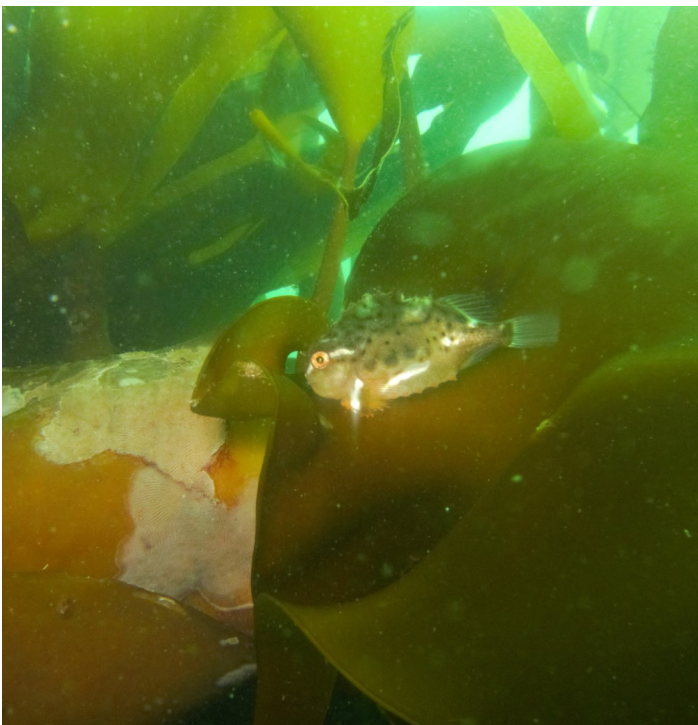


Lumpsucker(*Cyclopterus lumpus*)

Actinopterygii (Chordata:Scorpaeniformes)



Unique shape make this species unlikely to be confused with any other found in Irish water. Displays sexual dimorphism with females much larger than males with males acquiring a reddish or pink colouration (right) during the breeding season. More difficult to identify to sex outside the breeding season they are typically 30-50cm in length¹. The male typically guards the eggs which are laid in shallow water amongst *Laminaria*.



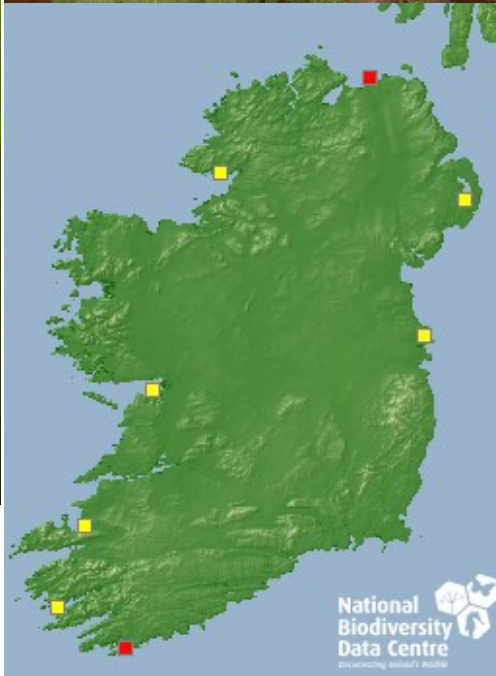
What dive sites can I see it at?

An under recorded species they have been observed egg guarding at Keem Strand, Achill, Co Mayo. They show a high degree of site fidelity and return to the same site each year.

Taxonomy: Chordata->Actinopterygii->Scorpaeniformes

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Near Threatened

Found on both sides of the North Atlantic in boreal waters from the lower Arctic Ocean to Portugal¹. More common in the North Sea and around Iceland than in Irish waters, while it is typically a deeper water fish it lays its eggs sub tidally and juveniles may be observed in intertidal rock pools¹. Fished for its eggs 12,706 tonnes of the fish were landed globally in 2014².



1 Davenport, J., 1985. *Synopsis of biological data on the lumpsucker, Cyclopterus lumpus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (No. 147). Food & Agriculture Org..

2 Website of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. www.fao.org

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