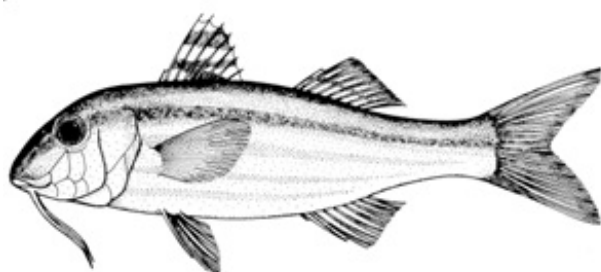




Species Fact Sheets

Mullus surmuletus (Linnaeus, 1758)



Mullus surmuletus: [\(click for more\)](#)



Mullus surmuletus: [\(click for more\)](#)

Synonyms

- *Mullus fuscatus* Rafinesque, 1810: 35.
- *Mullus barbatus surmuletus* Day, 1880: 22.

FAO Names

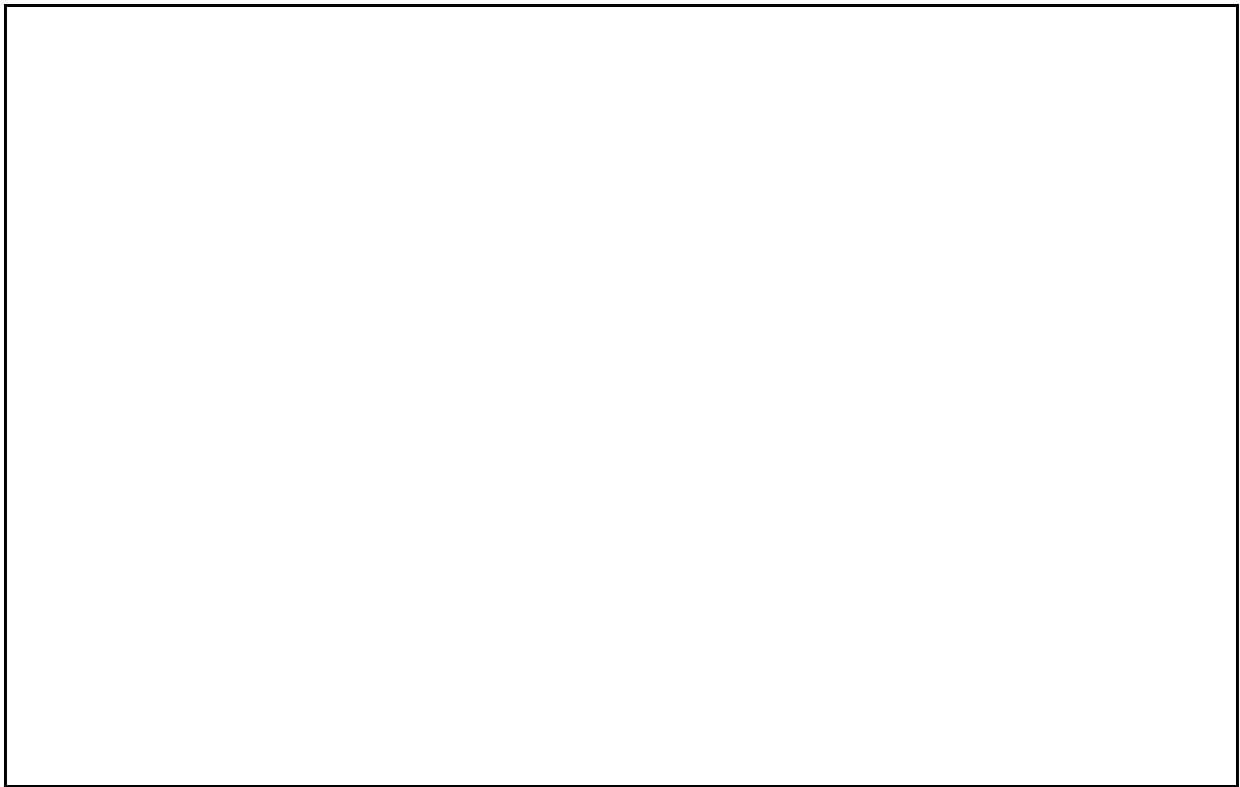
En - Surmullet, Fr - Rouget de roche, Sp - Salmonete de roca.

3Alpha Code: MUR Taxonomic Code: 1704100701

Diagnostic Features

Body moderately compressed. A pair of stout barbels under chin, their length greater than that of pectoral fins; opercle without spine; snout less steep, anterior head profile parabolic; maxilla at most reaching below anterior eye margin; small villiform teeth in lower jaw; upper jaw toothless (see remarks); teeth also present on roof of mouth (vomer and palatines). First dorsal fin with 7 - 8 spines, the first minute; second dorsal fin with I + 8 soft rays; 33 to 37 scales in lateral line. Colour reddish, usually with a darker red longitudinal stripe from eye to caudal fin and 3 yellow-brown lines on lower sides; first dorsal fin with dark markings.

Geographical Distribution



Launch the Aquatic Species Distribution map viewer

Northern part of West Africa from Gibraltar to Dakar. Along the coast of Western Europe up to the English Channel; also in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Habitat and Biology

Benthic species on gravel and stones in shallow waters (1 - 460 m), usually 5-60 m. Gregarious fish. Feeds predominantly on small bottom-living invertebrates (crustaceans, worms, molluscs, etc.). Reproduction in February to May at depths between 30 and 70 m.

Size

To 40 cm standard length; common 10-25 cm.

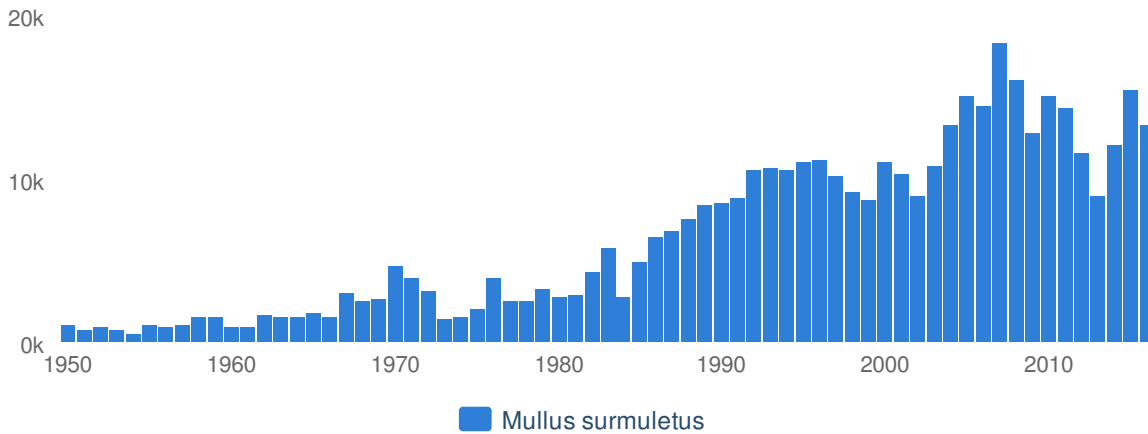
Interest to Fisheries

Caught mainly with **gillnets**, **trammel nets** and **bottom trawls**. The total catch reported for this species to FAO for 1999 was 12 301 t. The countries with the largest catches were Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (4 000 t) and France (2 541 t).

Marketed fresh or frozen; the flesh is highly esteemed.

Global Capture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: FAO FishStat



Local Names

Arabic : Barbouni , Mellou , Mlal el Hadjra , Rocca .

Catalan : Moll , Moll borratxo , Moll roquer , Moll ver , Roger de roca , Roger de sorra .

Danish : Mulle .

Dutch : Koning van de poon , Mul .

English : Red mullet , Surmullet , Woodcock of the sea .

Finnish : Keltajuovamullo , Mullo .

French : Rouget barbet , Rouget barbet de roche , Rouget de roche .

German : Meerbarbe , Streifenbarbe .

Greek : Barboúni , Koutsomoúra .

Hebrew : Mulit happassim .

Icelandic : Saeskeggur .

Italian : Triglia , Triglia di scoglio .

Japanese : Himeji .

Maltese : Trilja tal-qawwi .

Norwegian : Mulle .

Polish : Barwena .

Portuguese : Salmonete , Salmonete legitimo , Salmonete vermelho .

Serbo-Croat : Trlje , Trlje od kamena .

Spanish : Salmonete , Salmonete de roca .

Swedish : Mullus , Gulstrimming mullus .

Turkish : Barbunya , Nil barbunyasi , Tekir .

Remarks

The genus *Mullus* is usually described as lacking teeth in the premaxilla. Contrary to generic descriptions (based on adult specimens), the juveniles of *M. barbatus* and *M. surmuletus* have teeth in the premaxilla; however, the teeth are not visible in specimens >50 mm total length, because they are covered by lip tissue. The number of teeth decrease with juvenile growth and disappears after 100 mm total length is attained (Aguirre, 1997).

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