

# How can I identify migratory diadromous fish while fishing at sea?

## Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*



- Streamlined, steel-blue/silver at sea, dark brown in rivers
- Pointed head, upper jaw does not extend beyond eye rear
- Few or no black spots below lateral line
- Concave/forked tail, slim tail wrist, easy to pick by tail
- Smolts (juveniles) leave freshwater on March-May

## Sea Trout *Salmo trutta*



- Thickset body, silver at sea
- Rounded head, upper jaw extends beyond eye
- Many black spots extending below lateral line
- Convex/square tail, broad wrist, slips through hand
- Smolts (juveniles) leave freshwater on March-May

## European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*



- Long, slender body, 20-120 cm adult length
- Lower jaw slightly longer than upper, copper/gold large eyes
- Silver/copper colour, clear lateral line with black dots
- Continuous anal and dorsal fins, pair of small pectoral fins
- Juveniles have brown back and green/yellow underbelly

## Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*



- Long body, 60-100 cm adult length
- Jawless, large oral sucker disc with rows of curved teeth
- Mottled grey/brown, no spots
- No pectoral fins
- 7 visible gill openings

## Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax*



- Moderately deep body, 25-40 cm adult length
- Upper jaw notched, with lower jaw fitting into it
- 4-8 black spots behind gill opening along the lateral line
- Depth at pectoral fin less than head length
- Sharp keel on belly/underside, gill rakers short and spread

## Allis Shad *Alosa alosa*



- Deep body, 45-50 cm adult length
- Upper jaw notched, with lower jaw fitting into it
- 1 dark spot behind gill cover, sometimes more behind it
- Depth at pectoral fin longer than head length
- Sharp keel on belly/underside, gill rakers long and close by

## Thin-lipped Mullet *Chelon ramada*



- Slender mullet, 35 cm adult length
- Small upper lip, with tiny bristle-like teeth on its edge
- Visible maxillary bone in mouth corner
- Pectoral fins do not reach eyes when folded forward
- Underside gill covers broad and oval



Scan the QR code and access the full booklet!