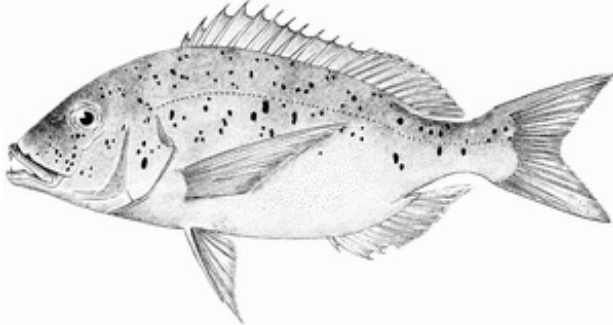




## Species Fact Sheets

*Dentex dentex* (Linnaeus, 1758)



Dentex dentex: [\(click for more\)](#)



Dentex dentex: [\(click for more\)](#)

## Synonyms

- *Dentex vulgaris* Valenciennes, 1830, in Cuv. and Val., Hist. nat. Poiss., 6: 220, pl. 153 (Mediterranean). Two syntypes: MNHN 9121, A 8111.

## FAO Names

En - Common dentex, Fr - Denté commun, Sp - Dentón.

3Alpha Code: DEC Taxonomic Code: 1703906006

## Scientific Name with Original Description

*Sparus dentex* Linnaeus, 1758. Syst. Nat. ed X: 281 ('Habitat in Mari infero et supero'). 1758. Probably no type material.

## Diagnostic Features

Body oval, rather deep and compressed. Head profile smoothly rounded in adults but almost straight in young; a slight frontal hump in very large individuals; eye small, suborbital space wide. Cheeks scaly; scales also present on preopercle except at its posterior margin. Mouth low, slightly oblique.

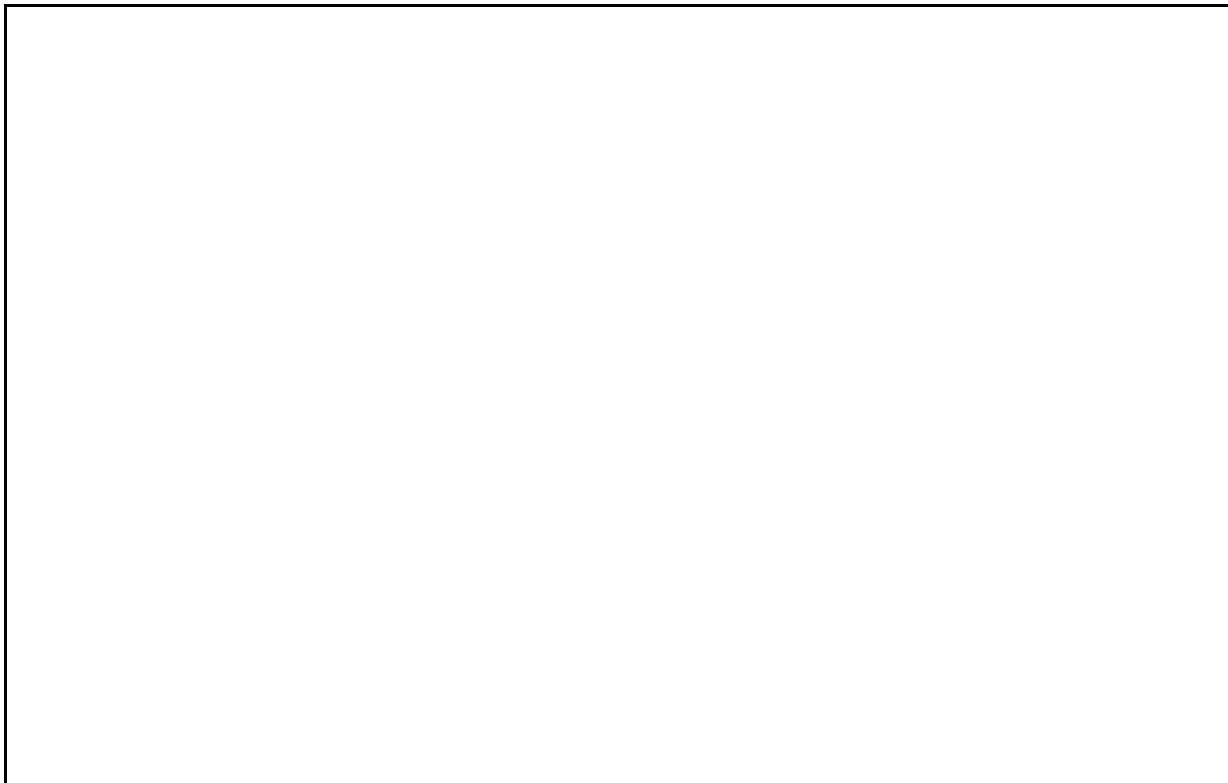
Several rows of canine-like teeth, outer row by far the strongest with 4 to 6 very well developed anterior teeth in each jaw.

Gillrakers on first arch 9 or 10 lower and 8 or 9 upper.

Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 11 or 12 soft rays, the spines increasing in length from the first to the fourth or fifth and subequal thereafter. Anal fin with 3 spines and 7 to 9 soft rays. Scales along lateral line 62 to 68.

Colour in the young specimens greyish, spotted with black on back and upper sides, becoming pink with sexual maturity; old individuals are bluish grey and the dark spots become more or less diffuse with age. Some individuals have a yellow tinge behind the mouth and on the gill cover.

## Geographical Distribution



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**Launch the Aquatic Species Distribution  
map viewer**

Mediterranean, most common south of 40° N (Spain, North Africa); Black Sea (very rare). Atlantic from Bay of Biscay to Cape Blanc and Madeira, exceptionally to British Isles. Elsewhere, southward to Senegal.

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**Habitat and Biology**

Benthopelagic (demersal behaviour). Inshore waters on rocky bottoms to 200 m, more common between 15 and 50 m.

Young gregarious, the oldest solitary.

Reproduction May (Mediterranean); gonochoric, some specimens hermaphroditic

Carnivorous, young planktonophagous, adults eating fish, crustaceans and cephalopods.

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**Size**

Maximum 100 cm; common to 50 cm

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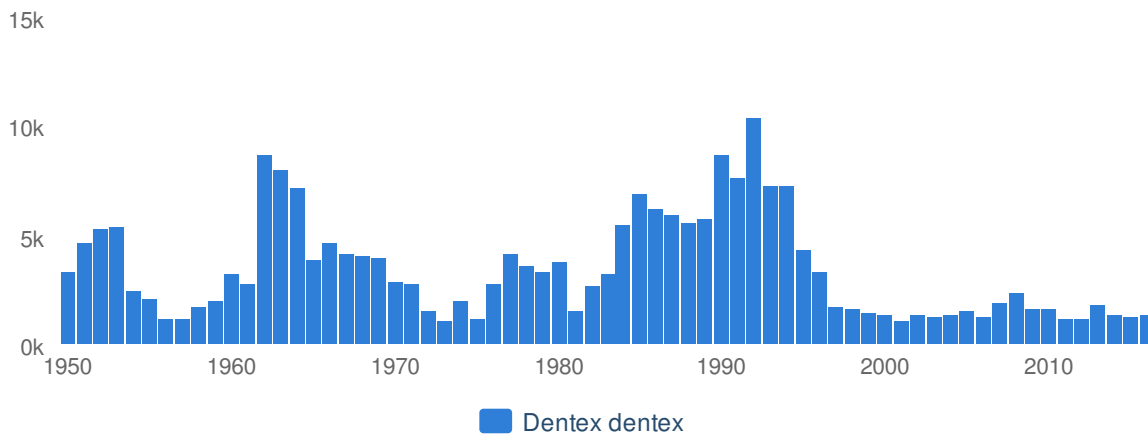
**Interest to Fisheries**

Caught with bottom trawls, lines, traps (young) and sometimes trammel nets.

Flesh highly esteemed. Marketed fresh or frozen; also used for fishmeal and oil.

## Global Capture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: FAO FishStat



## Global Aquaculture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: FAO FishStat



## Local Names

**ALBANIA** : Dentali .

**FRANCE** : Denté commun .

**GERMANY** : Zahnbrasse .

**GREECE** : Synagrida .

**ITALY** : Dentice .

**LEBANON** : Samaket Rayyis .

**POLAND** : Kielec własciwy .

**ROMANIA** : Dintos .

**SPAIN** : Déntol , Dentón , Dentón común .

**TURKEY** : Sinarit .

**UNITED KINGDOM** : Common dentex , Dentex .

**UNITED STATES** : Dentex .

## Remarks

*Dentex* Cuvier, 1814 (subgenus) apud A.D. (= A. G. Desmarest). Bull. Soc. philomat. Paris: 92 (type: *Sparus dentex* L., 1758, by absolute tautonomy).

## Related links

- Check this species at FishBase

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