

Fish of Dumfries

A checklist of the fish recorded in and around Dumfries · 40 species

☐		Allis Shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>	The rarer of our two shads — usually just one dark shoulder spot, and very few left anywhere.
☐		Arctic Charr <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>	An ice-age relic marooned in deep, cold lochs when the glaciers left — and each loch's fish are their own.
☐		Atlantic Cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Three dorsal fins, a single chin barbel, and a pale lateral line that curves over the pectoral.
☐		Atlantic Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	'The silver darlings' — the fish that built and then broke a whole coastal economy.
☐		Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Leaves the Nith as a fish the length of your hand and comes back years later from Greenland.
☐		Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Spends its whole life in one burn, never feeds as an adult, and dies within weeks of spawning.
☐		Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	All head and no tail, wedged under a stone — and the male guards the eggs himself.
☐		Chub <i>Squalius cephalus</i>	Big-mouthed, thick-set and famously wary — it will eat almost anything that falls in.
☐		Common Bream <i>Abramis brama</i>	Deep, slab-sided and bronze, and coated in a slime that comes off on everything.
☐		Common Carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Farmed by monks, moved around Europe for centuries, and capable of living for decades.
☐		Common Dab <i>Limanda limanda</i>	Rough as sandpaper to the touch, with a sharp kink in the lateral line above the pectoral fin.
☐		Common Goby <i>Pomatoschistus microps</i>	The tiny fish in the rockpool that vanishes the instant your shadow falls on it.
☐		Dace <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>	A slim silver dart of the fast water, with concave fins and a yellow eye.
☐		Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Every eel in the Nith was born in the Sargasso Sea, and every one will go back there to die.
☐		Flounder <i>Platichthys flesus</i>	The flatfish that comes up the river — you can catch one in fresh water miles from the sea.
☐		Grayling <i>Thymallus thymallus</i>	'The lady of the stream' — and that huge sail of a dorsal fin is unmistakable.

☐		Gudgeon <i>Gobio gobio</i>	A small bottom-hugging fish with a barbel at each corner of the mouth and a row of dark blotches.
☐		Lesser-spotted Catshark <i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	A small shark, and the 'mermaid's purse' on the strandline is very likely one of its eggcases.
☐		Minnow <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	The shoal of little fish darting over gravel in the shallows — and the males turn scarlet in May.
☐		Nine-spined Stickleback <i>Pungitius pungitius</i>	Slimmer and shyer than its three-spined cousin, and the breeding male goes black, not red.
☐		Northern Pike <i>Esox lucius</i>	Built as an ambush weapon — a long green torpedo lying still in the weed until it isn't.
☐		Perch <i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	Tiger-striped, red-finned and spiky-backed — one of the handsomest fish in the region's lochs.
☐		Plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	The orange spots give it away — the only Solway flatfish marked quite like that.
☐		Rainbow Trout <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	A North American Pacific fish, stocked into fisheries here and almost never breeding wild.
☐		River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	A jawless fish older than dinosaurs, with a rasping sucker instead of a mouth.
☐		Roach <i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Red eye, reddish fins, silver flank — the fish that taught most anglers to fish.
☐		Rudd <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>	Golden-flanked with blood-red fins, and an upturned mouth built for feeding at the surface.
☐		Sand Eel <i>Ammodytes tobianus</i>	Dives into wet sand to hide — and half the seabirds in the Solway depend on it.
☐		Sand Goby <i>Pomatoschistus minutus</i>	Almost invisible against clean sand — and a critical link in the estuary food chain.
☐		Sea Bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	Silver, spiky-finned and pushing steadily further north as the sea warms.
☐		Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	The largest of our lampreys, marbled like old stone, and a sight that stops people mid-walk.
☐		Sea Trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>	The same species as the brown trout — it simply chose to go to sea and came back bigger.
☐		Sparling (Smelt) <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>	Smells unmistakably of cucumber, and the Nith holds one of only three spawning runs left in Scotland.
☐		Stone Loach <i>Barbatula barbatula</i>	Six barbels around the mouth, and a habit of spending the entire day underneath a stone.

☐		Tench <i>Tinca tinca</i>	Olive-green, thick-set and red-eyed, with fins so rounded they look padded.
☐		Thick-lipped Grey Mullet <i>Chelon labrosus</i>	Grazes algae off harbour walls, and is notoriously difficult to persuade to take a bait.
☐		Thornback Ray <i>Raja clavata</i>	Covered in curved thorns along the back and tail — and it hunts by detecting electric fields.
☐		Three-spined Stickleback <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	The fish everyone catches first — and one of the most studied animals in all of biology.
☐		Twaite Shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>	A sea-going herring relative that comes into fresh water to spawn — and spawns noisily, at night.
☐		Whiting <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	A slimmer cod relative with no chin barbel and a black smudge at the base of the pectoral fin.

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