A Glossary of Scottish Dialect Fish and Trade Names

Robert A Watt
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The illustrations in this pamphlet are taken from a treatise by Francis Willughby (1635–1672), “De Historia Piscium . . .”, dedicated to Samuel Pepys.
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Robert A Watt

Marine Laboratory Aberdeen

Introduction

Scottish dialect and colloquial names for fish are many and varied, and this glossary is an attempt to give some of these terms for most of the commercial species landed at Scottish ports.

In Part 1 of the glossary the fish are introduced by family, in alphabetical order. The families are further divided alphabetically into separate species, under the commonly accepted English names along with the Linnaean classification. Part 2 is simply a cross reference of all the information given in part one. Some dialect and colloquial expressions used in the trade at sea and ashore may be found in Part 3.

Unlike modern English, dialect can be extremely exact, and where appropriate, definitions of these terms are given. It is now very difficult to assign a geographic origin to many of the older names, but wherever possible an indication of the general area in which they were, and still are, used is given.

Although it is not the purpose of this glossary to investigate the derivation of our dialect names, it should quickly become obvious that while some of them are purely descriptive and others are, quite naturally, of Gaelic origin, most of the rest must mystify even the experienced etymologist.

A study of fish provides as much scope for the social anthropologist and the archaeologist as it does for the biologist. The “salmon” is one of the nine animal symbols to be found on Pictish carved stones. However, in some areas with estuaries close by, these “salmon” may have been “sturgeon”, since the Acipenseridae were probably then far more common than they are today.

In “The Yellow Book of Lecan” the Irish bard Amergin speaks of himself as “... a wild bull ... a wild boar, a salmon ...”, all of them cult creatures of the ancient Celts. Throughout their history the Celts were always reluctant to utter the true names of their Gods, in case their enemies might use the power of these deities against them.

In Scotland the salmon has now come to be regarded as an unlucky fish, and any mention of its name aboard some of our fishing vessels is taboo. However, in view of what we know of the Celtic attitude towards their Gods I suggest that it is the act of uttering the name which is unlucky, and not the fish itself. A glance through the dialect names for salmon given in the glossary would seem to indicate that the folk memory of Finn mac Cumhail’s great Salmon of Wisdom may still be with us, in that it is still safer to call the deity the Red Fish or the Queer Fella rather than its true name.

Until the advent of more seaworthy boats, built to accommodate larger catches, fishing in Scotland was confined to inshore and estuarine waters. In 1505 Hector Boëce, formerly a lecturer in philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris, was appointed the first Principal of King’s College in Aberdeen. Some years later in his “History of Scotland” he wrote of the future potential
of a Scottish fishery, "... of al othir Kinds of fische is sa grete plente throw all partis of our seis, that, howbeit infinit noumer of thaim were tane away on the ta day, na thing theirof sa| be mist on the morrow. Attoure ane thing is, that comis not but singulare providence of God: for ay the mair dirth and penurite of vittalis is in Scotland, the fische swoumis with the more abundance and plente ...".

Towards the end of the 16th century Robert Johnstoune was given permis-sion to erect “ane skaymlis of tre” at the Fish Cross in Aberdeen. Prior to this, fish had been exhibited for sale laid out on the causeway, or packed in baskets, about the Fish Cross. Johnstoune’s “skaymlis” probably consisted of a wooden platform with an awning over it, a sort of stall, and was the first real provision for the hygienic sale of fish in Aberdeen. His was the only market allowed in the town — he charged a penny for every creel of fish brought to the stall, and for a horseload twopence. The Council demanded 40 shillings a year from Johnstoune for this privilege.

Even today many sea anglers are first introduced to the sport by catching small saithe, or poddlies, off our quays. On 14 April 1592 the Town Council of Aberdeen considered a complaint against the destruction of a newly devised net for catching “lapsteris”, “partanis” and “paddillis” set at the “Grey Hoip” within the “Girdlenes”. The defendants were found guilty of the charge since, in the Council’s opinion, the new net was “... ane necessar ingyne and profitabill for the common weill ...” I am happy to report that almost 500 years later “paddillis”, or poddlies, may still be caught in the same area.

A reference to the dialect saithe may also be found in Neil Munro’s rollick-ing tales of “Parahandy”. In “A Stroke of Luck”, Dougie, the Mate of the “Vital Spark”, sells a “stenlock” to a Glasgow housewife as a cod. The good lady, “... biled it three oors ... and it was (of course) like leather when a’ was done ...”. “Para” eventually finds an excuse for Dougie’s con-trick in the poor quality of “Cameron’s coals” which “... wouldna boil a wulk, let alone a fine cod ...”.

Finally, I should stress that my choice of fish names and their dialect equi-valents is personal. The spelling is purely phonetic, and the origins of the various names are, as far as is possible, within my own experience of their usage.

I gratefully acknowledge the impetus that Professor A.D. Hawkins has pro-vided for the collation of all the material which I have haphazardly collected over the last 30 years, Godfrey Howard’s advice on all the shellfish species, and Harry Dunn’s comments on the completed version of this glossary.
PART 1
Scottish Dialect Names for Fish, Grouped by Families in Alphabetical Order

AGNATHA

Lamprey: *Petromyzon marinus* (L.)

Lamper eel
Nine-e'ed eel or niner
Ramper eel
Rampilon

AMMODYTIDAE

Sandeels: *Ammodytes* spp.

Hornel Sandeel of a larger size
Pintle fish
Sandy giddock

ANARHICHIDAE

Catfish: *Anarhichas lupus* (L.)

Sea wolf
Steen biter

BELONIDAE

Garfish: *Belone belone* (L.)

Brod-iasg
Gaunget
Green bane
Needle fish

CALLIONYMIIDAE

Dragonet: *Callionymus lyra* (L.)

Balle-eries
Bridegroom
Chanticleer
Gowdie see also Grey gumard
Skulpin This is also the name of *Cottus scorpius*

Tailor
Wyver

Note: Forbes’ Dictionary gives the same dialect names for the Dragonet and the Gumard.

CARANGIDAE

Horse mackerel: *Trachurus trachurus* (L.)

Buck mackerel
Scad
Stour mackerel

CHIMAERIDAE

Ratfish: *Chimaera monstrosa* (L.)

King of the herring

Abd, sw Scot
Scot
Cl

MF
Scot
Loth

Cl
Bnf
CLUPEIDAE

Allis Shad: *Alosa alosa* (L.)
- Craig herring
- Crue herring
- Rock herring

Herring: *Clupea harengus* (L.)
- Filling: maturing herring
- Full: mature herring
- Halflin: young herring
- Maizy: spawning herring
- Mattie: maiden herring
- Nun
- Peeo: large winter herring
- Scadan
- Shaldoo: young herring
- Wine drinkers
- Yaulin

Sprat: *Clupea sprattus* (L.)
- Garvie: this is perhaps the only dialect name for sprat in Scotland, and derives from the Gaelic “garbh” meaning rough, descriptive of keeled scales on the fish’s belly

CONGRIDAE

Conger eel: *Conger conger* (L.)
- Black eel
- Easgann-faragaidh
- Evil eel
- Haaf eel
- Haivel
- White eel
- Yaw

COTTIDAE

Sea Scorpion: *Cottus bubalis* (Europhrasen)
- Camper
- Plucker
- Sutor
CYCLOPTERIDAE

Lumpsucker: *Cyclopterus lumpus* (L.)

Baggety  Scot
Blue paidle Scot
Hen paidle Scot
Hush Scot
Paddle-cock e Scot
Runkar Cai

GADIDAE

Cod: *Gadus morhua* (L.)

Usual market categories: small codling less than 54 cm
codling 54-63 cm
sprag 63-76 cm
cod >76 cm

Black codling medium sized fish Bnf
Blockie half sized fish e Scot
Bodach rudh Gael
Coddie small cod Bnf
Droug Cl
Duncan half grown fish MF
Hum cod roe Ags
Keelin large adult fish n Scot
Kleg Scot
Poullach half grown fish MF
Purr small fish Sh
Red knock e Scot
Scots Willie small codling Sh
Shingler ) spent fish Cai, e Scot,
Slinger ) Cl, etc
Slink )
Sousler fish with big head Cai
Stock fish medium sized cod between Kcdn
codling and keelin
Stuckie a “thick” codling Sh
Wailey codlin “Wair” ie Kelp e Scot

Haddock: *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* (L.)

Usual market categories: small pingers, chats, gibbers
large jumbos

Adag or attac MF, Gael
Calfie smallest marketable fish Abdn
Cameral recently spent fish Abdn, MF
Haddie Scot
Haddo-breeks fish roe Rox
March caulin newly spawned fish Ags
Nockies Abdn
Norrie small fish Bwk
Pipe small fish Loth
Powee small fresh fish Ags
Ling: *Molva molva* (L.)

- Doggie ling: small fish
- Labran
- Lahan
- Leyi ng
- Mamik
- Öllick: young fish
- Pintle
- Shoodra
- Stake or Stakie

Pollack: *Pollachius pollachius* (L.)

- Lythe
- Laid

Note: see comment attached to entry on saithe

Saithe (Coalfish): *Pollachius virens* (L.)

- Baddock
- Blackjack
- Coalmie: full grown fish
- Comb: fish of the fifth year
- Cuth, Cooth: young fish
- Cuddie: small fish
- Dargie: young stages
- Geeks
- Peltag, Piltack: fish in second year
- Pirrie: small fish
- Poddie: immature fish
- Prinkle: small fish
- Queeth: fish in second year
- Rock halibut
- Said, Seid
- Saidhean
- Sellag, Sillack: fry of saithe
- Stenloch: an overgrown coalfish

Note: In 'Key to the Fishes of Northern Europe' Alwyne Wheeler's description of the saithe remarks that, "Few other fish have as many widely-used names: coalfish, coley, billet. black pollack, and glassan or glosshan are samples. In North America this fish is called the pollock".

Whiting: *Merlangius merlangus* (L.)

- Baivee: a large fish
- Cuiteag
- Darg
- Fitin
- Glower: coarse and flat fish
**LAMPRIDAE**

Opah: *Lampris luna* (Gunn)

Jerusalem haddie

**LOPHIIDAE**

Monkfish (or angler): *Lophius piscatorius* (L.)

Frog fish
Great plucker
Kathie
Kethock
Maisgoom
Masgrim
Mourie lyan
Mulrein
Oof

**MERLUCCIIDAE**

Hake: *Merluccius merluccius* (L.)

Guard fish
Herring hake
Sea pike

**OSMERIDAE**

Smelt: *Osmerus eperlanus* (L.)

Cherry of Tay
Dowbreck

**PLEURONECTIDAE**

Common dab: *Limanda Limanda* (L.)

Bastard sattie also Long Rough Dab, *Hippoglossoides pla tissoides* (Fabricius)

Lang fluek
Murcock
Prain fluke
Rough back fluke also Long Rough Dab
Sand dab
Sand sucker
Sautie
Yellow dab

MF, Abdn, Ags
Fif

Scot
S h
Fif
Sh
M F
Fr
Ork
Ags
Fif
Sh
ne Scot

Loth
Abdn, Bnf
Scot
Abdn

Cl
Abdn
ne Scot
Bnf
Fif
Abdn
Bnf
Flounder: *Platichthys flesus* (L.)

Beggar fluke see plaice  
Black back  
Blin Geordie  
Craig fluke  
Crookit mooth  
Fluke  
Freshick  

Note: Fluke, or fleuk, is also used as a general term for most other flatfish eg “a bag fu’ o’ flukes”. More properly the type of fluke is specified eg “Tobacco fluke, siller fluke etc.”

Halibut: *Hippoglossus hippoglossus* (L.)

Baldin young fish, see turbot  
Birdie small fish  
Blacksmith old and dark pigmented fish  
Bradan-leathan  
‘But  
Chicken ‘but small fish  
Da fish  
Helliflounder  
Laager  

Lemon sole: *Microstomus kitt* (Walbaum)

Mary sole  
and Merry sole  
Sand fluke  
Sand sole  
Smear dab  
Sole fleuk  
Tobacco fluke  

Plaice: *Pleuronectes platessa* (L.)

Beggar fluke see flounder  
Dutch plaize large fish  
Ivy leaves  
Leu bag  
Plash fluke  
Plashach  
Splash or  
Splash fluke  
Splashack  

Note: Fluke, or fleuk, is also used as a general term for most other flatfish eg “a bag fu’ o’ flukes”. More properly the type of fluke is specified eg “Tobacco fluke, siller fluke etc.”
Witch: *Glyptocephalus cynoglossus* (L.)

Siller fluke also in same area and ne Scotland for Brill, Megrim

Whitch (sole)

**RAJIDAE**

Thornbeck Ray: *Raja clavata* (L.)

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**SALMONIDAE**

Salmon: *Salmo salar* (L.)

Usual stage names:

- Parr: young fish before leaving fresh water
- Smolt: fish leaving fresh water for first time
- Grilse: fish returning to fresh water from salt after one winter in the sea
- Kelt: fish which has spawned

Baggit unspawned female in the spring
Beastie male fish
Beikat small spring salmon
Ben a fish close to spawning
Black fish Bradan

Brankie a parr
Brannock a parr
Candaraig foul salmon
Candavaig a variety of salmon

Abdn
Ags
Agn M F
M F
Abdn
Abdn
Abdn
Abdn
Abdn

Scot
Fif
Cl, Gael
Gael
Abdn
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caul' iron</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cockspur</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Duke's fish</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grey salmon</strong></td>
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<td><strong>lasp-druimein</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kipper</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lax</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ligger</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Queer fish/fella</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rawner</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Red fish</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reister</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ronnal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Trout:</strong> <em>Salmo trutta</em> (L.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bannag</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boddom-lier</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Camdu i</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Finnock</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gerran</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gull</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Herling</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lammas men</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lammas whiting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Smout</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spathie</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Whitling</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yellow fin</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SCOMBRIDAE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mackerel:</strong> <em>Scomber scombrus</em> (L.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pinner</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rionnach</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shiner</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SCOPHTHALMIDAE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brill:</strong> <em>Scophthalmus rhombus</em> (L.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bastard fluke</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bastard turbot</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bonnet fluke</strong></td>
<td>see turbot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bratt or Britt</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pearl</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Siller fluke</strong></td>
<td>see Witch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Megrim:</strong> <em>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</em> (Walbaum)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Big-mouthed dab</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Glass fluke</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sail fluke</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Siller fluke</strong></td>
<td>see also Witch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whiff</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Turbot: *Scophthalmus maximus* (L.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baldin</td>
<td>see halibut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bannock fluke</td>
<td>e Scot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnet fluke</td>
<td>see brill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunner fluke</td>
<td>e Scot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill fish</td>
<td>Sh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rawn fluke</td>
<td>Abdn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodden fluke</td>
<td>Ork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td>Ff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea pheasant</td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCYLIORHINIDAE**

Lesser Spotted Dogfish: *Scyliorhinus caniculus* (L.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blin’ hey</td>
<td>Kcdn, MF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blin’ Lizzie</td>
<td>Cl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawfish</td>
<td>Ork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallow</td>
<td>Ork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgay</td>
<td>Ork</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHELLFISH**

Scallop: *Pecten maximus* (L.), *Chlamys opercularis* (L.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clam</td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen</td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crab: various: *Cancer pagurus* (L.) unless otherwise stated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boggie</td>
<td>crab starting to harden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>after casting shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl crab</td>
<td>male black clawed crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clappey spur</td>
<td>Eupagurus bernhardus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiery tangs</td>
<td>crab or lobster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keavie</td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mettack</td>
<td>soft crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallawa</td>
<td>Ff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partan</td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peeler</td>
<td>a small crab which has just moulted, or is just about to moult small crab about to cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillan</td>
<td>Bft, Abdn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poo</td>
<td>BwK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pow</td>
<td>e Loth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullock</td>
<td>a young edible crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punger</td>
<td>large edible crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roddock</td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothie</td>
<td>young edible crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruthag</td>
<td>e Scot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slusach</td>
<td>cf mettack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Harper</td>
<td><em>Hyas etaneus</em> (L.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fresh water mussel: *Unio margaritifer* (L.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clochiedo</td>
<td>Cl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyt</td>
<td>Ags</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lobster: *Homarus vulgaris* (L.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiery tangs</td>
<td>see crab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapster</td>
<td>Abdn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prainie</td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Mussel:** *Mytilus edulis* (L.)
- Crockley
- Maddie

**Norway Lobster:** *Nephrops norvegicus* (L.)
- Prawns

**Octopus:** *Eledone cirrhosa* (L.)
- Drodlin
- Hoasach
- Hosefish
- Ofish
- Whaal or
  - Whaal skate

Note: dialect names probably interchangeable with those of squid, *Loligo forbesi* (Steenstrup)

**Squid:** *Loligo forbesi* (Steenstrup)
- Ink fish
- Skeetack

Note: See comment at Octopus

**Winkle:** *Littorina species*
- Black buckie
- Buckie
- Buckie prins
- Gill stoup
- Horse buckie
- Roaring buckie
- Siller sawnie
- Water stoup
- Whelk
  - also *Buccinum undatum* (L.)
  - *Neptunea antiqua* (L.)

**SQUALIDAE**

**Dogfish:** *Spur dog:* *Squalus acanthias* (L.)
- Hoe

**SQUATINIDAE**

**Angel Fish:** *Squatina squatina* (L.)
- Fiddle fish
- Mongrel skate

**TRIGLIDAE**

![Image of fish](image-url)
Gurnard: Grey Gurnard: *Eutrigla gurnardus* (L.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Captain</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crointer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooner</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scot</td>
</tr>
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Yellow Gurnard: *Trigla Lucerna* (L.)

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Note: See comment at Dragonet.

**ZEIDAE**

**John Dory: *Zeus faber* (L.)**

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PART 2
Scottish Dialect Names
for Fish, Cross Referenced
to Their English Equivalents

Adag
Angler
Attac

Baddock
Baggit
Baggety
Baivee
Baldin
Balle-eries
Bannag
Bannock fluke
Bastard fluke
Bastard sattie
Bastard turbot
Beastie
Beggar fluke
Beikat
Ben
Big-mouthed dab
Birdie
Black back
Black buckie
Black codling
Black eel
Black fish
Blackjack
Blacksmith
Blin' Geordie
Blin' Hey
Blin' Lizzie
Blockie
Blue paidle
Bodach rudh
Boddon-I ier
Boggie
Bonnet fluke
Bradan
Bradan-leathan
Brankie
Brannock
Bratt
Bridegroom
Britt
Brod-iasg
Buckie
Buckie prins
Buck mackerel
'But

Calfie
Camdui
Cameral
Camper
Candaraig
Candavaig
Captain
Carl Crab
Caul' iron

Haddock
Monkfish
Haddock

Saithe
Salmon
Lumpsucker
Whiting
Halibut/Turbot
Dragonet
Sea trout
Turbot
Brill
Common Dab/Long Rough Dab
Brill
Salmon
Flounder/Plaice
Salmon
Salmon
Megrim
Halibut
Flounder
Winkle
Cod
Conger eel
Salmon
Saithe
Halibut
Flounder
Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Cod
Lumpsucker
Cod
Sea Trout
Crab
Brill/Turbot
Salmon
Halibut
Salmon
Salmon
Brill
Dragonet
Brill
Garfish
Winkle, Whelk
Winkle
Horse mackerel
Halibut

Haddock
TROUT
Haddock
Sea Scorpion
Salmon
Salmon
Grey Gurnard
Crab
Salmon
Chanticleer
Cherry of Tay
Chicken 'but
Clam
Clappey spur
Clochiedow
Coalfish
Coldie
Cocks spur
Coddie
Cohk
Cockspur
Coom
Crook
Crooklet
Crooklet mooth
Crooner
Croonyill
Crue herring
Cuddie
Cuiteag
Cuth

Da fish
Darg
Dargie
Dawfish
Dinnan
Doctor
Doggie ling
Dowbreck
Drodlin
Droud
Duke's fish
Duncan
Dutch plaise

Easgann-faragaidh
Evil eel

Fiddle fish
Fiery tangs
Filling
Finnock
Fitin
Flair
Fluke
Freshick
Frog fish
Full

Garvie
Gaugnet
Gawdnie
Geeks
Gerrack
Gerran
Gill stoup

Dragonet
Smelt
Halibut
Scallopl, Queen
Crab
Freshwater mussel
Saithe
Saithe
Salmon
Cod
Saithe
Saithe
Flounder
Allis shad
Mussel
Gurnard
Flounder
Gurnard
Gurnard
Allis shad
Saithe
Whiting
Saithe

Halibut
Whiting
Saithe
Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Thornback Ray
Thornback Ray
Ling
Smelt
octopus
Cod
Salmon
Cod
Plaice

Conger eel
Conger eel

Angel fish
Crab/ Lobster
Herring
Trout
Whiting
Thornback Ray
Flounder
Flounder
Monkfish
Herring

Sprat
Garfish
Yellow Gurnard
Saithe
Saithe
Sea trout
Winkle
Girnet
Glass fluke
Glower
Goukmey
Gowdie
Great plucker
Greenbane
Grey salmon
Guard fish
Gull
Gunnack
Gunner fluke
Gurney
Haaf eel
Haddie
Haddo-breeks
Haivel
Haiflin
Hallow
Helliflounder
Hen paidle
Herling
Herring hake
Hoasach
Hoe
Hornel
Horse buckie
Hosefish
Hum
Hurdy
Hush
Jasg-druimein
Ink fish
Ivy leaves
Jerusalem haddie
Kathie
Keavie
Keelin
Kethock
King of the herring
Kipper
Kleg
Krunter
Laager
Labran
Lahan
Laid
Lammass men
Lammass whiting
Lamper eel
Lang fleuk
Lapster
Lax
Grey Gurnard
Megrim
Whiting
Grey Gurnard
Dragonet/Grey Gurnard
Monkfish
Garfish
Salmon
Hake
Sea trout
Thornback Ray
Turbot
Thornback Ray
Conger eel
Haddock
Haddock roe
Conger eel
Herring
Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Halibut
Lumpsucker
Sea trout
Hake
octopus
Spur dog
Sandeel
Winkle
octopus
Cod roe
Grey Gurnard
Lumpsucker
Salmon
Squid
Plaice
Opah
Monkfish
Crab
Cod
Monkfish
Ratfish
Salmon
Cod
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Ling
Ling
Pollack
Trout
Trout
Lamprey
Common dab
Lobster
Salmon
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Prawns
Prinkle
**Pullock**
Punger
Purr

Queer *fella*
Queer fish
Queeth

**Ramper** eel
Rampion
**Rawner**
Rawn fluke
Red fish
Reister
Rionnach
Roaring *buckie*
Rock halibut
Rock herring
**Roddon** fluke
**Roddock**
Ronnal
Rothie
Rough back fluke
**Rowan**
Runkar
**Ruthag**

Said
Saidhean
Sail fluke
Sand dab
Sand fluke
Sand sole
Sand sucker
Sandy giddock
Sautie
**Scad**
Scadan
**Scots** Willie
Sea pheasant
Sea pike
Sea wolf
Seid
Sellag
Shaldoo
Shiner
Shingler
Shoodra
Sillack
Siller fluke
Siller sawnie
Skeetack
Skulpin
Slinger
Slink
Sluchach

Norway lobster
Saithe
Crab
Crab
Crab
Salmon
Salmon
Saithe
Lamprey
Lamprey
Salmon
Turbot
Salmon
Salmon
Mackerel
Winkle
Saithe
Allis shad
Turbot
Crab
Salmon
Crab
Common dab/Long Rough dab
Turbot
Lumpsucker
Crab
Saithe
Saithe
**Megrim**
Common dab
Lemon sole
Lemon sole
Common dab
**Sandeel**
Common dab
Horse mackerel
Herring
Cod
Turbot
Hake
Catfish
Saithe
Saithe
Herring
Mackerel
Cod
Ling
Saithe
**Brill/Witch/Megrim**
Winkle
Squid
**Dragonet/Sea** scorpion
Cod
Cod
Crab
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<td>Lemon sole</td>
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<td>Fresh-water mussel</td>
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<td>Trout</td>
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<td>Thornback ray</td>
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<td>Herring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey Gurnard</td>
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<td>Dragonet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arbroath smokies</td>
<td>Smoked haddock. Originally three separate cures, Auchmithie cure, close fish and pinwiddles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badderlock</td>
<td>Edible seaweed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bet-vie</td>
<td>Cured smoked haddock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blawn cod</td>
<td>Cod, split and half dried</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bush rope</td>
<td>The rope to which a “fleet” of drift nets is attached</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crai I capon</td>
<td>Haddock, dried but not split</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cran</td>
<td>A measure of herring, 37% gallons or 3% cwts in Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruive</td>
<td>A fish trap in the form of an enclosure or row of stakes across a river or an estuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunbar wedder</td>
<td>Salted herring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farlan</td>
<td>A long box into which herring are put for gutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farran</td>
<td>An old term for starboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finnans</td>
<td>A haddock cure originating from the village of Findon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish hake</td>
<td>(1) A weight anchoring a fish line or net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) A triangular framework of wood for drying fish before cooking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet</td>
<td>The number of drift nets shot by one boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaffnet</td>
<td>A large fishing net used in rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginnie</td>
<td>The gills of a fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippie</td>
<td>A small knife used for gutting fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glasgow Magistrate</td>
<td>Red herring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gourock ham</td>
<td>Salt herring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guddle</td>
<td>To catch trout by groping with hands under the stones or banks of a stream</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haaf</td>
<td>Deep sea fishing ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haafing</td>
<td>Deep sea fishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half net</td>
<td>A share in the fishing of one net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herring drave</td>
<td>The annual herring fishery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herring tack</td>
<td>A shoal of herring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hum</td>
<td>The milt of a cod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabbelow</td>
<td>Salted codfish hung for a few days (cf German Kabeljau)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucken</td>
<td>Haddock, gutted but not split down to the tail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male/maise</td>
<td>500 herring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maizy</td>
<td>Herring caught in the act of spawning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matfull</td>
<td>A sexually mature herring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mattie</td>
<td>A young maiden herring with the roe not full developed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday’s haddie</td>
<td>A fish that has lost its freshness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nek herring</td>
<td>Best individuals placed on top of the barrel of herring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piper</td>
<td>An unsplit, half-dried haddock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redd</td>
<td>(1) Salmon spawning site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Sort out and clean drift nets or lines, then lay them on ready for shooting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reister</td>
<td>Salted and dried salmon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock salmon</td>
<td>Skinned spur dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock turbot</td>
<td>Catfish with the head cut off and skinned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roker</td>
<td>Trade name for skates and rays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scull</td>
<td>A fisherman’s shallow wicker basket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoal</td>
<td>Shallows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoot</td>
<td>To cast nets or lines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sill</td>
<td>Milt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelding</td>
<td>A split and dried, or smoked, haddock or whiting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stell</td>
<td>A deep pool in a river where net fishing for salmon can be carried on. Also a type of salmon net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swing net</td>
<td>The herring drift net last shot and nearest the boat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail net</td>
<td>The herring drift net first shot and furthest away from the boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trink</td>
<td>A narrow channel between rocks on a sea coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind fish</td>
<td>Air dried cod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter fish</td>
<td>Ling, salted for winter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yair net</td>
<td>A net extending into the bed of a river, inclining upwards and fixed by poles</td>
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Bibliography


Key to Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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