

Leopard Spotted Goby (*Thorogobius ephippiatus*)

Actinopterygii (Chordata:Perciformes)

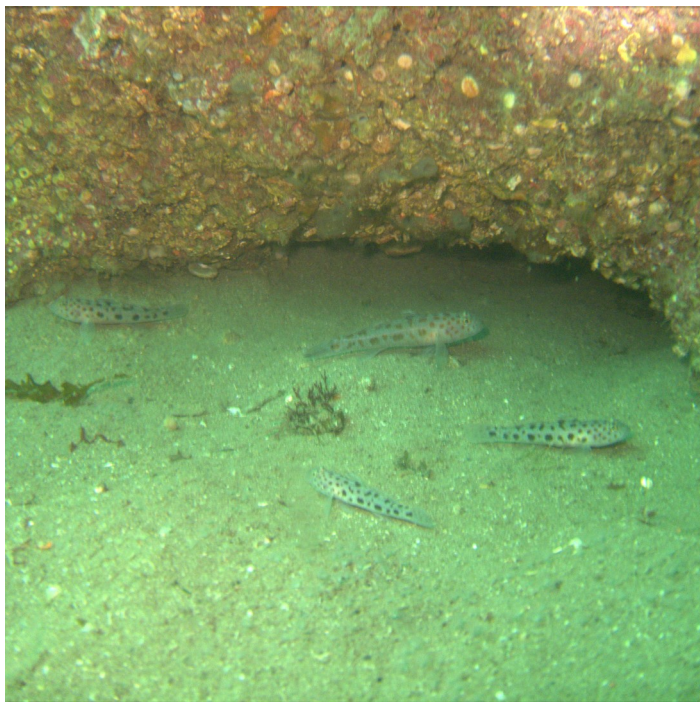
Chordata->Perciformes->Actinopterygii->Gobiidae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Least Concern

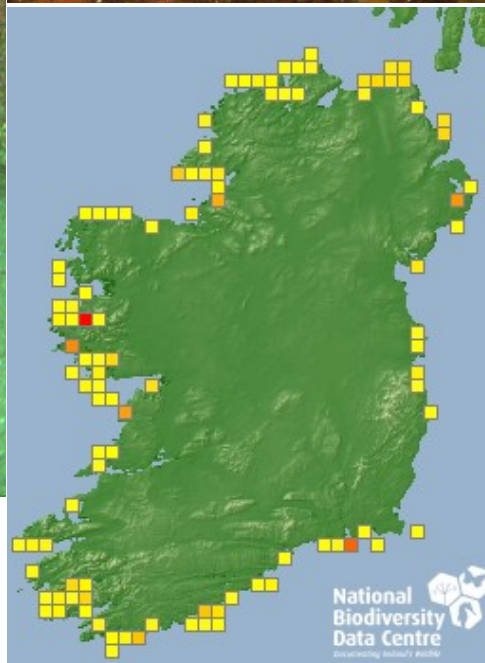
Found on in the eastern Atlantic from Sweden to the Canary Islands and throughout the Mediterranean. Present on all coasts of Ireland but only the west coast of Britain. Feed on small crustaceans, polychaetes and algae. A number of studies were conducted on the distribution of various goby species in Lough Hyne in the 90s and suggest possible distribution patterns based on species size.



Medium sized goby generally from 10-14cm in length. Typically light brown in colour, though can appear blue underwater, with distinctive orangey red or dark red spots. Some individuals (right) can appear extremely dark in colour. During the breeding season the fins gain a bright cyan colouration (right). Typically live in rocky crevices they can be extremely shy species and may be difficult to spot if only scarcely present at a site.



Common on all Irish coasts where suitable habitat occurs. Gaps in distribution likely to be an artefact of recording effort though may be absent from parts of east coast where sandy habitats predominate.



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