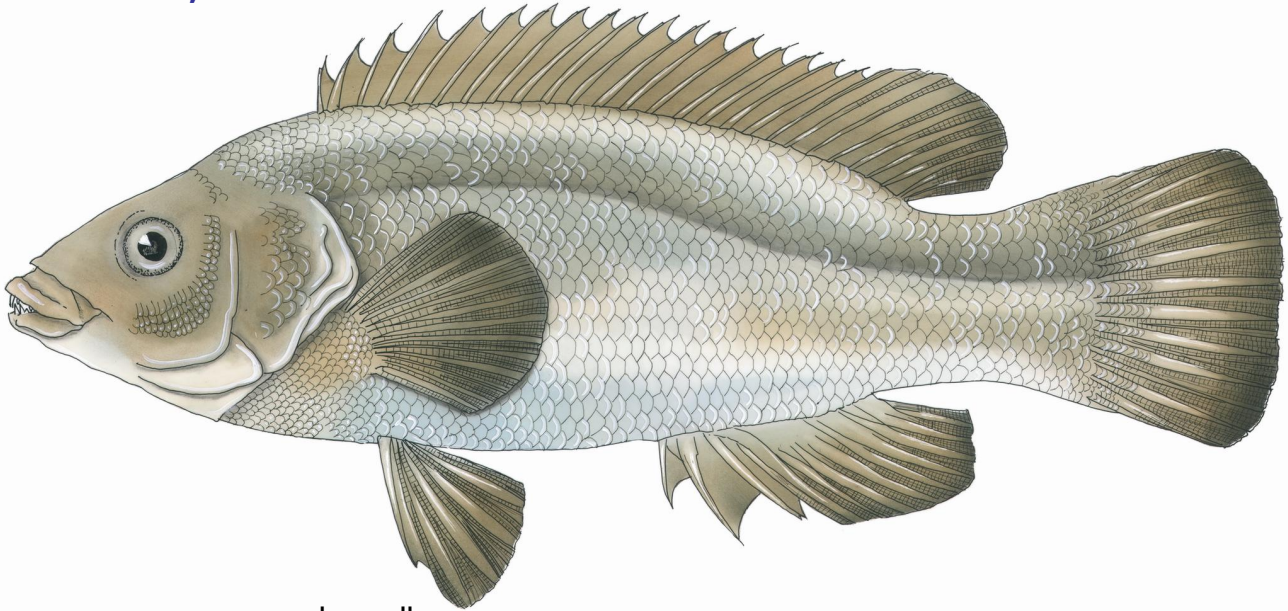


# Cunner (Tautoglabrus adspersus)

Family Labridae, Wrasses



**Common names:** cunner, bergall

**Description:** Cunnners range in color from mottled reddish to bluish brown on top, fading to slightly paler hues along their sides. These fish have a pointed snout and are moderately slender and deep bodied in shape. They have a single long dorsal fin and a very deep caudal peduncle. Their small mouth is lined with several rows of uneven cone shaped teeth. Cunner rarely grow over one foot in length. Their usual size is between 6 and 10 inches in length and less than 3 pounds in weight.

**Where found:** inshore

**Similar Gulf of Maine species:** tautog

**Remarks:** Cunnners are considered a coastal fish with the majority of them living within 5 to 6 miles from shore. They are most often found around piers, rock jetties and eel grass beds. Being omnivores, they eat a variety of both plant and animal matter, including small lobsters, mussels, shrimp and sea urchins. Due to the small size of their mouth, the use of a very small hook is a must for anglers. Bits of clams, crabs, sea worms and even canned corn kernels work well as bait for these fish. Although cunnners have a tough skin, their meat is tasty, making them a popular pan fish.

**Records:** MSSAR  
IGFA All-Tackle World Record

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