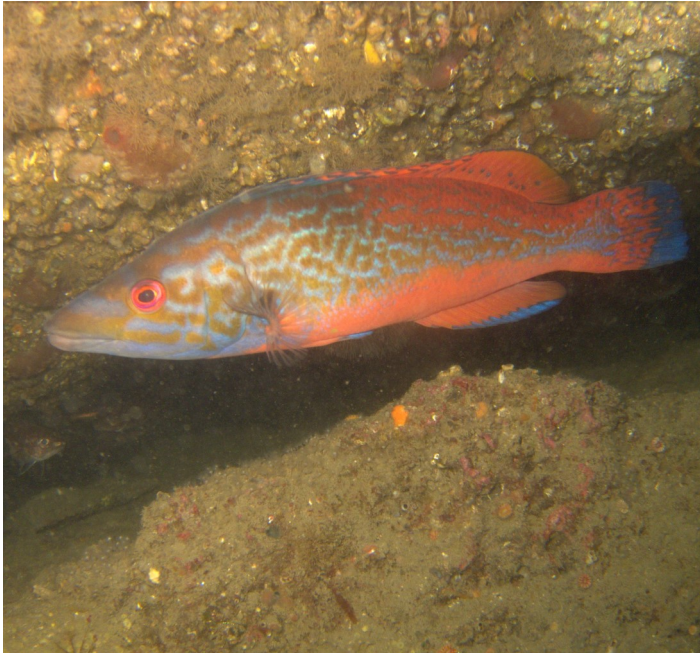


# Cuckoo wrasse (*Labrus mixtus*)

Actinopterygii (Chordata:Labridae)



An extremely distinctive species with marked sexual dimorphism in colouration, the males are bright blue with an orange tinge, while the females are red. Males are unlikely to be confused with any other species even during transition (above). Females may be confused with goldsinny at a glance however the markings on the caudal fin, black and white blotches in Cuckoo wrasse, a single black spot in Goldsinny, is the distinguishing feature.

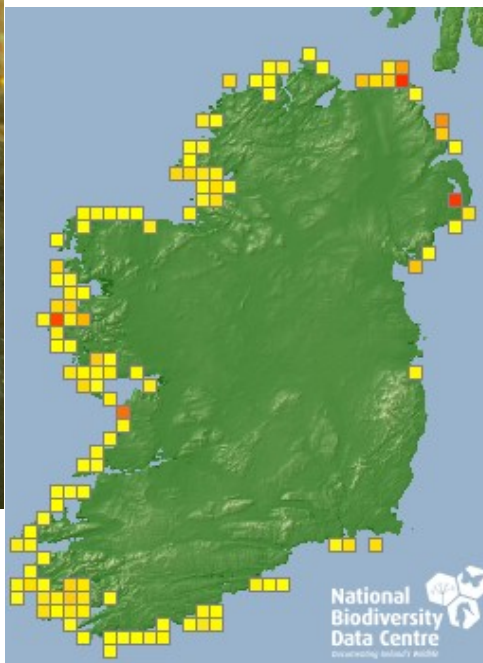


Found on all Irish coast where suitable habitat occurs though generally much rarer on the east coast, though this may be an artefact of recording effort. Found in rocky habitats they are present throughout standard diving depths, from 2-100m.

Chordata->Actinopterygii->Perciformes->Labridae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Least Concern

Found throughout the eastern Atlantic from Norway to Senegal and into the Mediterranean. A protogynous hermaphrodite (matures as a female before as a male) the transition takes approximately 7 months. Typically there is one male with a harem of females but in areas where there is a low population density or a mainly juvenile population, males may be absent or difficult to observe.



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