

Common Bream

Abramis brama

Fish · Here all year · spawns May-Jun



Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

A very deep-bodied, strongly flattened fish with a small protrusible mouth, a long anal fin and a heavy coating of mucus. Young fish are bright silver; older ones deepen to a rich bronze-brown. Bream live in the deeper, slower, richer waters of the region's lochs and canals, and shoal in large numbers, often rooting over the same patch of bottom for hours.

BEHAVIOUR

Bream feed head-down over soft bottoms, extending a telescopic mouth to suck up bloodworm, snails and other invertebrates from the silt — a feeding shoal sends up a distinctive plume of bubbles and coloured water that anglers watch for. They are strongly shoaling and patrol regular circuits. Spawning is noisy and shallow, over weed on warm early-summer nights.

WHEN TO SEE IT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Carp and minnows (Cyprinidae)
SIZE	Commonly 30-50 cm
UK STATUS	Widespread; introduced to much of Scotland

Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Nature on your doorstep / Dumfries — part of Love Dumfries · lovedumfries.co.uk/nature