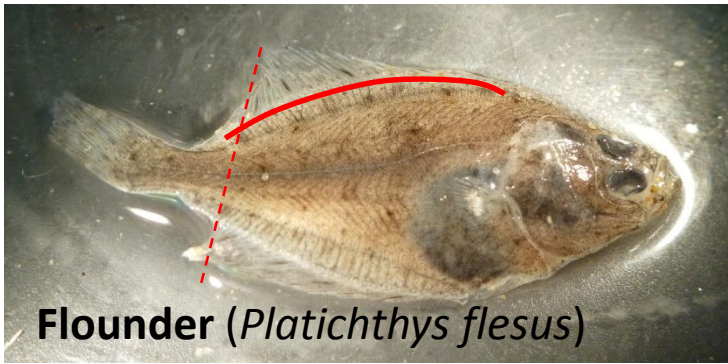




Quick ID guide for common juvenile estuarine fish

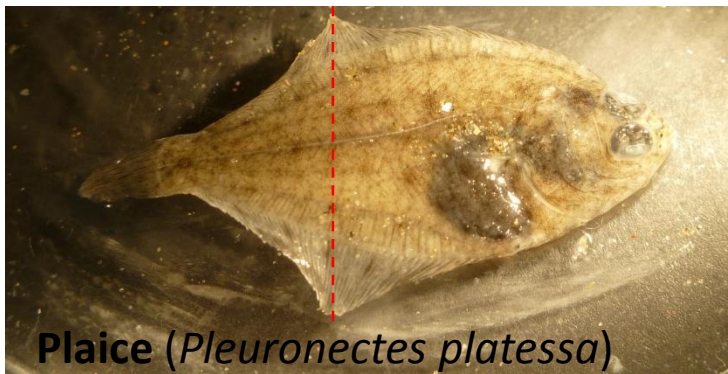
by Harriet Salomonsen





Looks similar to a Plaice

- **Spines** along dorsal edge (run finger along from tail to head to feel, difficult in small specimens)
- ~ 40 rays in anal fin (count in laboratory)
- Point in dorsal and anal fin near to the tail



Looks similar to a Flounder

- **NO Spines** along dorsal edge
- ~ 60 rays in anal fin (count in laboratory)
- Point in dorsal and anal fin 1/3 way down the body

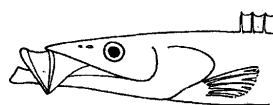


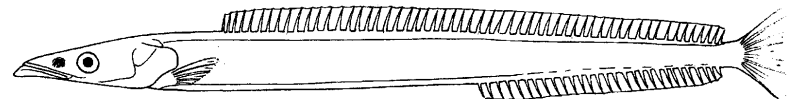
FIG. 122

The inshore species of the Lesser sand eels

- Has a protrusible jaw (see pics)
- Has no teeth in the roof of mouth
- No dark spot on the side of the snout unlike the inshore Greater sand eel

Greater Sand Eel

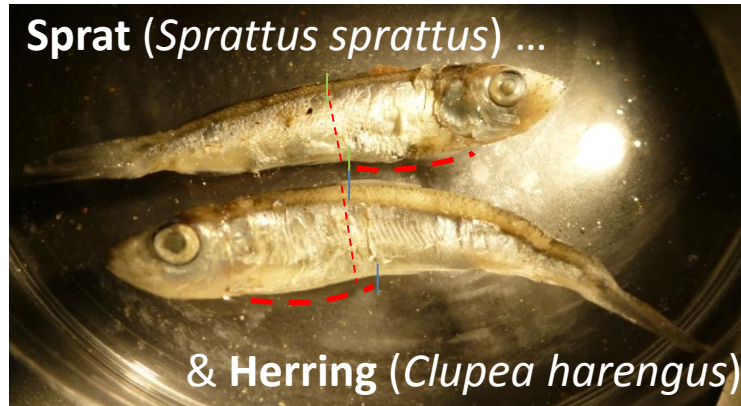
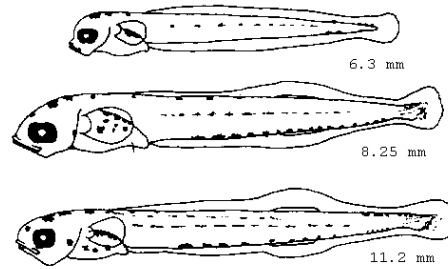
Hyperoplus lanceolatus (Lesauvage, 1824)





Sand smelt (*Atherina presbyter*)

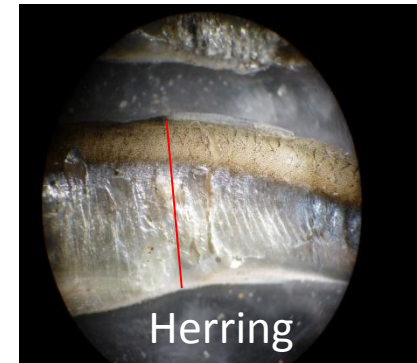
- Very distinct lateral line pigment
- Distinct pigment on head



Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) ...

& Herring (*Clupea harengus*)

- Sprat & Herring are often found in mixed shoals. Silvery blue, v. glittery scales.
- **Sprat**: Dorsal fin starts just after the anal fin. 21-23 belly scales between throat + anal fin.
- **Herring**: Dorsal fin starts before the anal fin. 27-30 belly scales between the throat + anal fin.



Herring





Common goby (*Pomatoschistus microps*)

- Common in estuaries/intertidally.
- Pigment line from eye to snout
- Ray counts D1=6 D2=8-10 A=8-10



*** Sand + Common are v similar. If in doubt call *Pomatoschistus* spp!! ***



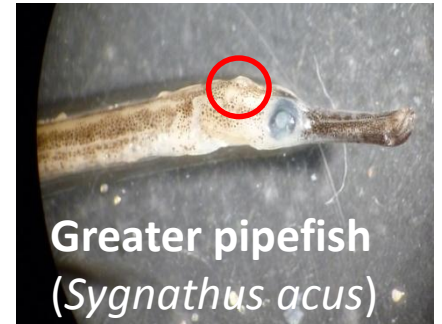
Thick-lipped mullet (*Chelon labrosus*)

- viewed from above the lip is thicker in the middle than at the edges
- On the cheek there is a finely toothed preorbital bone



Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

- smaller eye in relation to head than the mullet
- Angular jaw
- Dark post-anal dorsal and ventral pigment



Greater pipefish (*Sygnathus acus*)

- Crown on head
- snout longer than ½ head length

