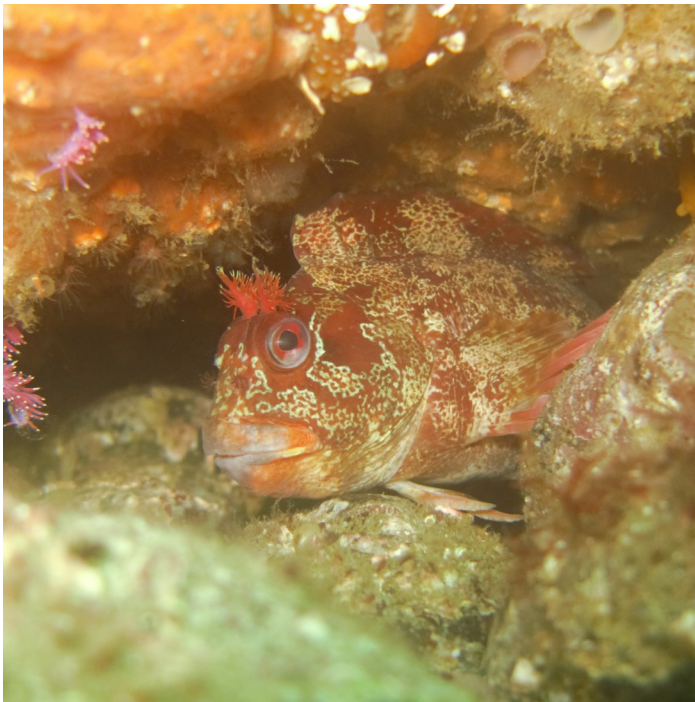


Tompot Blenny (*Parablennius gattorugine*)

Blennidae (Chordata:Perciformes)



Taxonomy: Chordata->Actinopteri->Perciformes->Blennidae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Least Concern

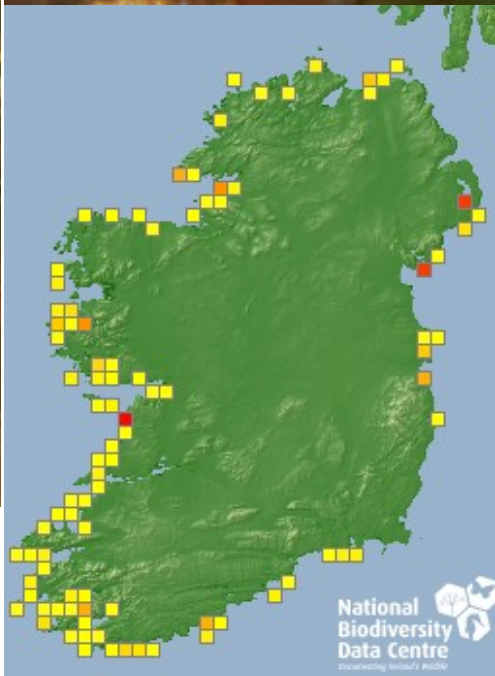
Widespread species found around the Irish coast despite the conspicuousness of this species and popularity among dive photographers this species is still likely under recorded. Can be identified to individuals and reside in the same area for up to 4 years¹.

Easily the most identifiable species of the 4 blenny species seen by divers it is unlikely to be confused with any other species, though occasionally Red blenny (*Parablennius ruber*) individuals may be confused with Tompot individuals as well as extremely bright red individuals (below). Extreme variations in colouration can occur but the characteristic thick lips and branched head tentacles can be used as diagnostic features to identify this species when in doubt.



What dive sites can I see it at?

Most sites with large amounts of broken rock or crevices for blennies to shelter within. Blennies show site fidelity so the same individuals can be seen at the same location over time.



1. Naylor, P. and Jacoby, D.M.P. (2016) Territoriality in tompot blenny (*Parablennius gattorugine*) from photographic records. Journal of Fish Biology.

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