

The narrow tail fin extends forward on the underside about one-half the body length. The scales are very small, inconspicuous and do not overlap. The colour is brownish, mottled with olive and black, with the scales appearing as small light dots. In the young specimens the olive predominates and the black is pronounced, appearing as reticulations. The dorsal fin is also marked with black, particularly in the young.

NAME

The scientific name of the fish is *Zoarces anguillaris* (Peck). *Zoarces* is a Greek word meaning viviparous, that is, giving birth to living young. *Anguillaris* is the Latin equivalent for "like an eel." Various common names such as muttonfish, celpout, conger-eel, rock-eel, ling, etc., have been given. For market purposes it is suggested that the name muttonfish be used. The word eel is applied because of the somewhat superficial resemblance of the body to that of an eel, in the gradual tapering of the body posteriorly and the long, low dorsal fin; possibly also because of the twisting eel-like movements which the fish goes through when brought out of the water on a hook. The head, at least in the older individuals, bears no resemblance to that of an eel and the two fish are in no way related.

DISTRIBUTION

The muttonfish is found along the Atlantic coast from the gulf of St. Lawrence to New Jersey and occasionally as far south as North Carolina. During the summer it is abundant along our Canadian coast on the north coast of New Brunswick and the outer coast of Nova Scotia, and fairly abundant in the Bay of Fundy and Passamaquoddy bay. It comes close in shore during the summer and may be taken with hand lines, seines, trawls, etc. Great numbers have been reported in lobster traps in Miramichi bay. In the fall it apparently migrates into the outer deeper waters, as do many other fish, for example, flounders, for set lines put out in Passamaquoddy bay throughout the winter of 1918-19 failed to secure any specimens. Further evidence of this is given by the record of a specimen 25 inches long taken in a shrimp trawl in the bay of Fundy at a depth of 50 fathoms on April 9, 1918. During the summer the muttonfish are generally taken at depths up to 15 fathoms and even to 30 fathoms in some localities, on every variety of bottom.

LIFE-HISTORY

The European muttonfish or viviparous blenny (*Zoarces viviparus* L.), gives birth to living young during the winter months. It is presumed that our American muttonfish has similar habits