

WRASSES



Rainbow Wrasse
Photo by Meet the Sea

RAINBOW WRASSE

Scientific Name:

Coris julis

Key Information

Rainbow wrasses are usually found in the Mediterranean Sea and the northeast Atlantic Ocean, but occasionally travel to the southern British Isles.

These fish change colour as they mature. Young rainbow wrasses (both male and female) are brown with yellow sides and white bellies, but the older males are green, blue, or brown, with a bright orange stripe along the side.

Habitat and behaviour

Rainbow wrasses usually live near the shore in areas with seagrass or rocks. Smaller rainbow wrasses will burrow into the sand at night like the ornate wrasses, but larger rainbow wrasses will instead wedge themselves between crevices in rocks or reefs.

ORNATE WRASSE

Scientific Name:

Thalassoma pavo

Key Information

Ornate wrasses are small fish (usually up to 20cm long) native to the eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

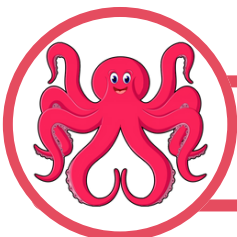
Males and females of this species have different colouring - males have red heads and blue markings, whereas females are green-brown and have five blue stripes.

Habitat and behaviour

Ornate wrasses usually live in rocky areas where there is algae and Neptune grass, but they can sometimes also be found living in human structures like shipwrecks or piers. They can swim very fast using their pectoral fins, and at night they will burrow into the sand by shaking their tails.



Ornate Wrasse
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