

POPULATION OF THE TEGNUE OF CHIOGGIA

LIST OF SPECIES

The Tegnue of Chioggia are populated by a wide variety of fish species. A varicolored fauna which sometimes is victim of indiscriminate fishing, which destroys the habitat and its inhabitants.

Here below a list of the fish species living in the Tegnue



THE RUDDERFISH (*Seriola dumerili*) AND THE PELAGIC FISHES

The Rudderfish (*Seriola dumerili*) is one of the biggest fish (it can reach 2 meters length and a weight of 90 kg) that can be met during a diving in the Tegnue of Chioggia. It is definitely an unusual (but not impossible) meeting: in good visibility condition the shape of the fish can be clearly see against the blue backdrop.

PURPLE SEE URCHIN (*Sphaerechinus granularis*)

The urchin in the picture belongs to the species *Sphaerechinus granularis* called in Italian "Riccio di prateria" (meadow urchin) because it often can be found in the posidonia meadows. It is common in the Tegnue, where live together with other two species: the white sea urchin (*Echinus acutus*) and the common sea urchin (*Paracentrotus lividis*), the latter the most known of the three





LARGE SPOTTED DOGFISH (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*)

The Large spotted Dogfish or Bull huss (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*), in the picture, and the Lesser spotted dogfish or Rough-hound (*Scyliorhinus canicula*), are the two species of catsharks that can be seen in the Tegnue. These are very similar to each other as for shape, dimension and colors, but they can be distinguished from the size of the spots, as from their name.

ECKSTRÖM'S TOPKNOT (*Zeugopterus regius*)

Along the Tegnue it can be often found the Eckström's topknot; this species, unlike the other flat fishes like the other rhombus, soles and plaices, lives on the stony seabed where it sticks to the bottom through a kind of sucker. Its body is covered by lumps and it has a mimetic coloring that makes it difficult to be seen. The growth of the so called "flat fish" is very curious: at birth, they present a larval shape, very similar to the one of a "normal" fish, but when they grow up they lose the symmetry of the body and lean on a side on the seabed. During this transformation, the right eye shift on the link side of the head (in soles and plaices is the link one the eye that shifts), and the mouth turns clockwise.





SCORPION FISH (Scorpaena)

The one in the picture is a Scorpion Fish, (Scorpena). It is difficult to determine to which species it belongs, namely in the Tegnue of Chioggia live 3 different species: the red scorpionfish (Scorpaena scrofa), the black scorpionfish (Scorpaena porcus) and the Small red scorpionfish (Scorpaena notata). How can they be distinguished?

The color could be the first element to think about, but this is misleading, because on one side there is a difference also among individuals of the same family, and on the other side the water at this depth is not so transparent (typical of the Adriatic area) and everything can appear as black or dark brown. Only with the help of a good artificial light (depends on model and brand) the livery of the fish can be distinguished. For all this reason the colour cannot be considered as a distinctive characteristic.

ANNULAR SEABREAM (Diplodus annularis)

In the picture can be admired three sea breams: two belongs to the banded sea bream (Diplodus vulgaris) and they can be recognised by the visible dark spot behind the head, and the third, in the middle, is the Annular Sea bream (Diplodus annularis), with the yellow pectoral fins and the dark spot at the beginning of the caudal fin.





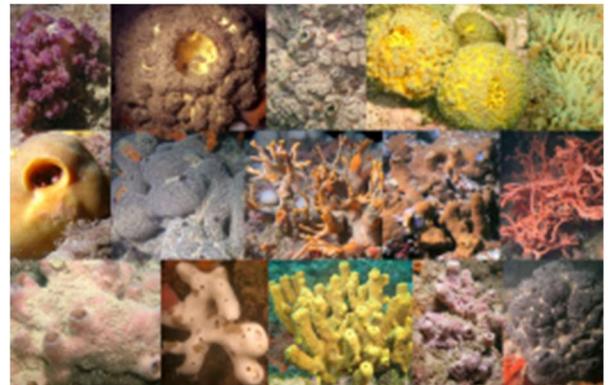
OCTOPUS (*Octopus vulgaris*)

The Octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*) is one of the most known shellfish, also thanks to the quality of its flesh and it is wrongly called polypus. Lots of documentaries shows the ability of the octopus, which can open a jar in a few seconds to take the food inside, or their escapology capacity, like Houdini. There are lots of studies and researches that demonstrates the intellectual abilities of the Octopus, above all its aptitude to learn to use teachings from past experiences to solve new

problems or to solve them only by observing another octopus.

SPONGES (Poriferi)

Probably everyone knows sponges at least for their use linked to personal hygiene, but perhaps not so many know their peculiar biological characteristics. We are speaking of the simplest organism in nature, one of the first multicellular animals appeared on the earth and thus, probably the less evolved



BLACK GOBY (*Gobius niger*)

The animal in the picture is a black goby, the easiest goby to be observed in the Tegnue of Chioggia. Its name derives from the typical coloring of the male specimen, which, during the reproductive period, turns into black, also with blue reflections. It can be recognised also thanks to the long dorsal fin which stays straight and visible. It is a territorial fish and the male protects the nest (normally a little gorge at the edge between the Tegnue and the sand) where

some females lay the eggs. The male will fecundate and protect them until the hatching. Females instead are more mimetic, clearer and marbled, which goes from light brown to grey or yellowish.