackbelly rosefish is a type of scorpionfish and is armed with bony spines covered in venomous mucus. It can live to be 40 years old, and it has an interesting breeding talent. After breeding the female blackbelly rosefish can store sperm within her ovaries to delay egg fertilization and even spawn multiple batches of young after a single mating event. Now, that is rather neat don't you think? And, should you ever catch one and decide to cook it, it's rumoured to be very tasty.

I was inspired to paint this particular fish as I love colour and have always been fascinated by marine life. I spent most of my teenage years in Plymouth or on the South Devon coast and took a degree in zoology which gave me lots of opportunities to study marine life. I gave up art at school to follow the sciences but came back to it later in life. I'm merely an amateur but I do so enjoy it!

I am largely self-taught and work in a variety of mediums although I always seem to come back to my first love of watercolour, without or without pen. Lucky for you then that I can't intellectualise about my art, I don't have complex reasons for doing it, and I often don't know why I paint a certain subject except it appeals to me at the time. As you can tell I like bright colours and, possibly because I started out as a biologist, I like the natural form although I also enjoy drawing and painting buildings. For most of my working life I taught science but rediscovered my love of drawing and painting in later life.



Fish #126 Blackbelly Rosefish *Helicolenus dactylopterus* Janet Howe
Watercolour 24 by 30 cm

The Blackbelly Rosefish usually lives between 150 and 600m down, in the Atlantic Ocean from Norway to the Azores and between Canada and South Africa, which includes the North Sea. As an adult it is usually about 25 cm long and examples have been found up to 43 years old. It is a bony fish with 12 dorsal spines and 3 anal ones and a pectoral fin. It is orange-pinkish in colour, brighter at the top and paler underneath, with darker markings in the form of bands and blotches. It generally lives at the bottom of the ocean on the continental shelf and so feeds on crustaceans, fishes, cephalopods and echinoderms.

I was intrigued to read it described as 'a sit and wait' predator which conjured visions of my fish lurking in the depths until something tasty passed by. I think its name comes from the dark colour of its insides - but what really attracted me was its vibrant exterior, not something I expected in a North Sea fish. It has a venom gland and its spines have caused injury to humans so we would be well advised to leave it to enjoy its life in peace!



Fish #129 Norway Redfish *Sebastes viviparus* ~ Annie Donlin

Oil on canvas 80 x 80 cm.

Norway Redfish is the smallest of the three Redfish species found in Icelandic waters, rarely reaching a length over 30 cm. Their eyes are big, their body colour red. On the gill covers there are five pointed spines, directed backwards. The members of the *Sebastes* genus give birth to living offspring during the summer months.

The Redfish is slow-growing and long-lived. It prefers rocky bottoms, close to shore, in depths ranging from 10 to 150 metres. It is widespread in the north-east Atlantic Ocean from Kattegat to Finnmark, Norway. It is also registered around the British Isles, the Shetlands, Faroes and Iceland. It is sporadically seen around Greenland.

When choosing a fish to paint for this exhibition, the Redfish was a natural choice. Besides my painting (AARTVARK), I am by trade a freelance graphic designer. My solo firm is called Redfish Design. There was no deep relationship with the Norway Redfish, or any other species of the *Sebastes* genus when I named my firm. Besides that I love the colour red and that the name is one that is memorable, the book created by Dr Zeuss "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" was one of those books that always sang in my soul. Thus came the name Redfish Design.



Fish #130 Moustache Sculpin *Triglops murrayi* Rachel Toll
Watercolour 21cm x 30cm



Fish #133 Thinlip Mullet *Liza ramada* Catherine Knee Acrylic 41 x 51 cm

The Thinlip Mullet is an elongated fish, with large scales and no lateral line. They are blue-gray, being darker at the top of the body and lighter further down. They prefer calmer, still water and don't swim much more than 10m deep. The thin lipped mullet is a scavenger, not a hunter, eating worms, dead fish etc which they find on the sea bed. They are easily seen shoaling in harbours and estuaries, and sometimes even enter rivers. These fish are quite tolerant of less clean, or stagnant water.

The thin lipped mullet live for a long time, and it is thought that they live up to about 25 years, but they grow slowly and mature late in their lives. This causes a threat to them from fishing. If a thin lipped mullet is caught in stagnant water, it can affect their taste. They are fished for by using nets, except when fished by a recreational fisherman. It is hard for a fisherman to catch them, because, although easily visible, they frighten easily and swim away even at the sight of a shadow. I have heard it told that they are sometimes referred to a grey ghosts by fishermen, although I am not sure how accurate that is.



Fish #134 Pomfret Brama brama ~ Kate White

Linoprint collage 31 x 27 cm



Fish #141 Bogue Boops boops ~ Rachel Rolph

Collage 41 x 59 cm

At first glance, the bogue may appear to be a dull fish, especially next to the iridescent patterning of a mackerel's back or the lazy grace of a basking shark. Look closer, however, and thin golden stripes can be seen running from head to tail, adding an extra sparkle to its slender silver body, and its eyes are strikingly large, hence the name boops - "cow-eyes". While bogue have been known to reach 40cm in length, these gregarious fish usually grow to 20cm on a diet of crustaceans, plankton and seaweed. Schools can generally be found down to 100m in waters from Norway to Angola and they rise to the surface at night. With a conservation status of Least Concern, the bogue is currently living in harmony with the fishing industry, which fishes bogue for human consumption and for use as bait. However, a study found that the communities of parasites hosted by bogue had been significantly altered by the effects of an oil spill, proving that the balance between humans and the oceans is a precarious one. Despite its obvious use and apparent abundance, the bogue is an unknown fish to many - I had never heard of it before this project, and chose it as my subject because of its interesting Latin name rather than any prior knowledge. A search for appearances of bogue in art, folklore and literature led me only to a postage stamp from Oman, indicating perhaps that the bogue has been bypassed by artists and storytellers in favour of more glamorous fish. After being neglected by artists of the past, it surely deserves its place as one of the North Sea's #200fish.



Fish #142 Morocco Dentex *Dentex maroccanus* ~ Lorne Felgate

Reclaimed wood and found objects from Cleethorpes beach and the Northumberland coastline

Dentex maroccanus spends its time among various types of sea beds but preferring gravel from a depth of 20m to about 500m, its abundance varying with depth according to where it is. It is a carnivorous species, feeding on other fish, crustaceans, and molluscs. The maximum length for this species is approximately 45.5cm.

Artist biography:

I'm Lorne, I have a huge hunger for all things creative. I'm a designer by trade which fulfills some of my creative drive but I need more and in a different way to my regular day to day work I do. This is where my art comes in. I get inspiration from the strangest places, for example in might be a piece of wood with an unusual texture, an old spade propped up against a brick wall that inspires me to start a piece. I work with reclaimed wood and found objects. I start with a sketch which forms the basis of the finished artwork. Everything is reclaimed including the custom made frames.



Fish #143 Axillary Seabream *Pagellus acarne* ~ Carey Jones

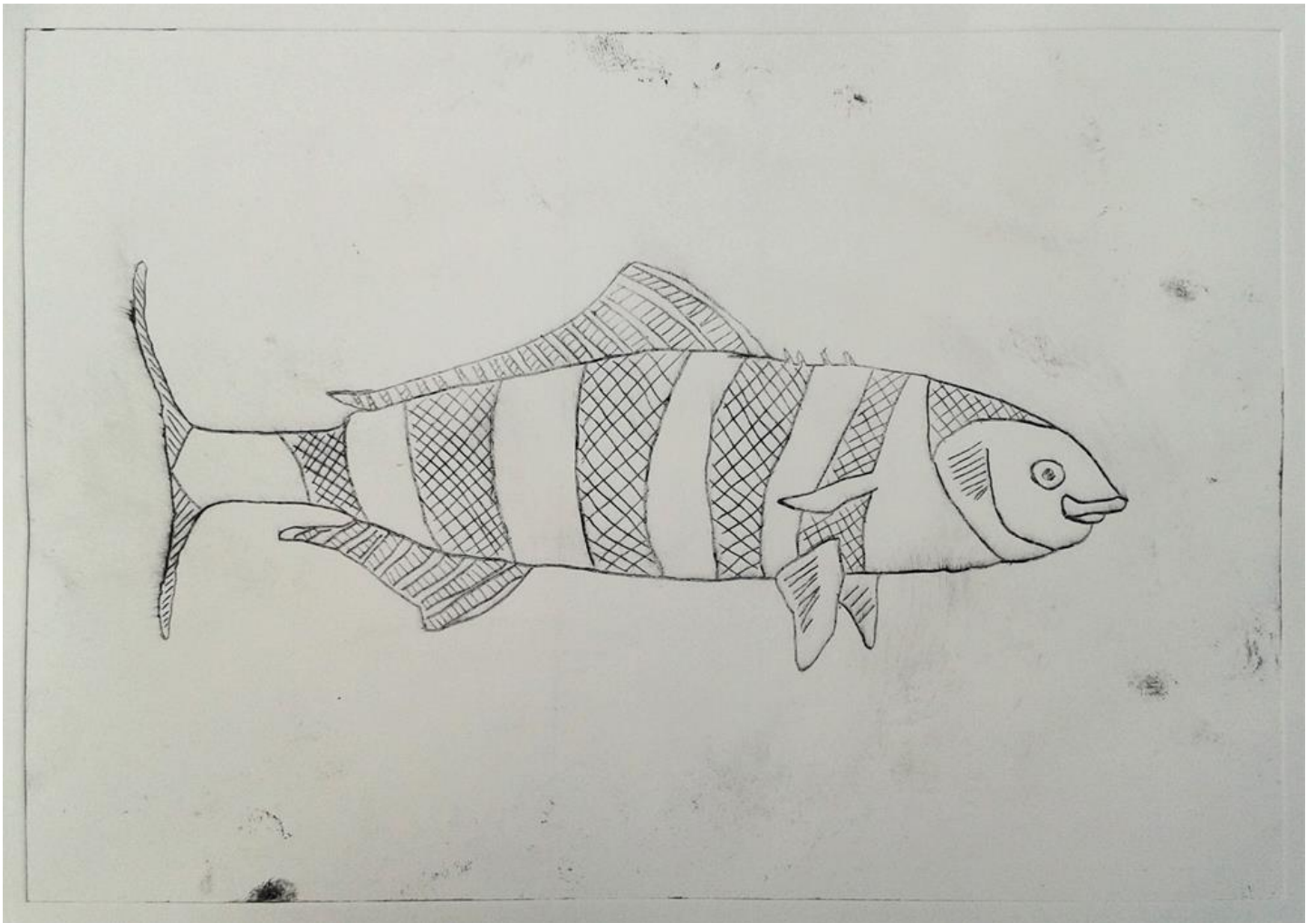
Axillary Seabream, *Pagellus acarne*, was named in 1827 as *Pagrus acarne* Risso. This sunbeam of a fish is found mainly in the North-east Atlantic from the North Sea and west of the British Islands to West Africa and the Mediterranean Sea and is known by a variety of names: English = Axillary Seabream, Spanish Seabream; French = Pageot Acarne, Pageot Acarné, Pageot Blanc; Spanish = Aligote, Besugo, Pancho Picudo.

The poor Axillary Seabream is a highly-valued and heavily-exploited commercial species and there is evidence of population declines despite current conservation measures - usually due to its minimum catch size being pre maturation in some European countries. Apart from its iridescent prettiness the most interesting fact about this little fish is that it is a protandric hermaphrodit, meaning it begins life as a male and then, between ages of 2 and 7, it becomes female. Its diet consists mainly of worms, molluscs and crustaceans and, as it lives down to a depth of 500 metres succumbs to vessels using bottom trawl, longlines and gill nets.



Black Seabream Monoprint mounted to fit 12" x 16" frame

Jackie Curtis is an artist and printmaker inspired by the natural world. Jackie can often be found walking on the Somerset Levels observing the landscape and birds, sketch book and camera in hand; looking for materials and ideas to use in her printmaking. Jackie works from her Somerset studio using relief techniques. Her monoprints are spontaneous, lively innovative prints often created as an immediate response to recent experiences. The collagraphs, produced from a collage of materials, are rich in texture and depth of tone. Linocuts are more intricate and stylised with strong elements of pattern, whilst her woodblocks are influenced by natural grain, shape and flaws in the wood. Visitors to her studio are welcome by appointment please email jcurtisart@btinternet.com or contact her through her webpage www.jcurtisart.com. To keep up to date with recent work and exhibitions please follow [@jcurtisart](https://twitter.com/jcurtisart) on Twitter.



Fish #150 Pilot Fish *Naucrates ductor* ~ Christopher M. Walshaw
Dry-point etching 20 x 28 cm

A carnivorous fish of the Trevally or Jackfish family that congregates around sharks, rays and turtles where it eats parasites and morsels of food left over from the host's feeding. Whilst widely distributed in warm or sub tropical seas it is an occasional visitor to these shores. They are known to follow ships leading the ancients to surmise that they would navigate the ship to its desired course. One myth surrounding our fish is that it can pilot the shark towards its prey as well as the mariner to safety. In Ernest Hemingway's "A Moveable Feast" (published posthumously in 1964), the hero refers to the character, John De Passos, as a pilot fish for the wealthy after falling out with him over the Spanish Civil War.

The pilot fish's relationship with the shark or other host is a MUTUALIST one. The pilot fish gets protection from predators and the shark gains freedom from parasites, and my little poem muses on this unusual relationship. Although good to eat the pilot fish is seldom on the menu as to catch them is highly unlikely. Apart from the difficulty of drawing the fish away from the shark there remains the frenetic behaviour once on the hook which renders it a worthy opponent who refuses to submit.

THE PILOT FISH

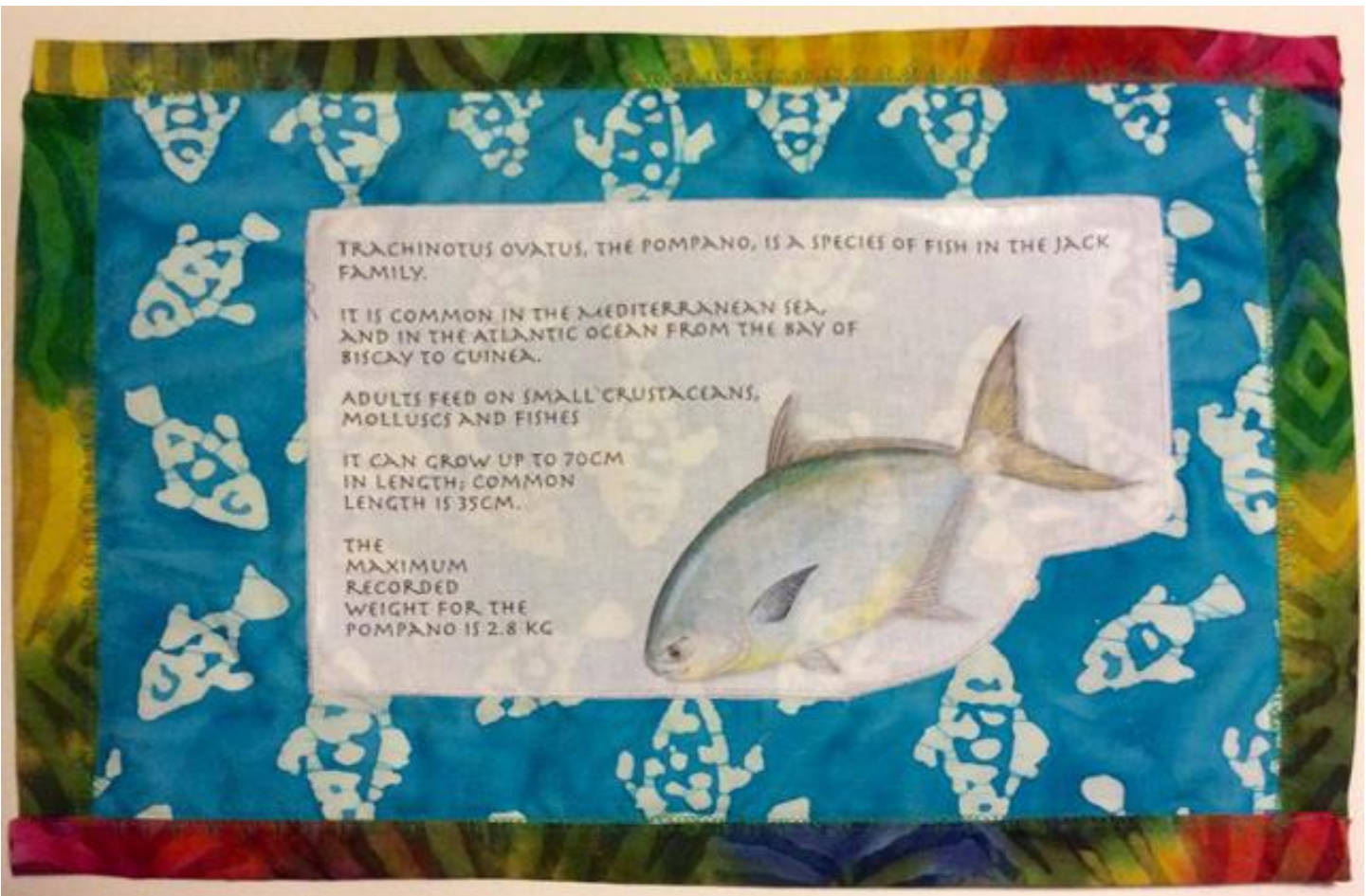
This brave little fish with unenviable task,
is known as *Naucrates Ductor*.
She cleans and gleans between the teeth,
of the shark who could easily abduct her.
This pair so rare swim side by side,
and though the host is the meanest,
he respects and protects the Pilot Fish,
his friend and dental hygienist.

By Chris Walshaw 11th July 2018

Christopher M. Walshaw: A Louth born dairy farmer, musician and actor has created the pilot fish image in an intaglio dry point etching method attempting a simple but characterful portrayal of this fascinating fish.



Front



Back

Machine and hand stitched quilt using cottons and cotton batiks 31 x 43 cm

Trachinotus ovatus, the Pompano, is a species of fish in the Jack family. It is common in the Mediterranean Sea, and in the Atlantic Ocean from the Bay of Biscay to Guinea. Its range extends into British waters, the North Sea and Baltic. Adults feed on small crustaceans, molluscs and fishes. It can grow up to 70cm in length; common length is 35cm. The maximum recorded weight for the pompano is 2.8 kg.

I chose the Pompano because it sounded like the sort of fish you would want to have with you in a crisis - pompous but confident of its own abilities and attractions. And it's a Jack, which makes it sound like somebody's brother. And who couldn't resist a fish that not only has had three (count them my friend) US ships named after it (well, two of them were submarines, but that actually makes it even more exciting), but also has an entire beach area (what our American cousins describe as a significant 'city') in Miami, in the sunshine state of Florida, named for it too!

And it's a good-looking fish too - deep-bodied and mackerel-like, typically silver and toothless (ignore that bit), with a forked tail and narrow base. Of the 20 described species, most are valued as food. Some species are considered prize delicacies and an important game fish. I personally like the sound of the Cayenne Pompano - is this food that seasons itself? - and of the Paloma Pompano, dove-like and flying free. I will avoid, if I can, the Blackblotch Pompano and its close cousin the Snubnose, because frankly they sound just plain ugly. So swim on, my pompous fish buddy, in your oceans of choice. Who knows, one day we may meet on the golden sands of a Mediterranean beach and, if we do, I promise that I will throw you back.



Fish #151 Pompano *Trachinotus ovatus* ~ Robin Chandler

Oil 45 x 90 cm

10,000 years ago great ice sheets spread across the globe, and the Doggerland Bank, a prime North Sea fishing ground, was a plain connecting Britain with the European Continent. Years ago I ferried from Rotterdam to Hull pushing on to London and King's Cross railway station; some days later I boarded a train at Waterloo Station for Dover and the ferry to Ostend. It was my first journey to Europe, my first voyage crossing big water, and the North Sea waters kindly served to baptize me. Captivated by the waves and the wind, I watched from the deck entranced, perhaps sensing some deep link with the water's depths. Born and raised in the states, my ancestors emigrated several centuries ago from Britain, France, Germany, Norway and Scotland - all places connected to and shaped by the North Sea.

In modern times, trawler nets, scouring the sea floor for fish, have uncovered mammoth and saber-tooth bones and the hunting tools of our Ice Age ancestors. Today, the North Sea's big five: cod, haddock, herring, plaice and sole are commercially fished providing nourishment to consumers throughout the world. In a deep-time "clock of the long-now" way of thinking, my first sea crossing was really a return to the place where my genetic story began among the Holocene's community of animals, plants and humans. Then as now, the peoples of the lands defining the North Sea's shores found their livelihood alongside this great expanse harvesting abundant resources of fish. In later ages, North Sea residents also discovered petroleum, and harnessed the wind.

Unfortunately, increasing human populations have placed heavy demands on North Sea resources. Two hundred native fish species have been identified in the North Sea; the "big five" are the most economically important, although other fish commercially harvested also comprise halibut, turbot, whiting, pollock and saithe. Many of the two hundred fish species are vulnerable, endangered or threatened with extinction including the Atlantic cod and Haddock (both members of the big five) as well as many kinds of shark, skate, and ray, the European sea sturgeon, the European eel, the Atlantic Bluefin tuna, and the Atlantic halibut. So far only one species, the Houting, a whitefish, is extinct. However relieved we are at this solitary number, this should serve as a warning, loud and clear. While nations cooperate to manage these important resources through fishing quotas, many species have been endangered by historic overfishing practices. Other human impacts on the environment including pollution and climate change adversely affect these fish species threatening their survival. Worldwide the negative results of human activities has become so dominant, a new geologic age, the Anthropocene, has been proposed to signify the commencement of humankind's significant

impact on the Earth. And the North Sea, one of the earth's most densely populated and heavily industrialized areas, is increasingly under stress, threatening one of the world's most fertile and productive regions.

Fortunately, not all North Sea fish are endangered or threatened yet, and the Carangide (family) *Trachinotus* (genus) *ovatus* (species) commonly known, as the Pompano is only deemed moderately vulnerable. The Pompano makes its home in pelagic neritic waters - a marine environment defined as clear shallow waters over sand or mud bottoms corresponding to continental shelf area - found throughout the North Sea and in the Mediterranean. Swimming in schools, the Pompano uses its small band of teeth to feed on small crustaceans, molluscs and smaller fish. Valued as food by humans, it is primarily a game fish, but can also be fished commercially. Its length ranges from 35 to 70 cm and it weighs typically 2.8 kilograms. A deep-bodied fish, the Pompano is silver green blue gray in color with some areas of yellow, three to five vertical black spots on the lateral, a forked tail, two dorsal fins, and one anal fin.

There are twenty species in the *Trachinotus* genus such as the *Trachinotus carolinus*, known as the Florida Pompano, found along the western coast of the Atlantic ocean and eastern coast of the United States, and is a popular sport and commercial fish. Pompano Beach, Florida derives its name from the fish; the city's name resonates in the imaginations for many Americans, mine included, as it is a place associated with vacation fun in the warmth of the sun after long, cold, snowy winters.

Bibliography:

Blass, Tom. *The Naked Shore of the North Sea*. New York, New York: Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2017.

De Wilde, P. A. W. J., Jenness, M. I., Duineveld, G. C. A. "Introduction into the ecosystem of the North Sea: Hydrography, biota, and food web relationships." *Netherland Journal of Aquatic Ecology* Volume 26 Issue 1 (1992): pp. 7 - 18.

[Fishbase.org/summary/Trachinotus-ovatus.html](https://www.fishbase.org/summary/Trachinotus-ovatus.html)

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fish_of_the_North_Sea

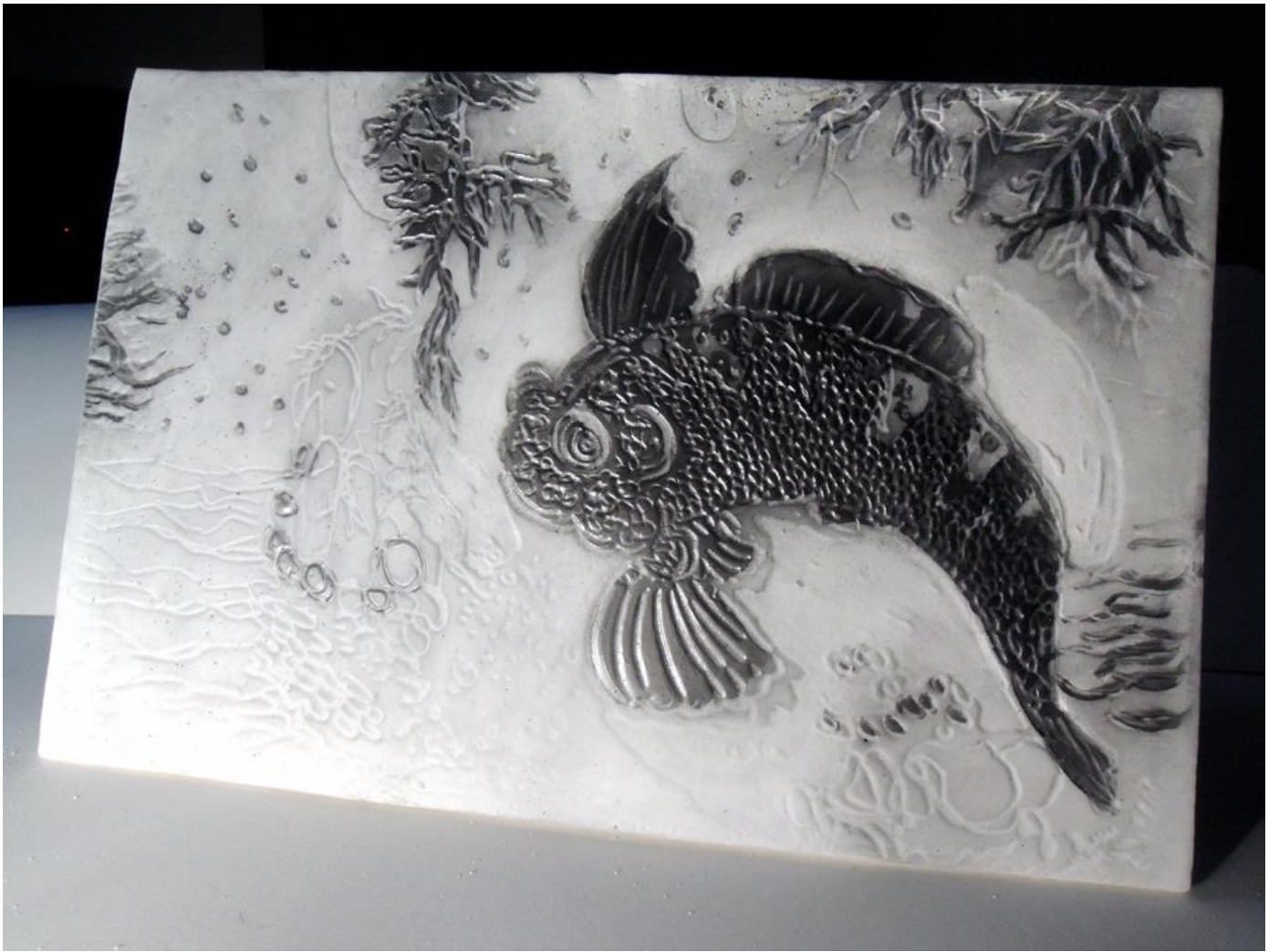
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_pompano

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompano>



Fish #152 Atlantic Horse Mackerel *Trachurus trachurus* ~ Hannah Sanderson

Mixed media





Fish #156 Black Goby *Gobius niger* ~ Christine Hurford Single Fish

Fish #156 Black Goby *Gobius niger* ~ Christine Hurford Three Fishes

Bone china and graphite 22 x 37 cm

I chose the black goby, not because I knew what it looked like, but the first photos I looked at the fish seemed to look miserable and grumpy, hiding by rocks or stones at the bottom of shallow water, and not looking that black, rather a sandy colour with irregular patches on it. After drawing and making insects for a time, this morose goby would be a change. Other photos then showed the black goby swimming with fins up - in fact it seemed to have a lot of fins making it look enormous. I found out there are lots of species of goby, sixteen of which live in UK waters. They had names such as diminutive, leopard spotted, painted and two spotted. Also it was not large at all, 7 cm in length would be a maximum. At such a size they could be overlooked which must be an advantage.

The male sorts out a clean firm nesting place and then invites the female to inspect. If all goes well, the male turns a darker colour whilst guarding the eggs, perhaps that is another advantage. They eat small invertebrates and can live for at least four years.

After experimenting, I made a bone china rectangle and 'engraved' the black goby on it using swell paper and a special heat machine which raised my drawn lines. It was then printed onto the clay, high fired in a kiln and then graphite used to enhance the fish. This has a metallic sheen, so my goby looks dark. The ceramic plate is 22 cm by 33.8 cm and is made to lean against or on top of a stand.



Fish #156 Black Goby *Gobius niger* ~ Mary Jackson

Charcoal on paper 60 x 60 cm

I chose to draw the Black Goby as it is not a well-known fish and I felt some affinity with it - we are both quite small and enjoy swimming in shallow, sandy waters. Beyond that we diverge. Sometimes dark-grey, sometimes brown with lighter markings the Black Goby has a characteristic pointed first dorsal fin. It has a chunky head and feeds on invertebrates and some small fish. It breeds in the summer time when the female lays her eggs in a nest made for her by the male, takes guard until the eggs hatch. Whilst it can sometimes look a bit grumpy it has a certain charm and was fun to draw.

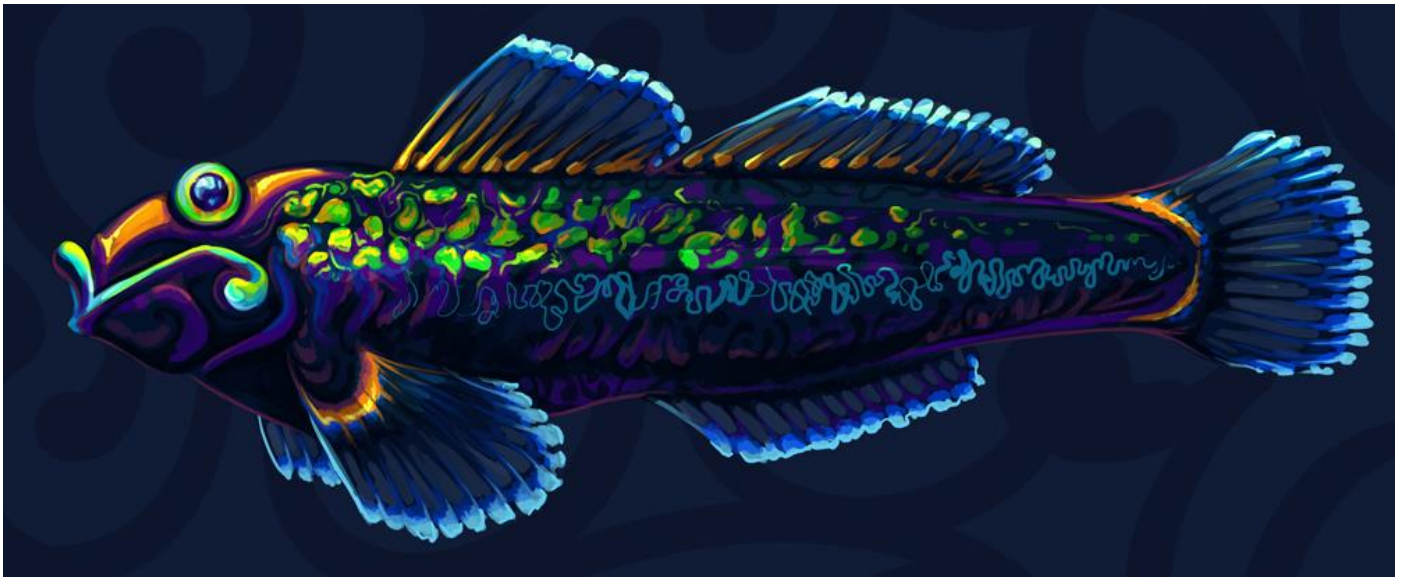


Fish #158 Frie's Goby *Lesueurigobius friesii* ~ Fiona Rich

Gouache and watercolour on Bristol board 23 x 31 cm

The Frie's goby is native to the Eastern Atlantic Ocean. It lives near the coast, and digs U-shaped burrows into muddy sand, at depths of from 10 to 130 metres. Frie's Gobies are frequently found with the lobster (*nephrops norvegicus*). They typically grow to at least 94 mm, and live around 11 years.

When researching Frie's goby, I was fascinated by how many colours they have on their bodies. Although they seem quite plain at first, they have very particular markings, and in the light they have a beautiful purple-blue hue. I wanted to celebrate this in my painting.



Fish #159 Round Goby *Neogobius melanostomus* ~ Laura Gisby

Digital drawing



Fish #161 Common Goby *Pomatoschistus microps* ~ Alison Spittles
Watercolour 4 x 12 cm

The common goby (one of a family of goby species found all over the world) is a small fish, usually a maximum of 6cm, found in the sandy shallows and intertidal pools of coastal areas. It sometimes occurs in brackish water and upstream from river mouths due to its ability to tolerate low salinity levels. The common goby is found in the Baltic Sea, in the coastal waters of Norway, Great Britain and Ireland and the western Mediterranean.

An important food source itself for birds and other fish, the goby's diet consists of tiny crustaceans, worms and insect larvae. The common goby migrates downstream in the spring to breed. 100 - 1000 eggs are laid under a shell where the male goby fans the eggs with his tail to oxygenate them as they develop.

I was inspired to paint the unassuming and little-known goby after looking through an old copy of the Ladybird Book of the Seashore. It reminded not only of my childhood experience of loving that series of books on nature, but more vividly, of my frequent visits in the 1960s to the rocky shoreline, known as the 'scar' at Whitby where I was brought up. I had the privilege to see the then unspoilt beauty of pristine rockpools full of wonderful creatures. As well as hermit crabs, sea anemones, winkles and whelks, there were always tiny fish to be seen. But I confess, I never knowingly saw a common goby!



Fish #163 Painted Goby Pomatoschistus pictus ~ Barbara Rimmington Watercolour and mixed media 19 x 28 cm

Pomatoschistus pictus, the Painted goby, reaches up to 6 cm in length. It has two distinct dorsal fins positioned closely together. The first usually has six spines and two rows of black spots, two between each of the spines. The second dorsal fin has one spine and up to 10 rays and one or more rows of smaller black spots, one or more between each of the rays. The caudal fin is more or less rounded. The painted goby is usually faun to yellowish-olive green in colour. Four pale saddles are present across the back and four double spots are situated between the saddles along the lateral midline. The areas anterior of the dorsal fins and around the breast region are naked of scales.

There is no population information available for this species; however it is assumed to be stable. The painted goby is widely distributed around the British and Irish coasts, along the Atlantic shores from Trøndelag, Norway to Spain. It is also registered in the Mediterranean. The Painted Goby is found on areas of inshore gravel, sand and mud, from just below the tidal zone down to a depth of 55 metres. Juveniles may occur in shore pools and they can school. It feeds on crustaceans, mostly copepods and amphipods.

The painted goby emits courtship sounds (drums) that are important in reproductive outcome. Temperature affects the pulse rate of the sounds, because muscle twitches typically shorten with rising temperatures. Pulse rate is likely an important factor in mate choice, combined with visual courtship. Vocal activity is energetically expensive and is condition-dependent in the painted goby. It may function as an honest signal of male quality, including paternal ability. However, how fish mate decisions are influenced by call characteristics is poorly understood. Female painted goby seem to be influenced in their choice of mate by acoustic signalling coupled with visual courtship, rather than size of male. Another study provides evidence that ocean acidification might affect the auditory responses of larval stages of the Painted Goby, with potentially significant impacts on their survival.

I was inspired to paint a fish for this project by a friend and fellow artist. I enjoy outdoor sketching, though living in Sheffield it is rarely by the sea. I like using a variety of media, watercolours, inks, pencils, etc. I also love experimenting with printmaking, using linocuts, collagraph and monoprint.

Sources

Mate preference in the painted goby: the influence of visual and acoustic courtship. M. Clara P. Amorim, Ana Nunes da Ponte, Manuel Caiano, Silvia S. Pedroso, Ricardo Pereira, Paulo J. Fonseca. *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 216, 3996-4004, 2013

Effects of temperature on sound production in the painted goby *Pomatoschistus pictus*. Joana R. Vicente, Paulo J. Fonseca, M. Clara P. Amorim

Painted Goby Larvae under High-CO₂ Fail to Recognize Reef Sounds. Joana M. Castro, M. Clara P. Amorim, Ana P. Oliveira, Emanuel J. Gonçalves, Philip L. Munday, Stephen D. Simpson, Ana M. Faria



Fish #166 Yarrell's Blenny *Chirolophis ascanii* ~ Chris Rolph

Oil on board 60 x 60 cm

Yarrell's blenny

The blenny is a fish from my childhood: the dark flitting shadow caught by the corner of your eye, seldom trapped in a net and transferred to a plastic bucket, before being released to its rockpool again. But blenny is used as a generic term, and I've since found that Yarrell's blenny is even more elusive than its intertidal cousins, choosing to live at depths of 20m or more and therefore rarely found in coastal rockpools.

I based my painting on a number of photographs; I wanted to capture its beady eye, downturned mouth, and of course its antler-like tentacles. Like the blennies I've caught on a crabline it has tiny razor-sharp teeth which you can see peeping behind its lips, and the dorsal fin runs the length of its long dappled body. Though this fish will fit comfortably in the palm of your hand I've exaggerated its size to emphasise the features of its face.

Yarrell's blenny is named after the publisher and naturalist William Yarrell (1784-1856), a colleague of Charles Darwin, with whom he helped to found the Zoological Society of London. His eponymous fish can be found all around the UK, where it hides among weedy rocks and shelters in crevices. Each fish's patterns are thought to be unique, like a fingerprint, and it can rest on its front fins on the sea bottom, where it feeds on tiny invertebrates.



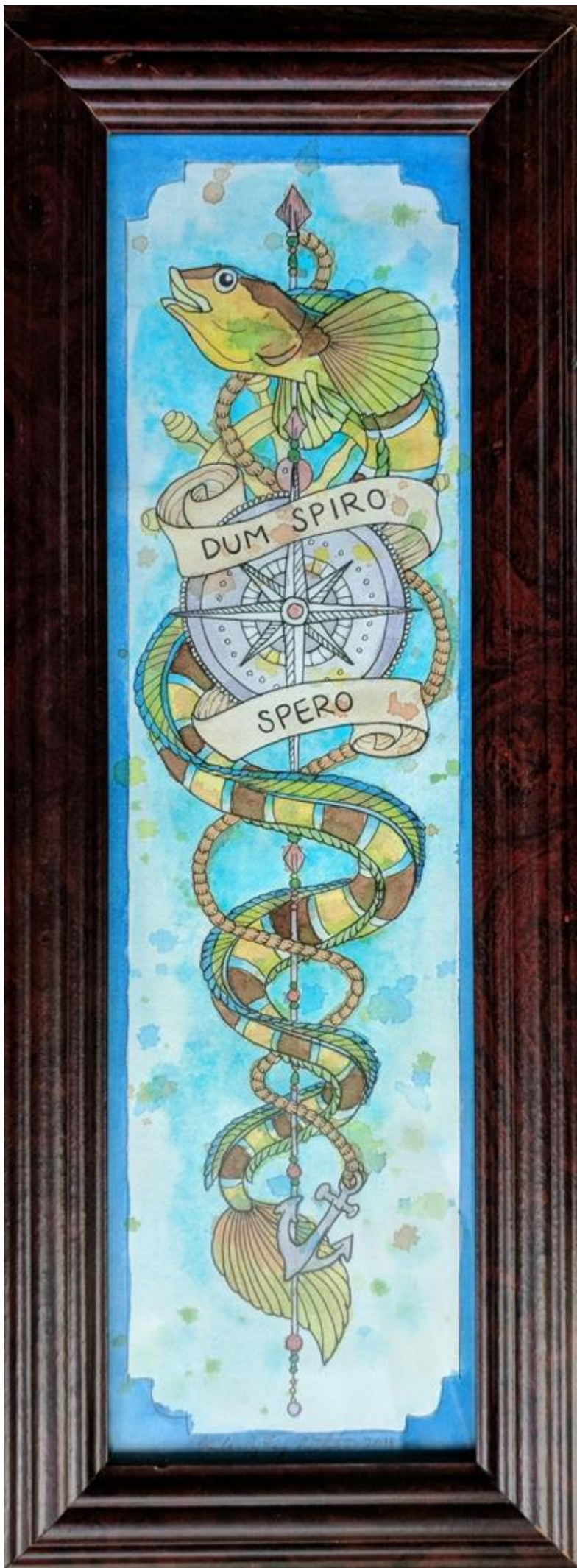
Fish #168 Snakeblenny Lumpenus lampretaeformis ~ Varjavan Dastoor

Soft pastels 23 x 30 cm

Snakeblenny

In the big blue sea
There's so much to see
The fishes are so many.
Under the seabed
You can glimpse the head
Of the slender blue snake blenny.
Born in spring
Sized a thumbnail
In the open water
It blindly sailed
Until it grew
Big enough to be found
By cod and pollock
And moved underground.
There it grew
to 'bout a foot in size
With a pointed tail,
Brown back,
And pearlish blue sides.
Endlessly digging
A network of burrows
In a tidy Y-shaped form.
Eating crustaceans
As the sea deforms

Previous tunnels
Before too long.
We want not from it
And it not from us,
So we know not much more,
At least not for sure,
'bout its way of life.
Yet the plastic we use
Soon turns to refuse
To befoul their benthic abode.
In the big blue sea
There's still much to see.
The fishes are so many.
A Y-shape on the bed
Means you may glimpse the head
Of the lovely blue snake blenny.



"I also come in yellow."

Fish #168 Snakeblenny *Lumpenus lampretaeformis* ~
Kimberly Kay

Pen and watercolour 40 x 10 cm.



Fish #170 Vahl's Eelpout *Lycodes vahlii* ~ Vera Johnson
Watercolour



Fish #170 Vahl's Eelpout *Lycodes vahlii* ~ Vera Johnson
Textile 20 x 38 cm

Classification: Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes), Perciforms (Perch-like), Zoarciae (Eelpots), Lycodinae.

Description: Body fairly elongate, covered with scales to bases of pectoral and pelvic fins. Dorsal fin without depression, front end with 0-3 black-brown spots. Lateral line runs near the anal fin. Size: usually 25-30 cm, up to 52cm.

Habitat/biology: Lives at temps of 0-5°C, on muddy bottoms at 150-500m, salinities 34-35‰. Feeds mainly on endobenthic prey, with shrimps and euphausiids more prominent prey as the size increases. Large eggs (few) of 6mm diameter.

Distribution: Arctic to Northwest Atlantic. Nova Scotia, Greenland, Scandinavia, southwestern part of Barents Sea.



Fish #171 Viviparous Eelpout *Zoarces viviparus* ~ David Hall

Acrylic on panel 20 x 25 cm

Viviparous Eelpout

On reading about the Viviparous Eelpout, I discovered that it suckles its young embryos while still within the mother's body, making it the only fish species to do so. Amazing!



Fish #172 Common Dragonet *Callionymus lyra* ~ Lesley Morris

Slate



Fish #172 Common Dragonet *Callionymus lyra* ~ Wayne Prosper
Oil pastel 30 x 42 cm

Common Dragonet

The common dragonet, *Callionymus lyra*, is widely distributed in and around the seas of the UK, Europe and the coast of Africa. It feeds on a wide range of small crustaceans and marine worms, although they will alter their behaviour to feed on whichever food source is the most abundant. The fish has an elongated, scaleless eel-like body and flattened head. Eyes are located on the top of the head and the mouth is relatively large. In mature males the first dorsal fin is high and triangular and is often described as looking like a ship's sail. Females and immature males have much smaller fins. Males can grow to a length of 30 centimetres (12 in) while the females can reach a length of 25 centimetres (9.8 in). They can be found at depths from 5 to 430 metres (16 to 1,400 ft) however they are mostly found at depths of no more than 30 metres (100 ft). This fish is not currently an endangered species.

There are almost two hundred species of dragonet across the world, with many of these fish living in tropical waters and being extremely brightly coloured. The common dragonet is the most common species of dragonet in UK waters and while the females are dull in colour, the males can give their tropical counterparts a run for their money in the colour stakes during the breeding season, with orange, yellow and streaks of blue making them an extremely colourful fish. The male displays these bright colours to attract a female and they are known to mimic each other's swimming pattern prior to mating too - this is called their 'mating dance'.

This picture was inspired by a photograph taken by Kåre Telne and caught my eye because of its striking colours and by the obvious fact that it does indeed resemble a mythical dragon when its fins are fully extended. The picture was painted with oil pastels.

My work, just like the ethos of #200Fish, is to highlight the beauty and indeed the fragility of our environment. I love all things sentient and by painting wildlife in their most basic and bare form, with no background I hope that more people will come to realise just how important it is for us as humans to stop destroying wildlife and habitats which for no other reason appears to be for greed, vanity and want of possession.

"We all spin on this planet in the same unchanging direction and our time here is precious. So why don't we all agree to protect habitats, protect life and in so doing, protect our planet because if we don't then we are surely destroying ourselves."



Fish #172 Common Dragonet *Callionymus lyra* Diana Copeland
Acrylic on canvas board 30 x 40 cm

The Common Dragonet

In days of old, or so I'm told, big dragons they breathed flame, I may be small, only eight inches tall, but I have a super name. 'CALLINOYMUS LYRA', which sounds so great, but I'm just 'Common Dragonet' to all my mates.

I'm an orangey-brown, spectacular fellow, with my fins in bands of blue and yellow. I live at the bottom of the Southern North Sea, on the Fairy Bank, which you'll agree, is a really good place for a Common Dragonet to be.

It may be cold, but I am bold, and am looking for a wife, I will puff my cheeks and raise my sail, I pose a bit, but to no avail, so far all I have attracted is a nosey snail.

When my sweetheart comes from February to April, we will get together; we'll swim and play and eat all day, and hope this lasts for ever.

We eat small crabs, slugs, snails and worms - I expect that diet would make you squirm. We love our home in the fine North Sea, we think it is fantastic; but here's a heartfelt plea from me, please don't fill it up with plastic.

Reference: britishseafishing.co.uk/common-dragonet



Fish #173 Spotted Dragonet *Callionymus maculatus* Beverley Nel

Linoprint on a rolled ink background

The Spotted Dragonet can be found in the North Eastern Atlantic. It is also found in the Mediterranean, including the Adriatic and Aegean but not in the Black Sea. It is similar in shape to the Common Dragonet but smaller. It grows to a total length of 16 cm (6.3 in) in males and 13 cm (5.1 in) in females. Its large eyes are situated close to each other on the top of the head. It has a large, protractile mouth. It can be recognised by its two beautiful high dorsal fins (taller in males than in females). These, and its other fins are attractive, wispy, fan-like structures, which were a challenge to reproduce as a lino-cut!

The Spotted Dragonet is yellowish-brown in colour with a double row of obvious brown spots on the flanks interspersed with smaller blue spots. They are a benthic fish, swimming along the bottom of the sea, living off small invertebrates; mainly worms, snails and crustaceans. They are not endangered and only are caught sometimes as a bycatch, or for aquariums.



Fish #175 Rock Cook *Centrolabrus exoletus* ~ Maria Sky

Giclee print taken from mixed media assemblage

The fish peers, with confusion and shock, at the two plastic bottles located at the bottom of the shadow box. Amongst the "seagrass" also lies a small metal toy truck and one plastic cap. The fish looks in disbelief, thinking of its life amongst the debris that has been tossed haphazardly, by humans, into the ocean, not thinking of what this is doing to the ocean's environment. This assemblage artwork is set against a mosaic of fireglass, and embellished with plastic bottles, plastic wrap, toy truck, dried plants, rocks and sand providing a variety of textures of this fish's environment. This particular combination of items is intended to show the infiltration of debris and plastics that are rapidly become common place in the Earth's oceans, symbolic of how polluted the Earth's waters have become, created by plastic waste as well as other items not suitable or sustainable for a viable life.

A Rock Cook (also known as 'small mouth wrasse') is a colourful small-sized fish found living among seaweeds and eelgrass beds located throughout the ocean waters of Britain and Ireland as well as in the eastern Atlantic from Norway to Portugal and Greenland. The maximum size of a Rock Cook is 15-18 cm (approximately 6 in). The body is greenish brown with cream undersides and the head is yellow-orange with blue stripes. It eats various crustaceans and is also considered a 'cleaner fish' since it removes ectoparasites from other fish. It is ironic that this fish is a 'cleaner fish', taking care of other fish, yet must live in a polluted ocean, due to the thoughtless humans with whom it shares its environment.



Fish #175 Rock Cook *Centrolabrus exoletus* ~ Tasha Easton

Watercolour 15 x 20 cm

The Rock Cook lives in most British waters, with the exception of the southern North Sea. It tends to live in shallow inshore areas among seaweeds (particularly eelgrass) and near rocks. It has a life expectancy of about 8 years. It is the rarest of the five UK wrasse species. It grows to about 15cm in length and is easily distinguished by five spiny rays on the anal fin. It is mostly greenish brown, but with flecks of blue or purple on the fins. Its sides are yellow-brown, with a cream underbelly. It has small, pointed teeth that project forward from the mouth. The Rock Cook feeds on small invertebrates and crustaceans and also cleans parasites from other fish. It is often used in salmon cages as a cleaner fish. The fish pair to breed, with the male building a dish shaped nest and guarding the eggs.



Fish #175 Rock Cook *Centrolabrus exoletus* ~ Moira Buchanan

Mix Media on Upcycled Wood Panel 19 x 36 cm

Rock Cook or Small Mouthed Wrasse

The *Centrolabrus exoletus* lives near rocks and amongst seaweed - notably eelgrass, on most coastline areas of Britain and Ireland. Also known as the 'Small Mouthed Wrasse' it feeds on small invertebrates and cleans parasites from other fish. Wrasse have thick pursed-lips that hold and pull shellfish from rocks. Their strong jaws and powerful teeth also allow them to crush through the hard casings of shellfish and softer shell of crustaceans.

Rock Cook Wrasse Features

Up to 15/18 cm in length.

Greenish brown with bright blue layers or flecks trapped in the fins

Blue/orange/brown scales throughout the body with yellow sides and cream underside.

Head gold-orange with blue and pink stripes.

Small head thick lips and large body

My chosen fish for #200 Fish has an interesting life cycle and is possibly "the rarest of the five U.K wrasse species" (britishseafishing). In the spring to summer months the females use crevices within rocks to hide their eggs nesting the young on a bed of the water till they grow thus the cycle of the wrasse species is repeat of fine algae. After a few weeks the eggs open and the larvae move along the surface. The Rock Cook, as with all species of wrasse, are protogynous hermaphrodites they begin life as female but over time, either remain female, or metamorphose to male. Because their habitat is within shallow waters they are prone to being caught by sea anglers. Except from environmental alterations by natural cause or human pollutants there is currently no known threat to the Rock Cook.

Commercial value of this fish as a menu dish is not popular, however, the species of wrasse has merit as a 'cleaner fish' for salmon fisheries.

So far, no conservation measures are in place for the Rock Cook, nevertheless its habitat weaves alongside other protected marine life within its environment.

Note: The Rock Cook can also be found in the Eastern Atlantic from central Norway southwards to central Portugal.

By utilising upcycled wood from a palette and referencing a plastic bag drawn and painted onto the wood canvas, I was making a direct evaluation of human content of the ocean. In recent years the pollutants caused by us appear to be reaching dangerous levels. Obviously other dangerous elements from hard plastics (bottles, containers), metals, chemicals etc are as hazardous to the marine environment. I feel angered and disappointed at the lack of responsibility we have in the care-taking of our most precious resource - the ocean and its inhabitants.



Fish #176 Mediteranean Rainbow Wrasse *Coris julis* ~ Gareth Shaw

Watercolour, coloured pencil and acrylic 30 x 40 cm

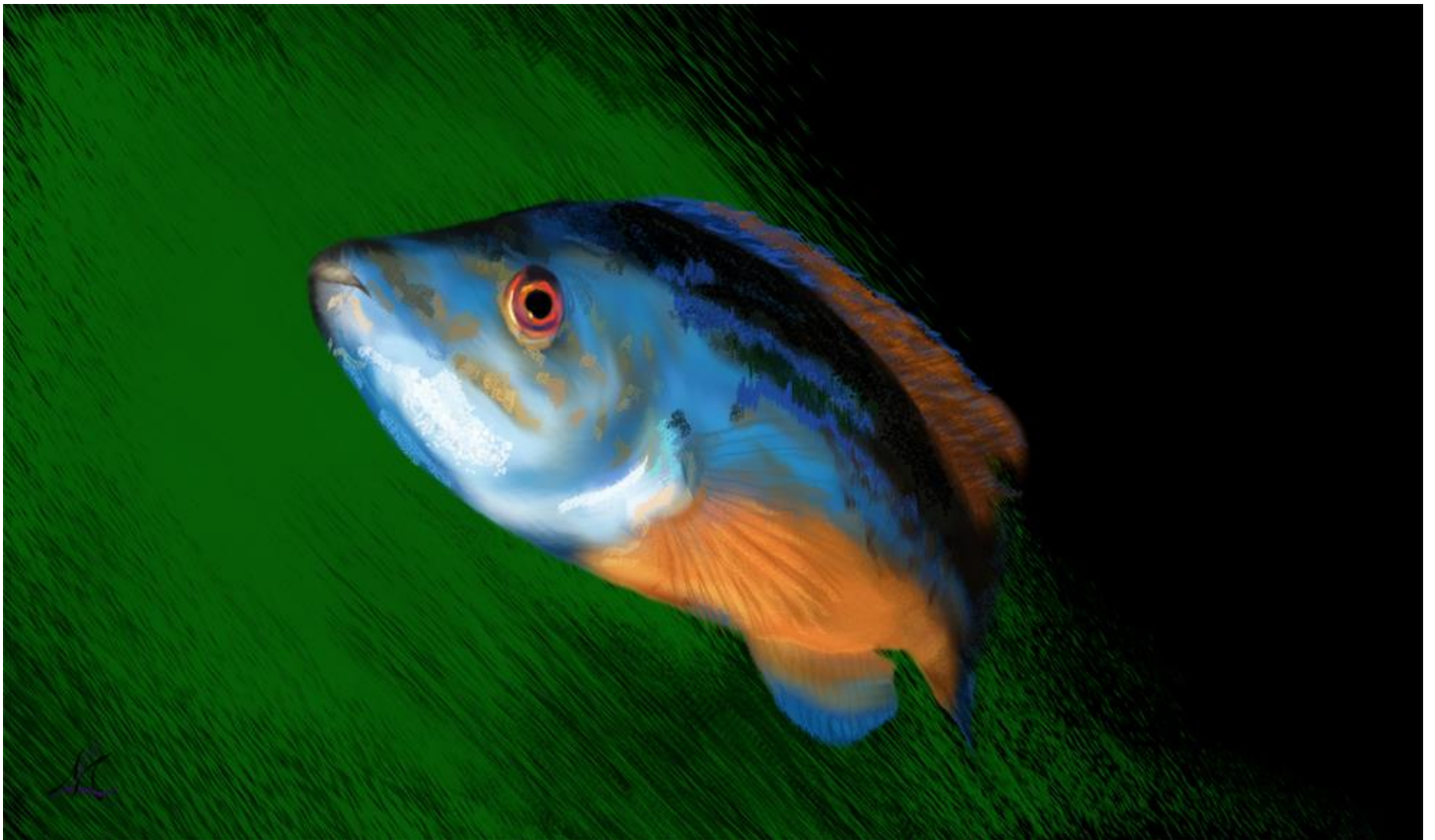
Biology

The Mediteranean rainbow wrasse occurs in the coastal zone, near rocks and sea grass meadows. It can be found at up to 60 metres in depth, but old males stay in deeper waters, especially during winter. Just like other species of its family, it is hermaphroditic, females being able to convert into males whenever it is necessary. The Mediterranean rainbow wrasse is a sometimes solitary fish that, when scared, buries itself in sand.

Curiosities

The Mediteranean rainbow wrasse has no scales on the head, or on the base of dorsal and anal fins.

I chose this fish as it is a colourful little visitor to our waters, and was a delight to capture in watercolour and pencils.



Fish #179 Cuckoo Wrasse *Labrus mixtus* ~ Mark Loosemore

Digital art 20 x 30 cm

The name cuckoo wrasse comes from the Cornish fishermen who associated the blue markings with bluebell flowers. In the Cornish language, a bluebell is 'bleujenn an gog', literally 'the cuckoo flower'. Cuckoo Wrasse are native to the Eastern Atlantic from Norway to Senegal and are therefore frequently encountered around the British Isles. These fish live in deeper water than some other wrasse, usually from 10 metres down to 30 metres. That is not to say, however, that they do not come into shallower waters. They are commonly found amongst sea fans and branching sponges on rocky shorelines. The males and females are very different in colouring. The males are bright blue with long patches of orange and yellow along the body. Unlike this illustration of a male Cuckoo Wrasse the female is bright orange with black and white stripes above the tail. The male can reach sixteen inches while the females are slightly smaller achieving twelve inches overall. Wrasse are highly territorial fish with a single male courting several females. When the male dies the dominant female changes sex and becomes the next male! As the female changes sex she also changes colour and patterning to that of the male!

Anecdote from the artist:

I grew up in Dorset during the fifties only a few miles from the coastal resort of Weymouth. In those days, before my family owned a car and when rail fares were still affordable, I spent many happy hours fishing from the Stone Pier which juts out into Weymouth Bay. My aim or should I say, hope, was to catch mackerel which would have been taken home for the table. Unfortunately those silver and blue rapiers did not frequent the waters adjoining the pier. The occasional mullet and Sea Bream and a never ending supply of Ballan and Cuckoo Wrasse were the most frequent visitors to the rods of amateur anglers. While I now know that adult Cuckoo Wrasse are a food fish, at the time I did not. Fortunately for the many juvenile specimens on my hook they were always returned to the sea. I meanwhile returned home after another day spent in the seemingly endless sunshine of childhood.



Fish #179 Cuckoo Wrasse *Labrus mixtus* ~ Sue Locking
Oil 40 x 51 cm



Fish #179 Cuckoo Wrasse *Labrus mixtus* ~ Sue Locking
Acrylic 23 x 31 cm

Cuckoo Wrasse

Without doubt, *Labrus Mixtas*, the Cuckoo Wrasse, (previously known as *Labrus Bimaculatus*), is Britain's most colourful and magnificent fish.

This vibrantly-coloured fish was renamed by Cornish Fishermen, who associated the bright blue markings with bluebell flowers, the Cornish name for these being 'bluejenn an gog' (a cuckoo flower).

Members of this wrasse family are slim-line with a narrow head; have scaly bodies (the scales are moderate in size, and rather smaller than the pupil diameter of the eye); two parasitic isopods (probably *Anilocra frontalis*); long dorsal fins, and robust, flattened, strong teeth, both in the jaws (for biting and rasping) and on the pharyngeal bones in the throat (for gripping and crushing). This enables them to mainly feed on barnacles, other crustaceans and molluscs, but they also consume small fish and worms. The thick, protruding lips, made up of 7-9 folds, gave rise to the name *Labrus*, from the Latin, 'Labrum' for lip, rim, or edge. Weighing a maximum of 2 pounds (0.907 kilograms), the male reaches between 35-40cm (14-16 inches) in length, the female up to 30cm (12 inches), and the average life span is around 20 years.

The magnificently coloured male has a royal blue head with bright electric blue bands and blotches along its flank, 2-3 darker blue spots and a black stripe interspersed with white near the dorsal fins. The rest of his body is vermillion, as are the fins, which also have brilliant iridescent blue markings at the tips, and the tail fin also has blue markings at the base. The female is duller in colour, usually rose-pink/orange coloured, with two or three dark spots behind the dorsal fin, and no bands or blotches along the body. Younger males do not have the dorsal spots, are similar in colour to the females, and can often be found in pairs.

The male colouration changes during the breeding season, becoming even brighter and sporting a white patch on his head, whilst his head turns from blue to orange so as to attract as many females as possible. There is distinct pairing during breeding, and between May-June, being oviparous, the female lays around 1,000 eggs in a dish-shaped nest made of algae built by the male on the seabed, which the male then guards until the eggs hatch in about 1-2 weeks. The young live in the open water until the autumn, when they then settle near the seabed. Although being sexually dimorphic, when young, all cuckoo wrasse have the female's pink/orange/red colouring, but when they reach between 7-13 years of age, because they are also protogynous hermaphrodites, they can then change gender and colour; similarly, if the dominant male dies, one of the larger females changes gender; sex reversal is completed within about seven months, and this new male then takes control of the harem.

Existing in around 30 countries, having been found as far north as Sweden, as far south as Senegal, The Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, as far east as Turkey, and most westerly as Ireland, it inhabits the Atlantic Ocean, the Irish Sea, the North Sea, the western Baltic Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea. Preferring to live at depths between 40 and 80m (130-260ft), it can live in as little as 2m (6.6ft) in warmer waters, and as deep as 200m (9656.2ft), but is most often found amongst algae in rocky shores in spring and summer, and at depths of around 15m (49ft) during winter.

Listed by the I.U.C.N (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as being of 'least concern', it is both encouraging and exciting that this little gem of a fish is likely to be around us for a very long time. An important food source; in addition to being a 'game' fish, it is a very popular addition to public aquaria, where its bewitching beauty astounds visitors, and makes it the most memorable of the wrasse family.

Without doubt, this is a very fascinating, complex, and exquisite fish, and who would have ever guessed that such a resplendently-hued fish, (which ilk one would normally associate with tropical oceans or coral reefs), was right here in British waters? Wow!!

Sue Locking was educated at Great Carlton C of E Primary School and Louth Grammar School, where her Art teacher, Miss Dean, put her in for her O' Level Art exam in her Fourth Year, a year earlier than usual, and, having been given her first set of oil paints for her 10th birthday, it seems that both her parents and her Art Teacher must have thought she had some talent! However, work life interfered, and it was not until after she retired in late 2012 that she re-kindled that talent and started to paint again. Sue has a great love of colour, as is demonstrated by virtually every one of her paintings, which is why acrylic paints are her favourite medium, as the colours are so vibrant.



Fish #180 Corkwing Wrasse *Symphodus melops* ~ Di Hennell

Watercolour 21 x 29 cm

Corkwing Wrasse

I chose to paint this particular fish as I loved to think this brightly coloured fish (male) could be part of the North Sea's Fish population. It looks so tropical. The males tend to be much more colourful than the females who tend to be greenish brown but it does depend on their age and background. The males can also be identified by having a darkish spot at the base of their tail. They can be found near rocks and eel grass beds. The males build a nest of seaweed although sex reversal has been observed. They feed on molluscs, hydroids, bryozoans, worms and various crustaceans. The males grow faster than the females and can live up to 9 years. At maturity they are approximately 7 -10 cms in length but can reach up to 28 cms!

Sadly these beautiful fish have been in decline, as reported in a Guardian article in 2017 . Fewer numbers have also been noticed by English anglers. One of the reasons for this noticeable decline has been due to their use in salmon farms. The Wrasse are used to feed on the lice found on the salmon. 1 wrasse for every 25 salmon are needed . 170,000 Tonnes of salmon are farmed in over 200 places in Scotland! Salmon farmers introduced the use of Wrasse to reduce the use of chemicals. Samuel Stone of the Marine Conservation Society reported that 'large numbers of Wrasse are being taken from local waters without proper management or any indication of its sustainability'.

To end on a positive note, conservationists and anglers are calling for a number of measures to be introduced to tackle the issue.



Fish #182 Skipjack Tuna *Katsuwonus pelamis* ~ Wendy Ronaldson

Acrylic 41 x 51 cm

Skipjack Tuna

Skipjack Tuna are also known as the *Katsuwonus Pelamis* a medium sized perciform fish in the tuna family Scombridae. Skipjack can grow to a length of 3 feet and can live as long as 8-10 years and are the most abundant of the major commercial tuna species. They have streamlined bodies and are almost scale less. They have a wonderful dark purple-blue back and their lower sides and bellies are silver with four to six dark bands. They are found mainly in the tropical areas of the Atlantic, India and Pacific Oceans with the greatest abundance near the equator. At night skipjack are surface swimmers and by day they can dive up to 850 feet. Large schools of adult skipjack tuna often mix with juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna. They may also show a characteristic behaviour like jumping, foaming, feeding, etc. Skipjack tuna eat various prey, including squids, small fishes, crustaceans and other vertebrates, cannibalism is also common. They rely on their speed to outwit and bite prey as they have no suction power. Skipjack tuna spawn throughout the year in the tropics and eggs are released in several bouts, although widespread and heavily fished skipjack tuna is not a conservation risk.

The origin of the name skipjack tuna was first described in 1758 by Carl Linnaeus who named it *Scomber Pelamis*. The species name is derived from Latin, meaning, 'Tunny' which refers to fish. There was a big-game tunny club founded in 1933 in Scarborough which had its headquarters there. The Atlantic Bluefin tuna known as tunny in Britain at the time is a large and powerful fish which was a target for big game fishermen.

Skipjack tuna sits at the back of the leader board when it comes to artists depictions of tuna fish. Yellowfin tuna seems to be the most popular among artists. Its yellow fins, tail along and the anal fins which can grow very long in mature species are aesthetically beautiful; their bright colour brings sunshine with sleek elegance almost too good to eat. I never really thought of tuna fish as a living creature, I always saw it as canned food. Delicious as it is, I never quite see it in the same way now I have been to The Deep in Hull. I was mesmerised by them, I spent hours watching and photographing the tuna swimming by in those huge glass tanks. I

wanted to take them home with me, transport the tank and sit it in the living room so I could watch them all day. My friend had to ask me politely to leave as her feet were aching. That is why I chose skipjack tuna for the project.

References:

Florida Museum

Wikipedia

WWF

Biography

Wendy Ronaldson, 1964- Lincolnshire born artist working in mixed media Studying for a BA Fine Art Degree at Grimsby University Centre I am a hands on person, very creative; this is driven by the fact that I have a covert stammer. There are two types of stammer, Covert and overt. A stammer is a dysfluency which includes blocks, repetitions and prolongations. A covert stammer uses avoidance techniques, swapping words, omitting words avoiding social situations to avoid disclosure. Overt stammering has obvious blocks, repetitions and prolongations. I was self-taught until 2013 and after speech therapy took the huge step of studying and never looked back. I work from Life experiences and find the human connection fascinating. Speech and the interaction between verbal and non-verbal communication plays a huge part in my creative processes. My work ranges from film installation to paintings and sculpture, experimenting is my foremost desire to reach my end goal. I have work in private collections locally and internationally and exhibit in and around Lincolnshire.



Fish #183A Plain Bonito *Orcynopsis unicolor* ~ Joanna Urbani

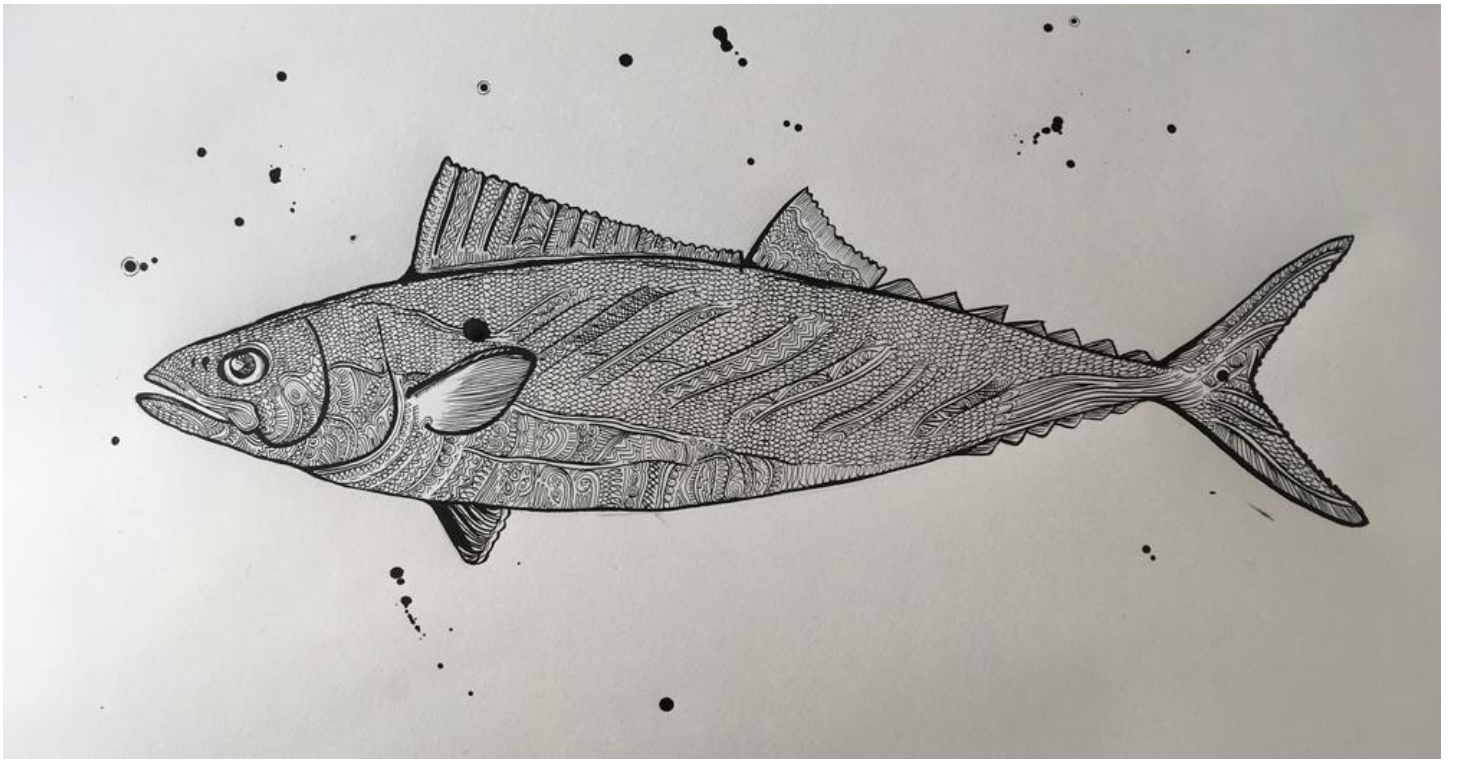
Mixed media 28 x 36 cm

Plain Bonito

The Plain Bonito is a Perch-like ray-finned fish. It can be found in the Eastern Atlantic, from Oslo, Norway south to Dakar, Senegal but the range is centred in the southern Mediterranean Sea. At maturity they range in size from 70cm up to a maximum of 130cm, with a maximum published weight of 13.1kg. They have between 12-14 Dorsal spines, 12-15 Dorsal soft rays and 14-16 Anal soft rays. They have a rather large mouth with the upper jaw reaching as far as the hind margin of the eye. A female weighing 5 or 6kg may carry up to 600,000 eggs, which are spawned in portions.

They form small schools at the surface of the water, and the first dorsal fin stands out of the water similar to that of sharks. They feed on small fishes such as sardines, anchovies, jacks and mackerel. The Plain Bonito is fished mostly by Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya. It is marketed canned or frozen. Their current population level is thought to be stable.

I chose the Plain Bonito largely because of its name. Always the champion of the underdog I felt a bit sorry for a creature with such an undramatic and unflattering sounding name and I got thinking that he (because he is definitely a he in my mind) could actually be leading a very colourful life as, for example, a member of a fishy Mafia-type mob. The Plain Bonito (see, you're looking at him with different eyes now, aren't you?!), quietly swims amongst his friends, anonymous and ready to strike his target, a dodgy anchovy. He then disappears quickly and silently back into the cover of the gang. Remember though, he's only working for the mob to support and protect his 600,000 babies!



Fish #183 Plain Bonito, *Orcynopsis unicolor* ~ Kate Webber



Fish #185 Atlantic Mackerel *Scomber scombrus* ~ Karen Hoyle

Painted Silk 38 x 53 cm

Atlantic Mackerel

Morning tide, sun begins to rise

Anticipation ...of the shoal to arrive

Cast the lures, rhythmically retrieve before it all...

Kicks off!

Explosive excitement

Rod nods intensify with each reel

Eventually revealing their magnificence in the shallows

Landed, barbecue and bait, it was worth the wait.



Fish #185 Atlantic Mackerel *Scomber scombrus* ~ Janet Swift Watercolour and gouache 20 x 28 cm

THE MACKEREL WEDDING

'Mac' Mackerel was a swarthy fish,
 He'd swum in oceans foreign.
 From Aberdeen came his whelk-shell hat
 And from Mablethorpe his sporran.

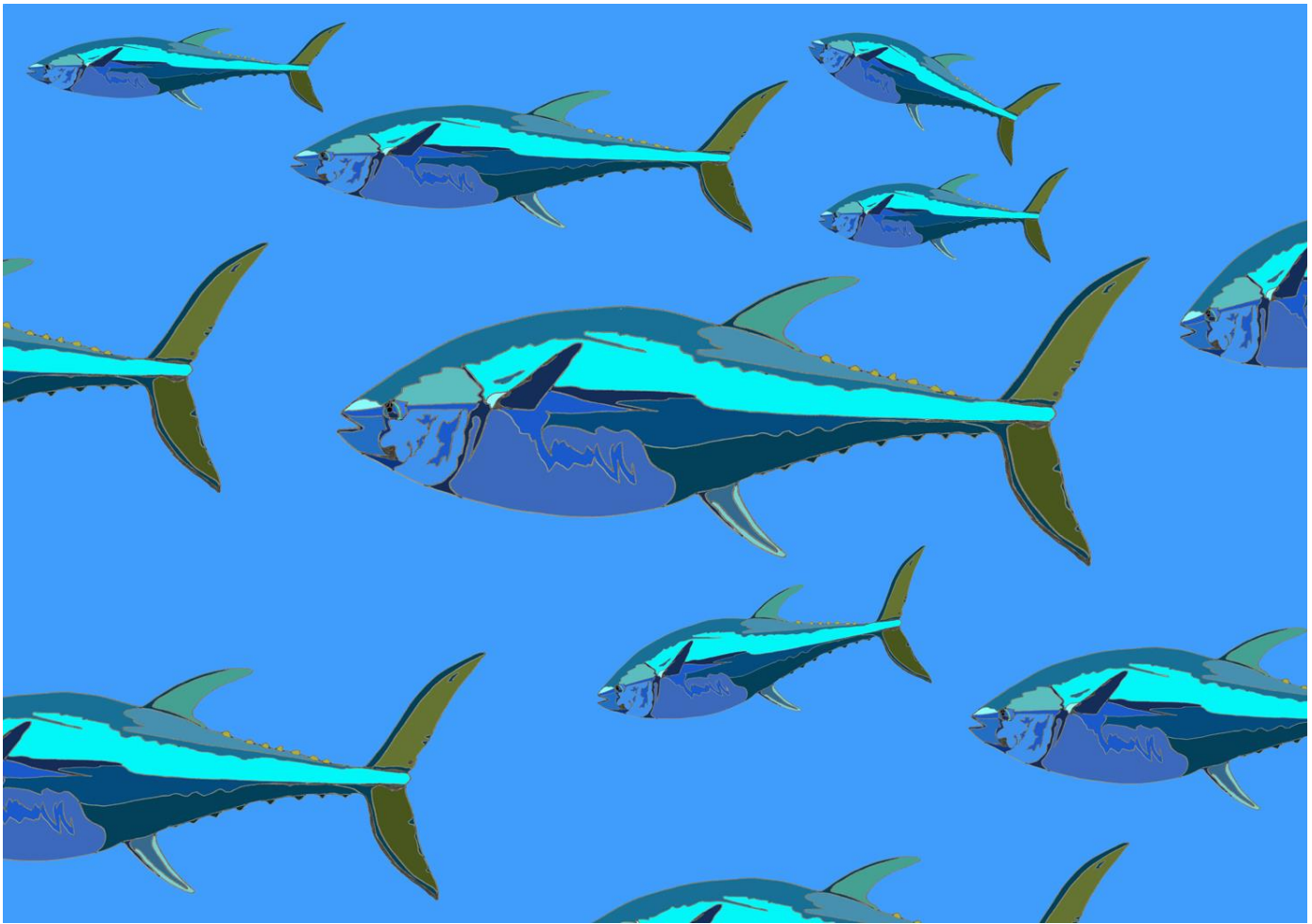
Miranda was a stunning lass
 Who stood out in a shoal.
 Their fish-eyes met, they fell in love,
 This wedding was their goal!

Sea horses were her bridesmaids here,
 (Best friends since they were girls).
 They held aloft her floating veil
 And much admired her pearls.

The seabed folk all came to watch.
 Small fish swam from the shores.
 The peacock worms all waved about,
 The crabs they clicked their claws!

But HARK! What makes that beauteous ring
 That welcomes groom and bride?
 Why, an underwater replica
 Of the bell of TIME and TIDE!

Rejoicing on the North Sea bed,
 Such food! - so many dishes!
 (You need reliable caterers
 When there are 200 Fishes!)



Fish #186 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus thynnus* ~ Jo Mortimer

Digital drawing 20 x 28 cm

Atlantic Bluefin

There's a tear underwater, shadows
breaking loose. Blue on blue.

School's out and tuna
are on the move.
Each a weightless heft
of muscle and bone.
Eyes flush to skin,
retractable fins.
Bullet-shaped torpedoes
fired by the machinery
of stars and moon.
Blood banging in their head
as they sense shoals
of mackerel and herring.

Shifting up a gear they become
a blur in their fragile world.

Paul Mortimer

The Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) is a species of tuna in the family Scombridae. It is variously known as the northern bluefin tuna, giant bluefin tuna (for individuals exceeding 150 kilograms or 330 lb) and formerly as the tunny. Atlantic bluefin are native to both the western and eastern Atlantic Ocean, as well as the Mediterranean Sea. Atlantic bluefin have become extinct in the Black Sea. It may exceed 450 kg (990 lb) in weight. Besides their commercial value as food, the great size, speed, and power they display as apex predators has attracted the admiration of fishermen, writers, and scientists.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna has been the foundation of one of the world's most lucrative commercial fisheries. Medium-sized and large individuals are heavily targeted for the Japanese raw fish market, where all bluefin species are highly prized for sushi and sashimi. This commercial importance has led to severe overfishing. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) affirmed in October 2009 that Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks have declined dramatically over the last 40 years, by 72% in the Eastern Atlantic, and by 82% in the Western Atlantic.

Most bluefin are captured commercially by professional fishermen using longlines, purse seines, assorted hook-and-line gear, heavy rods and reels, and harpoons. Recreationally, bluefin has been one of the most important big-game species sought by sports fishermen since the 1930s, particularly in the United States, but also in Canada, Spain, France and Italy.

The body of the Atlantic bluefin tuna is rhomboidal in profile and robust. The head is conical and the mouth rather large. The head contains a "pineal window" that allows the fish to navigate over its multiple thousands-of-miles range. The colour is dark blue above and grey below, with a gold coruscation covering the body and bright yellow caudal finlets.

Fully mature adult specimens average 2-2.5 m (6.6-8.2 ft) long and weigh around 225-250 kg (496-551 lb). The largest recorded specimen taken under International Game Fish Association rules was caught off Nova Scotia, an area renowned for huge Atlantic bluefin, and weighed 679 kg (1,497 lb) and 3.7 m (12 ft) long. They reach maturity relatively quickly. In a survey that included specimens up to 2.55 m (8.4 ft) in length and 247 kg (545 lb) in weight, none was believed to be older than 15 years. However, very large specimens may be up to 50 years old.

The bluefin possesses enormous muscular strength, which it channels through a pair of tendons to its lunate-shaped caudal fin for propulsion. In contrast to many other fish, the body stays rigid while the tail flicks back and forth, increasing stroke efficiency. It also has a very efficient circulatory system. It possesses one of the highest blood haemoglobin concentrations among fish, which allows it to efficiently deliver oxygen to its tissues; this is combined with an exceptionally thin blood-water barrier to ensure rapid oxygen uptake. To keep its core muscles warm, which are used for power and steady swimming, the Atlantic bluefin uses countercurrent exchange to prevent heat from being lost to the surrounding water. Heat in the venous blood is efficiently transferred to the cool, oxygenated arterial blood. While all members of the tuna family are warm-blooded, the ability to thermoregulate is more highly developed in bluefin tuna than in any other fish. This allows them to seek food in the rich but chilly waters of the north Atlantic. Bluefin dive to depths of 500 m (1,600 ft). They can reach speeds of 40 mph (64 km/h). The Atlantic bluefin tuna typically hunts small fish such as sardines, herring, and mackerel, and invertebrates such as squid and crustaceans.

Female bluefin are thought to produce up to 30 million eggs. Atlantic bluefin tuna spawn in two widely separated areas. One spawning ground exists in the western Mediterranean the other is in the Gulf of Mexico. They return to the same area and group together in large concentrations to spawn, and at such times are highly vulnerable to commercial fishing. This is particularly so in the Mediterranean, where the groups of spawning bluefin can be spotted from the air by light aircraft. In 2010, Greenpeace International added the northern bluefin tuna to its seafood red list.

Jo Mortimer - Fine & Digital Artist.

Guest artist at the Saatchi Gallery, London.

Resident artist at Dartington.

Studied at Plymouth College of Art & Design. Lives in Tiverton, Devon.

Work ranges from local buildings & views, landscapes and seascapes to animals, figurative and contemporary abstract work. All original paintings are drawn and painted in acrylic inks.

Limited Edition prints are taken from original ink drawings and colour is added using computer technology, providing unique artworks in themselves.

Work selling at Galleries in the South West, also nationally, Internationally and regularly online.

Specialising in, and was originator of, "People Participation" artworks, involving hundreds of adults from the general public in creating an artwork.

Founded #pebbleart & #artbombing which involves painting artworks on pebbles and small board and leaving them for the public to find.

The Trios 2017 exhibition tour originator & director, involving photographers, poets and artists.

Regular 'Tweeter' and 'Facebooker' engaging the general public daily.



Fish #193 Atlantic Wolffish *Anarhichas lupus* ~ Sarah Taylor

Ceramic, crank clay 40 x 27 x 10 cm

This fish is so named because of its teeth which resemble that of a wolf, with large canines at the front and molars at the rear for grinding food, which suit its diet. However it comes under many other names Wolf Eel, Sea Wolf, Sea Cat, Devil Fish, Ocean Catfish, Atlantic Catfish and Woof Fish. This fearsome looking fish, whilst edible, is not seen in its entirety on fish counters, normally being sold as fillets under names such as Scotch Halibut, Woof or Scarborough Woof. This fish is also used to produce a high quality fish oil and the Atlantic Wolffish skin is made into a type of leather in Iceland. This is from an Icelandic tradition of shoes being made from this skin. Wolffish leather is unique in being smooth with no scales unlike other fish that are used.

These are a potentially large breed of fish capable of growing up to 5ft in length and weighting 50lbs.

Externally they look much like an overgrown Blennie (*Blennioidei*). Because of their size they will take between eight to ten years to reach maturity at which time they also turn their blue colour. Their colouring is dependent on their environment and can be from slate blue to dull olive green. The breeding season takes place in the autumn and they are quite unusual in that the female lays fertilised eggs on the sea bed. The male then guards the nest until the eggs hatch which can vary from weeks to months.

Although not a fish that is intentionally targeted by trawlers they are often a by-product when caught up in the nets. It is not just the numbers of these fish being caught that is leading to their decline, but the very process of trawling is destroying their habitat, nests and breeding grounds.

The Atlantic wolffish is a solitary bottom dweller; living at depths of thirty metres and being a shy fish prefer a rocky sea bed with cracks and fissures in which to hide. Their diet consists of shellfish and crustaceans such as sea urchins, lobsters, starfish and prawns. Their diet is environmentally important in protecting the kelp beds which can become barren when the population of sea urchins becomes too great.

The United States National Marine Fisheries Service classifies it as being a "species of concern".



Fish #194 Lesser Weever *Echiichthys vipera* ~ Wes Finch

45 x 35 cm Pen, crayon, watercolour & acrylic paint.

The lesser weever is a venomous weever of the family Trachinidae. It grows up to 18 cm long, but generally less than 15 cm, and is generally found on the sandy sea beds of the open sea, near the shore. Lesser weevers may sting swimmers badly if disturbed in the water, and fishermen when they clean their fishing nets. They are typically found resting on the bottom, partially buried with eyes and tip of first dorsal fin exposed.

I've never seen it in the flesh but I certainly felt the effects of its venomous spine when stepping barefoot on one when surfing off the Gower coast in South Wales. The pain in my toe was intense and lasted for about half an hour. Luckily, the locals told me it was a common occurrence and assured me it wasn't fatal!



Fish #195 Greater Weever *Trachinus draco* ~ Shena McGrath

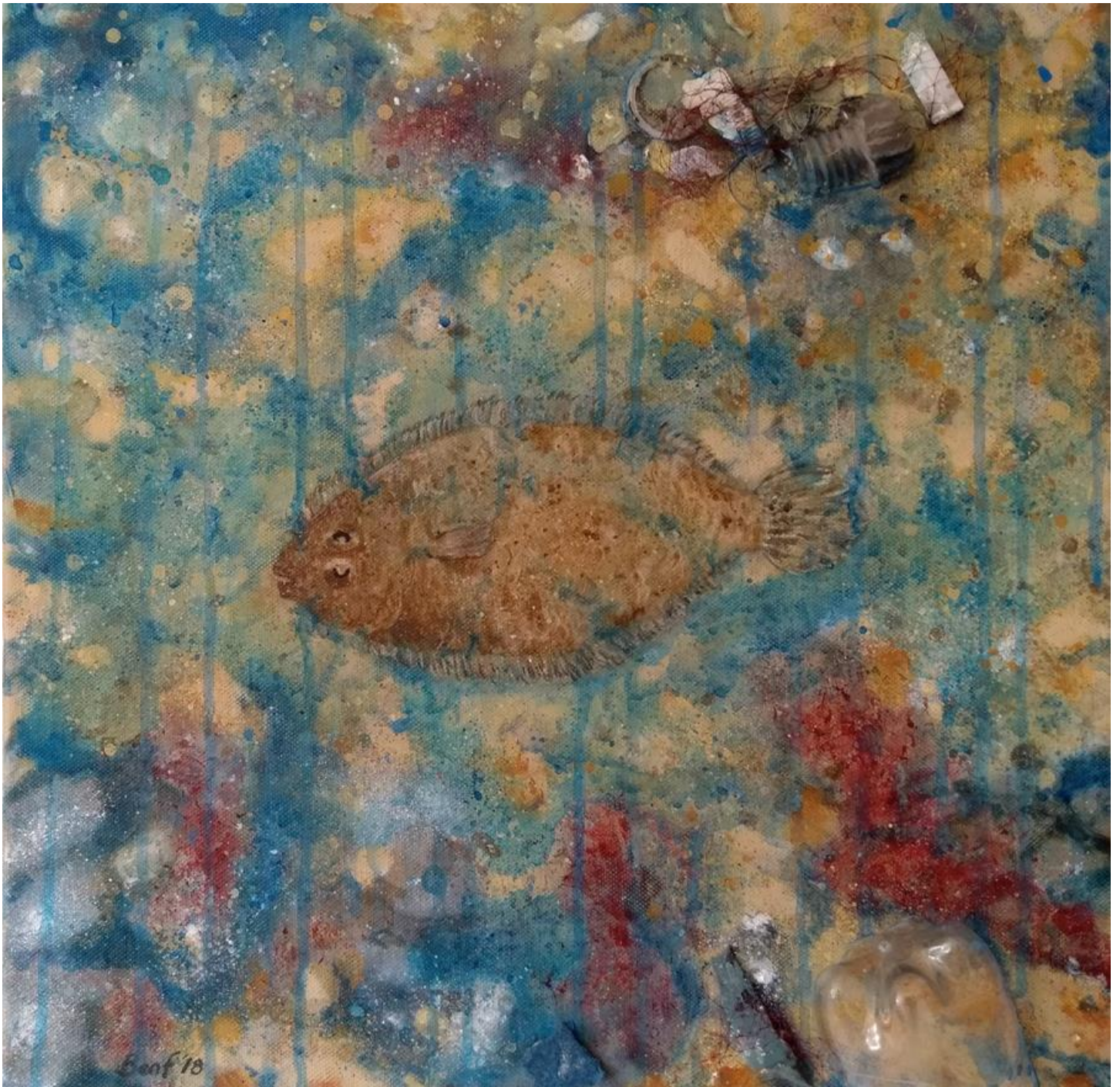
Acrylic on canvas 61 x 76 cm

I have lived on the edge of the North Sea for 24 years, mostly on the dry bits, but on occasions I have dipped my toe in it during summer months. Having researched the Greater Weever Fish, I will be rather cautious of where I tread from now on!

The name 'Weever' is thought to have derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Wivre' which means Viper. (Sounding nasty already). For good reason is it named thus, it has a set of extremely pointy dorsal spines on a modified dorsal fin which it can keep flat and out of harms way, or lift erect when feeling miffed. If trodden on, the victim will experience an excruciatingly painful sting, swelling and redness which has, on rare occasions, been fatal. The only reliable and simple way to relieve the pain is by plunging the affected part into very hot water (>40 C).

The Greater Weever, or 'Trachinus Draco' likes to hide itself on the bottom of the sea, often in shallow water (very sneaky) and one can understand why J K Rowling decided to name Harry Potter's arch enemy 'Draco Malfoy'. It can grow to more than 25cm long and it is widely found in the Northeastern Atlantic, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

Oh, and another thing, you can eat it.....VERY CAREFULLY!



Fish #196 Mediterranean Scaldfish *Arnoglossus laterna* ~ Ben Fitton

Acrylic and found object on canvas 40 x 40 cm

the Mediterranean Scaldfish, is sometimes just known as a Scaldfish, and belongs to the left eyed flatfish family. It's of little commercial interest to fisheries and is usually discarded if caught. This might be the reason why I couldn't find much information on this fish, and not many images of it either.

What I did learn was that the Scaldfish is found in the Eastern Atlantic of Europe and Africa, as well as the Mediterranean. It lives on mixed or muddy bottoms, up to 200 metres down and feeds on small fishes and invertebrates. It grows up to 25cm in total length and it's conservation status is of 'Least Concern'.

My painting is in Acrylic and found objects on canvas. I created a series of works on goldfish many years ago so jumped at the chance of being involved in this great project. The painting changed many times as I tried to cope with the lack of pictures and other resource material to hand. At one point, I started carefully painting items of rubbish onto the canvas with the idea that I wanted to address the issue of pollution in our oceans and seas. This didn't really work so instead, I decided to use actual bits of plastic rubbish that I found during a walk along a beach. I struggled with the task of gluing rubbish onto one of my canvases, but then, not as much as I struggle to understand the mentality of people who drop rubbish or allow this pollution to enter our seas in the first place.



Witch flounder
Glyptocephalus cynoglossus.

S. Harman

Fish #197B Witch *Glyptocephalus cynoglossus* ~ Sally Harman



Fish #199A Atlantic Halibut Hippoglossus hippoglossus ~ Jenny Sanderson

Textile and up-cycled plastic bottles 55 x 105 cm

Atlantic Halibut

The Atlantic Halibut is the largest species of flatfish on the planet - with the record fish weighing more than a baby African elephant! (3metres long and weighing 233kg) The Atlantic Halibut population has declined throughout its range over the last 200 years.

Atlantic Halibut are particularly vulnerable to over-fishing because they grow slowly and mature late and some populations have almost been wiped out in many areas. The Atlantic Halibut has a relatively slow growth rate and only reaches maturity at 7 to 8 years old (males) and 10 to 11 years for females. Their spawning is seasonal, with the breeding season varying from place to place. After spawning, they migrate northwards in search of food.

Like other species of flatfish, Halibut are flattened sideways and lie on one side of their body. As a result, both eyes migrate to one side of the head during development. The Atlantic Halibut lies on its left side and has both eyes positioned on its right, facing upwards.

Atlantic Halibut are also farmed, and in Scotland are bred and grown in land-based tanks until they reach harvest size at 4 years. Some Scottish farms use organic feed that doesn't put pressure on wild fish stocks and MCS promotes them on their Fish to Eat list.

Halibut has long been prized as a food for its delicate flavour and meaty texture - being a cookery teacher here follows a recipe!

Halibut with lemon butter

4 halibut chunks, weighing approx. 200g/7¼oz each

2 lemons, juice only

110g/4 oz butter

Salt

Method

1. Score the fish with a sharp knife and marinate in the lemon juice for about 15 minutes.
2. Drain, reserving the lemon juice, and dry with kitchen towels.
3. Melt 75g/3oz butter in a large frying pan, making sure the heat is gentle and the butter doesn't burn.
4. Cook the fish in the butter for approximately 3-4 minutes on each side.
5. Increase the heat and pour in the lemon juice from the marinade; allow to bubble and evaporate slightly.
6. Add the remaining butter to thicken the sauce.
7. Serve immediately.



Fish #199B Atlantic Halibut *Hippoglossus hippoglossus* ~ Elaine Franks

Mixed media, Watercolour, ink & pencil on 160gm Schoelleshammer paper 23 x 32 cm

Atlantic Halibut

The largest of all the bottom dwelling flatfish in the world, fully grown, mature halibut can reach up to 15 foot (4.5m) in length and 320kg in weight and mainly stay in deep water at anywhere between 300 to 2000 meters depth. Having been spawned in the hollows between banks at around 300-700m depth, the juveniles are found in shallower waters off of the coast of Norway and occasionally Greenland, Iceland, Scotland and the Faeroe Islands. As a bottom dweller, this potentially huge fish lies motionless and camouflaged on the sea bed, ready to ambush any crustaceans or fish that come its way.

Excessive commercial fishing has vastly reduced the numbers of Atlantic Halibut to the point where the wild population of this slow growing, late maturing species is now endangered in the open sea, and Greenpeace has added it to its red list of 'fish that are commonly sold in supermarkets around the world, and which have a very high risk of being sourced from unsustainable fisheries'. On a more positive note, it is hopeful that the demand for it as a food source can perhaps now be met by farmed stocks and at least five countries, Britain, Norway, Canada, Iceland and Chile are experimenting with captive production of Atlantic Halibut.

I chose to paint this fish because of its bizarre and fascinating development, this is a creature that turns from an ordinary looking and unremarkable hatchling into a perfectly adapted and completely extraordinary beast: hatched with one eye on either side of their head, just like any normal fish, during the course of its juvenile development, one eye completely migrates over the top of the head to the other side, transforming the fish's skull as it does so. As this is happening, the young fish changes from an upright swimming standard larva, to an extraordinary flattened plate of muscle perfectly adapted to its life at the bottom of the sea, where it can live for anything up to fifty years.

Elaine Franks Biography At four years old, Elaine Franks was learning to paint and draw at the same time as read and write, and by the age of eight, she had become preoccupied with painting the natural world, preferring to communicate through line and tone rather than through the alien language of speech. Having spent much of her childhood either on the back of a pony, with a pencil in her hand or her nose in a book (and sometimes all three together...) she spent her foundation year exploring the wildlife of the derelict areas of Nottingham before completing an honours degree in Graphics (Illustration) at Exeter College of Art & Design.

It was this move to Devon that introduced her to The Undercliff, a unique SSSI on the Devon/Dorset border, where she was to work as a volunteer recorder for the next two years, the results of her research being published as 'The Undercliff' by JM Dent, also by a number of other publishers in several American and European translations and editions. This was to be the first of some twenty or so books that she has illustrated and written on various aspects of natural history and gardening, notable titles including 'West Country Wildlife' with well known naturalist and author Kelvin Boot and 'Watching Wildlife' with author and journalist Geoffrey Young, the founder of WATCH.

For many years, Elaine has been living and working in mid Wales where she spent much of her childhood. She has made a number of television appearances, and her artwork has been exhibited throughout Britain and is held in public and private collections world wide. As well as the natural history work for which she is known, Elaine also enjoys working on a variety of community art projects and teaching students of all ages. Elaine, painting is about communication, exploration, discovery and above all, celebration.

"I'm trying to share the joy I get when I walk out of my door into the amazing world we live in, share a celebration of the things I encounter in my daily life. My paintings are not about contriving 'art' or 'expressing myself - who or what I am, is hilariously and wonderfully irrelevant..... My paintings are simply about celebrating the miraculous in the every day.....about saying Look, look at that....."



Fish #200 Common Dab *Limanda limanda* ~ Ruairidh Greig

Acrylic 25 x 30 cm

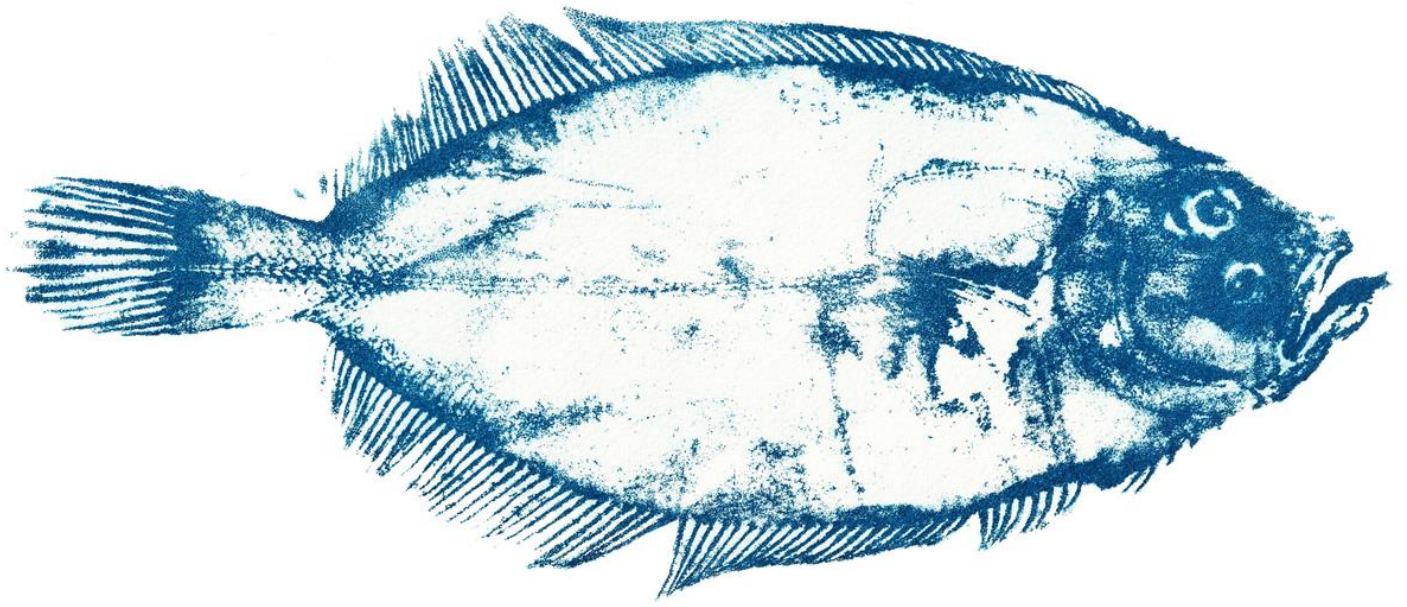
One of the humble "flattie" species we used to catch and eat on holiday at Humberstone Fitties back in the 1950s, I remember the "T" shaped devices with protruding six-inch nails through the cross piece that some people used to spear them with - and the stories of those who managed to spear their own feet. People also used throw lines to catch them with up to a dozen hooks on each line baited with ragworms dug up from the sands. On at least one occasion I remember feeling one wriggle under my foot in the creek, next to the rusting breakwater which stretched out to Haile Sand Fort. I pressed my foot down hard and then bent down and picked it up by the fins. About a dozen others followed that one into my haversack by the same means. I fried them at home that evening, Dab, Plaice and Flounder. All the family agreed that they were truly delicious.

What a sad, twisted face it has! Clearly it has evolved from a fish that swam upright, with eyes on either side of its head and a mouth in a more symmetrical position. Recent fossil discoveries have provided further evidence of this process of evolution, which was noted by Charles Darwin in the "Origin of Species". No Great Designer planned the Common Dab.



Fish #201 Lemon Sole *Microstomus kitt* ~ Jill Fincham

Mono print using food colouring on fresh fish.



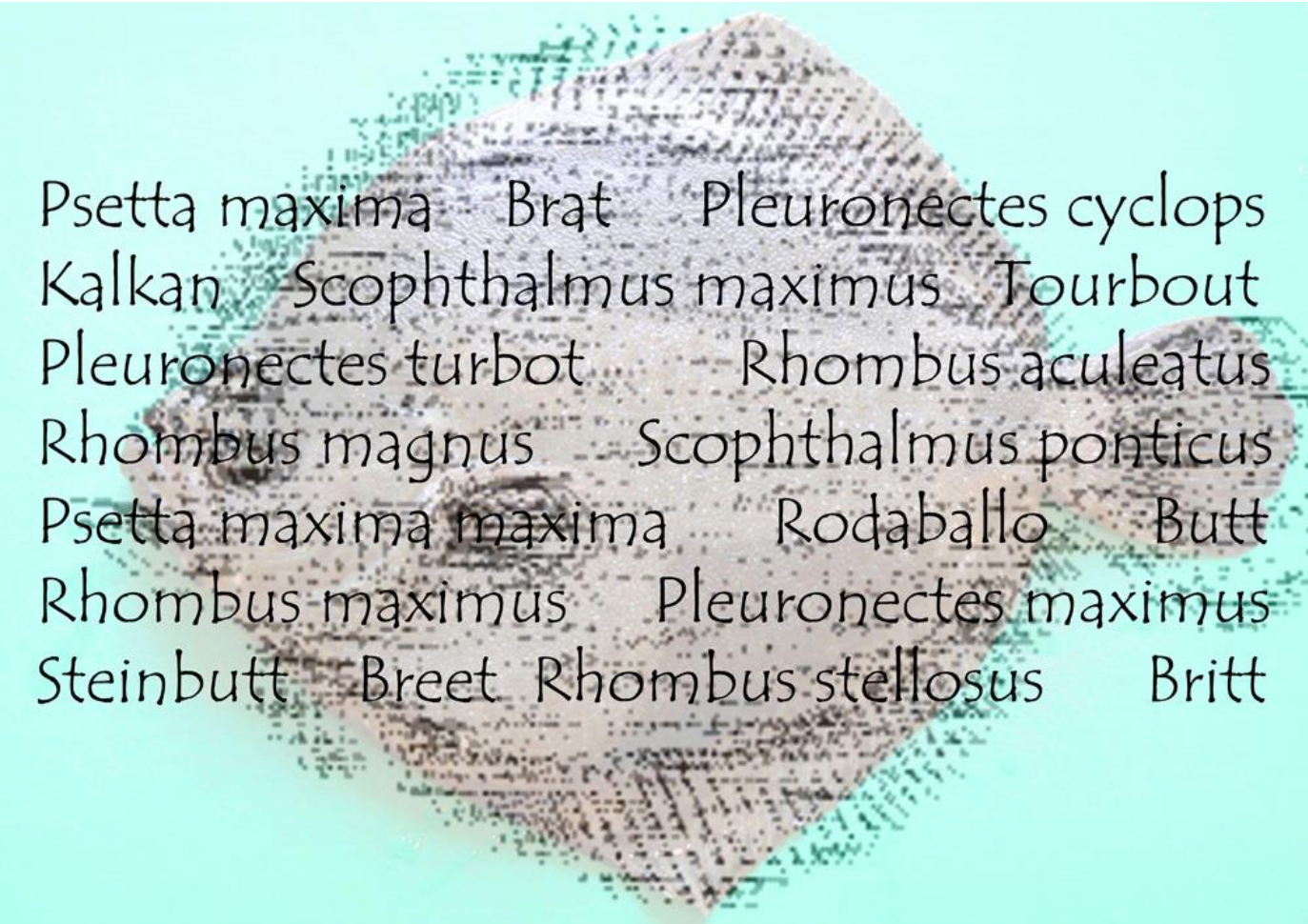
Fish #204 Megril, *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* ~ Edward Adlington

Photo etching 34 x 59 cm



Fish #205 Norwegian Topknot, *Phrynorhombus norvegicus* Diana Dykes

Mixed media 18 x 18 cm



Psetta maxima Brat Pleuronectes cyclops
 Kalkan Scophthalmus maximus Tourbout
 Pleuronectes turbot Rhombus aculeatus
 Rhombus magnus Scophthalmus ponticus
 Psetta maxima maxima Rodaballo Butt
 Rhombus maximus Pleuronectes maximus
 Steinbutt Breet Rhombus stellosus Britt

Fish #206 Turbot *Scophthalmus maximus* ~ Helen Grove-White

Digital drawing

Turbot

The Emperor's Fish: Juvenal

Cum iam semianimum laceraret Flavius orbem ultimus incidit Hadriaci spatium admirabile rhombi impleuitque sinus; ...

Back when the last Flavian was ripping up a half-dead world the marvellous expanse of an Adriatic turbot appeared, and filled the nets; ...

A wondrous fish found in the North Sea, Adriatic, Mediterranean and Black sea and going under a number of different names. As bottom feeders, turbot are camouflaged so as to be almost invisible on the sea bed and they live off sand-eels, gobies, crustaceans and bivalves as well as small fish. They have no scales but bony plates with small spines. They reach full size after 10-16 years, up to 1m length and 25kg weight. They may live to 25 years.

Turbot are excellent fish to cook and eat but their relatively low ratio of available food to body weight has made them less economic than other farmed fish. The price of filleted turbot can seem prohibitively expensive owing to the large proportion of bone discarded.

Turbot belong to the family of Bothidae, which includes both Brill and Atlantic and Black Turbot. It also belongs to the family Paralichthyidae which, having both eyes on the left side, lies on its right side on the sea bed. This contrasts with Plaice, Soles and Flounders who lie on their left side and have eyes on the right. Since our standard picture book view of them is from the top we may observe that Turbot appear to swim to our left and Plaice swim to our right.

Paralichthyidae are initially symmetrical at hatching, after a couple of weeks, the right eye moves to the left side to take up its new position. This gives rise to current debates challenging Darwinian theories of evolution.

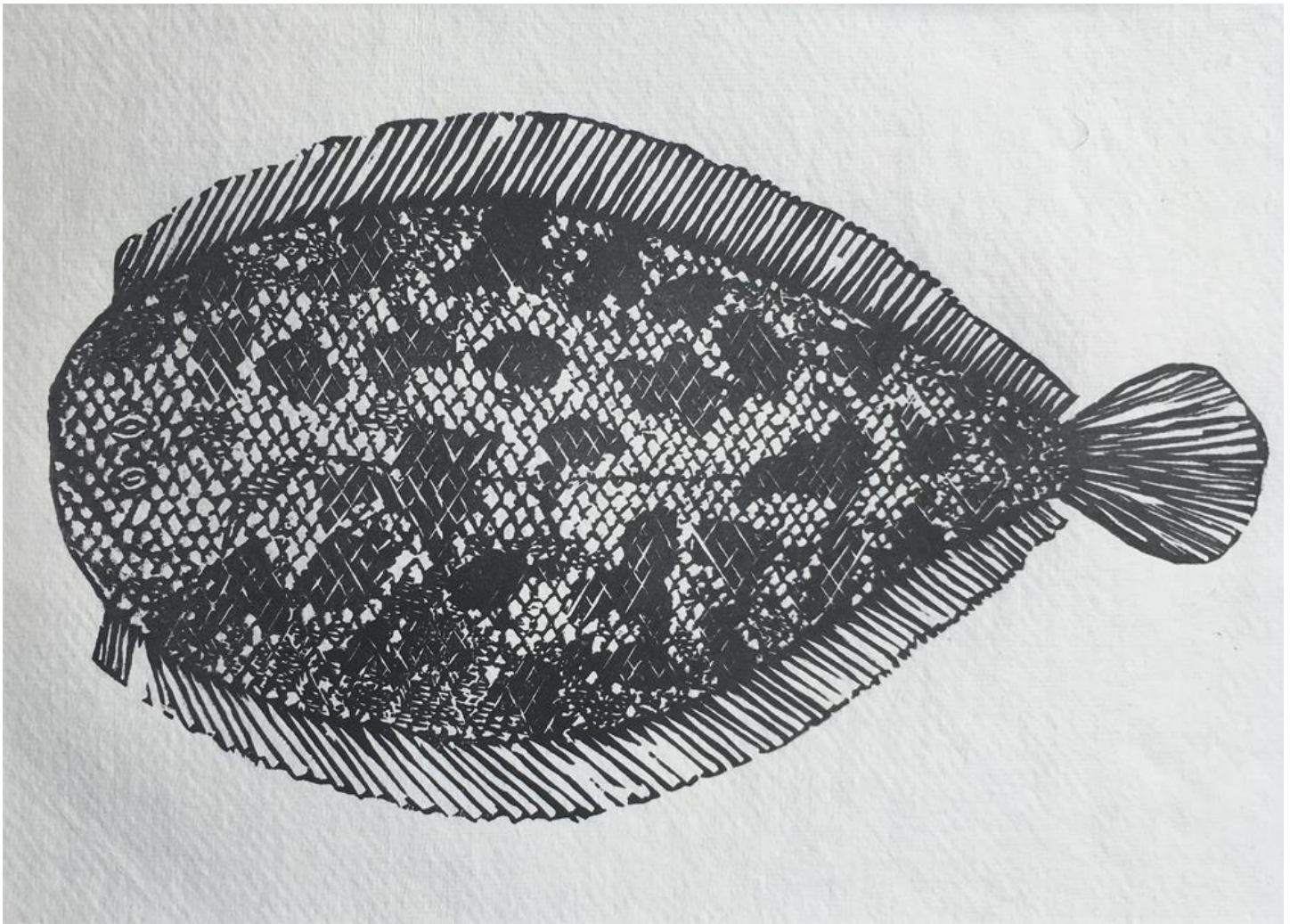


Fish #206 Turbot *Scophthalmus maximus* ~ Katie Blair

Etching and chine colle print 23 x 28 cm

My 'Turbot II' print is made using etching, aquatint and chine colle techniques. First a zinc etching plate is created by drawing into the wax covered plate and then putting in acid to 'bite' the drawn line. After that tones are added in several stages by applying a resin powder and then blocking out the palest areas and putting briefly into the acid. The image is built up in this way. This results in a plate that can then be inked up and used to make a print. If printed using black ink, the image is black and white with tonal areas of different greys. Chine colle is applied during the printing process by using other papers to provide colour and/or texture, which are adhered to the main paper by layering them on the inked plate and allowing the pressure of the press to apply them to the main paper. In my print, I have used coloured tissue paper and text fragments from a 1950s journal article about North Sea fishing. This means that each print is unique.

Why did I do my 'Turbot II' print? When I was a girl, I spent a lot of my time with my Dad. Sometimes we would go sea fishing and sometimes we went for long walks, usually in the wilder areas of the Lincolnshire coast, to look at birds. Places I remember walking are the marshes at Tetney, Donna Nook and Anthony's Bank at Cleethorpes. We had an Observer's book of sea fish and I always liked the strange looking fish, especially the flatfish. I would love to watch them burying themselves in the muddy sand at the waters edge. I wanted to create an image that reminded me of those memories.



Fish #209 Solenette

Buglossidium luteum ~ Sally Gill

Linoprint



Fish #210 Thickback Sole *Microchirus variegatus* ~ Sheila Wetton

Watercolour and Brusho crystal colour 24 x 32 cm

The Thickback Sole lives from the North East Atlantic, through the British Isles and south to Senegal and the Mediterranean. It lives in a depth range from 20 to 400 meters and feeds on a wide range of small bottom-living organisms like crustaceans, shrimps, worms and molluscs. The average length of this fish is 14cm - 16cm, it has an oval body shape with a base colour of brownish grey to brownish red with broad dark crossbands ending with visible dark blotches on dorsal and anal fins.

I chose this fish because of its striking appearance and funny little face.

Thickback sole (*Microchirus variegatus*)
A little flatfish known as thickback sole
Swims the ocean floor from the north to Senegal
He avoids attention from great trawling ships
That sweep the sandy beds for tasty bits.
His life, though uneventful in the main,
Has unbeknown to him, brought fame
With splash of paint on watercolour brush
We now know *Microchirus variegatus*.



Fish #211 Common Sole Solea solea ~ Marcelle Seabourne

Collaged monoprint 28 cm x 35 cm

Common Sole

"It should be one's sole endeavour to see everything afresh and create it anew." Gustav Mahler

Solea Solea - the Common Sole, also known as Dover Sole or Black Sole is a right-eyed oval-shaped flatfish with a small tail and long, thin fins. The upper side is mottled greyish or brown and the underside is white. Adults grow up to 60cm (3 feet) and weigh up to 3 kilogrammes (7 pounds). UK shore caught sole typically weigh between 500 grammes and 1 kilogramme, though the UK shore caught record is 3 kilogrammes (6 pounds 8 ounces).

Just like other flatfish, the common sole looks very like a normal round fish when it hatches, with one eye on each side of the body. By the time it reaches about 1 centimetre in length, the right eye will have migrated to the other side of its head as it transforms into a flatfish. This gives the sole the possibility of lurking half-buried on the sea floor, waiting out of sight for passing prey. With their meaty, mild flesh, sole are highly prized for their culinary versatility and are therefore of great value for the fishing industry. According to britishseafishing.co.uk, they are relatively easy for commercial trawlers to catch, as they tend to huddle together in deep water. The ICES (International Council of the Exploration of the Sea) states that sole are being fished outside of safe biological limits, which is why these fish are on Greenpeace's red list. This means they are one of the species sold in supermarkets around the world that are highly likely to have been fished from unsustainable sources. In the Irish Sea and English Channel stocks have been massively depleted. A slow recovery appears to be taking place, but the advice is still not to eat sole taken from these areas, so stocks can continue to increase. Sole caught by beam trawling, or even worse pulse trawling, which uses electricity to flush flatfish or shrimp out of the sediments in which they hide, should also be avoided, as these methods wreak havoc on the marine environment. Releasing any sole caught during April, May and June will also help replenish stocks, as this is their breeding season.

I made this picture by creating a monoprint background, onto which I stuck fish shapes printed on Chinese rice paper.



Fish #212 Ocean Sunfish Mola mola ~ Steve Cobbin

Acrylic on canvas 41 x 60 cm

The Ocean Sunfish or Common Mola is the heaviest known bony (that is not cartilaginous, as in sharks and rays) fish. They weigh in typically at 250kg (30stone) but can be as heavy as 1000kg (150 stone). They can be up to 3.3m long. They are found throughout tropical and temperate seas around the earth. The Ocean Sunfish is basically a fish head with a tail. Its body is flattened, but not like a flatfish or a ray, laterally making them as tall as they are long. They eat mainly jellyfish, which are more or less blobs of mobile soup and lacking much nutrition so they have to eat masses of them. Female Molas are the greatest mothers of the vertebrates; they lay up to 300,000,000 eggs at a time. The eggs hatch into fry which look like tiny pufferfish with large fins, a tail and body spines, very different to the adults. Not only are Sunfish the most prolific parents, the offspring hold the growth record of all vertebrates. By adulthood they may have increased more than 60,000,000 times their birth size. They have few natural predators. Sea lions, killer whales and sharks will eat them as do humans; they are a delicacy in Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Sunfish and sunfish products are banned in the EU though they are frequently caught in gillnets. They are related to pufferfish, porcupinefish and filefish. They can be found near the surface of the sea, their fins sometimes being mistaken for those of sharks though they move very differently and adults spend a lot of time below 200m.



Fish #214 Alfonsino *Beryx decadactylus* ~ Jodi Warrick

Acrylic on papier maché 15 x 28 x 5 cm



Fish # 216 John Dory Zeus faber ~ Biff Vernon

Oil on board 76 x 76 cm

John Dory is a curious fish, a flatfish in an upright direction, carrying great flowing spines from its fins, making it look much larger than its weight would suggest, and, of course, awkward to swallow. The dark spot on its flank might be mistaken, by a potential predator, for a large eye, another defence against becoming a dolphin's lunch. They grow to a maximum length of about 70 cm, sometimes weighing 8 kg.

John Dory are demersal and benthic, found at depths from a few metres to several hundred metres. They have a widespread occurrence in coastal waters from Scandinavia to the South Africa, Asia and Australia. It is rare in the North Sea, mostly living in warmer waters. Genome analysis reveals significant difference between specimens from European waters and Australasia and these northern and southern clades might best be regarded as separate species. We shouldn't blame Linnaeus for lumping them all together. The genome technology wasn't up to much in 1758 when he described this fish.

They are generally solitary fish, although smaller John Dory have been found to form small shoals. John Dory predate smaller fish. Although slow swimmers their tube-like mouth is extendable so when near their prey they shoot their mouth out and suck in the smaller fish.

They have a pair of sonic muscles on the swim-bladder wall that produce sounds by rapid contractions of the muscles. Two types of the sounds are emitted, a 'bark' and a 'growl'.

They are not an important commercial fish, but when caught fetch a high price. They are said to taste remarkably good. Since the head makes up almost half of the fish the filleted flesh may be disappointing in quantity but that head, boiled up, makes excellent stock.

What of the origin of the name? 'Dory' might come from the French dorée, gilded, or perhaps the John Dory, hero of an old ballad. Or another French connection, John derives from the French jaune, yellow. Jules Verne tells us, in *Antarctic Mystery*, "The legendary etymology of this piscatorial designation is Janitore, the door-keeper", referring to St. Peter, who brought this fish to Jesus. Another tale has it that St. Peter dropped a coin overboard and the fish caught it in its large mouth and brought it back up to the surface. The dark spot on the fish's flank is St. Peter's thumbprint. In the Mediterranean region the fish is known as St. Pierre or Peter's Fish. In Germany it is called 'Heringskönig', Herring King, since it slowly and majestically follows the herring shoals, in pursuit of prey.