

SPHYRAENIDAE

barracudas

BOOK IN STOCK

Sphyraena chrysotaenia

Klunzinger, 1884



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: *Sphyraena obtusata*

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D1, V; D2, 9-10; A, I + 9; P, 13; V, I + 5; LL, 82-86; GR, 2.

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body very elongated. Two well-separated dorsal fins, the first with five spines ; first spine is the longest, the rest progressively decreasing in size. Second dorsal fin origin in front of anal fin origin. Caudal fin forked. Pectoral fin reaching the vertical of dorsal fin origin. Pelvic fin below pectoral fin. Large head with pointed snout. Long and pointed jaws, lower slightly projected. Large fang-like teeth in variable sizes in the jaws and on the palatine (but not on the vomer). Large eye. Small cycloid scales. Lateral line, almost straight.

color: yellowish grey on the back, white silver on the belly. Caudal fin yellow.

common size: 12-25 cm (max. 35 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Sphyraena flavicauda*: pectoral fin tip reaching the vertical of first dorsal origin.
- *Sphyraena sphyraena* and *S. viridensis*: pelvic fin located behind pectoral fin tip.

Mugilidae: four dorsal spines. Short snout.

Atherinidae: short snout and small mouth.

Sillaginidae: small mouth. Dorsal fins very close to each other.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Forms large schools. Feeds mainly near the bottom, chiefly on school fishes, such as clupeids and anchovy and, to a lesser extent, on crustaceans. Spawning season from April to September. Eggs and larvae planktonic. Juveniles often observed in very shallow waters.

habitat: benthic-pelagic to depth of 50 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Indo-Pacific. Red Sea, eastern Africa, including Madagascar and the Seychelles to China and Northern Australia.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Palestine, under misidentification of *Belone acus* (Spicer, 1931) ; successively recorded in Iskenderun, Turkey (Akyüz, 1957); Lebanon (George *et al.*, 1964), Mersin, Turkey (Ben-Tuvia, 1966), Libya (Štirn, 1970, Elbaraasi *et al.*, 2019), Malta (Lanfranco, 1993), Ionian sea and the southern Adriatic (Pallaoro and Dulčić, 2001). Also recorded in Kusadasi Bay, Aegean Sea, Turkey and Diapani, Karpathos, Greece.

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

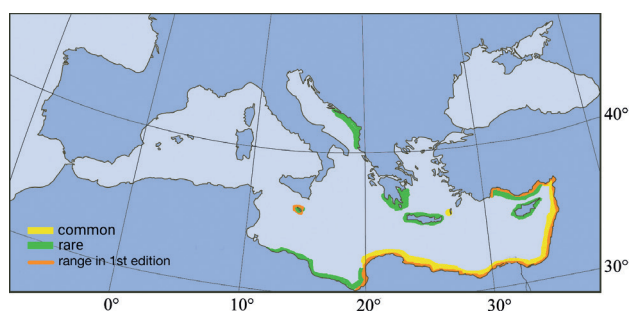
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very common.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Contributes greatly to trawl and purse seine fishery in the eastern Mediterranean.



1st Med. record
Palestine, 1931.

KEY REFERENCES

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- Golani D. and Ben-Tuvia A. 1995. Lessepsian migration and the Mediterranean fisheries of Israel. pp. 279-289. *In: Armantrout N.B. (ed.). Conditions of the World's Aquatic Habitats. Proceedings of the World Fisheries Congress. Oxford & IBH Pub. Co. Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.*
- Pallaoro A. and Dulčić J. 2001. First record of *Sphyraena chrysotaenia* (Klunzinger, 1884) (Pisces, Sphyraenidae) from the Adriatic Sea. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 59: 179-182.
- Spicer I.J. 1931. Fisheries. pp. 159-160. *In: Report of the Department of Agriculture and Forests for the years 1927-30. Printing Office, Russian Building. Jerusalem.*