

The major cultivated species are seabass and seabream and their farming accounts for approximately 95% of total production. Their share in total production volumes is decreasing steadily as new species (i.e dentex, meager, red porgy) are developed.

Seabream



The gilthead (sea) bream, *Sparus aurata* (Linn.), is the most widely cultivated species.

The bream is protandric hermaphrodite; the majority of individuals are first males, then become females. In the wild it is found in the Mediterranean Sea and the eastern coastal regions of the North Atlantic Ocean and it grows to about 60 cm long. It is mainly carnivorous, accessorially herbivorous and feeds on shellfish, including mussels and oysters.

In Italy it is called orata, in Spain dorade, in France dorade royale and in Greece and Cyprus tsipoura.

Seabass



The European (sea) bass, *Dicentrarchus labrax* (Linn.), is marketed as Mediterranean seabass, bronzini or spigola in Italy, lubina in Spain, bas in France and lavraki in Greece and Cyprus.

It is the second most important species (in production volumes) in Mediterranean fish farming.

Bass is common around Europe, including the eastern Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. It is mostly a night hunter, feeding on small fish, polychaetes, cephalopods and crustaceans.

It is considered a delicacy. Greek journalists use the same word (lavraki) to refer to high-value exclusive news stories, a cultural reference to the perceived luck of an angler when catching this fish.

Meagre



Meagre, *argyrosomus regius*(Linn), has a similar form to a European seabass, with a pearly-silver coloration and a yellow-coloured mouth. Its culture is fairly young and it is considered a new species.

In the wild, its depth distribution ranges 15–300 m. and habitats include the Atlantic Ocean (from France to Senegal) and the Mediterranean Sea. Length can go from 40–50 cm up to 2 m long, with weights up to 55 kilograms.

A. regius is a carnivore. In England it is called meagre, in France maigre, in Spain corvine and in Greece mylokopi.

Common dentex



Common dentex, *dentex dentex*(Linn.), is a species of the Sparidae family, like seabream.

It is a new species for aquaculture. It is marketed as *synagrida* in Greece, *dentic* in Italy, *denton* in France and *dentex* in England.

Red porgy



Red porgy, *pagrus pagrus* (Linn), is of the most popular fish species in the Mediterranean region and the Atlantic coast and it belongs in the Sparidae family.

Red porgy are protogynic hermaphrodites. All individuals start life as females, and then some change sex to become functional males.

In England it is called common seabream or red porgy, in France *pagre*, in Italy *pagro*, in Spain *pargo* and in Greece *fagri*.

Common Pandora



Pagellus erythrinus (Linn), also known as *pagellus bellottii*, is one of the most abundant sparid species on the West African coast and is also found in the Mediterranean.

In Greece it is called lythrini, in Italy fragolino, in Spain pajel and in England pandora.

Sharpsnout seabream



In Greece it is called mytaki, in Italy Sarago pizzuto, in Spain Sargo picudo, in France Sar à museau pointu and in England sharpsnout seabream.

Sharpsnout breams are protogynic hermaphrodites. In the wild, females become males first in their third year with sizes of about 17 cm.