



COMMON BLEAK

Alburnus alburnus



ALVER



ALBURNO



ALBURNO



ABLETTE



Geographical Distribution

The bleak occurs in Europe and Western Asia: north of the Caucasus, Pyrenees and Alps, and Eastward toward the Volga basin and north-western Turkey. It is absent from the major southern peninsulas and most of British Isles except southeast England. It is however introduced in Spain, Portugal and Italy. In Portugal it was probably introduced to serve as food for the largemouth bass.



Habitat

The bleak lives in great schools and feeds upon small mollusks, insects that fall in the water, Insect larvae, worms, small shellfish and plant detritus.

It is found in streams and lakes. The bleak prefers open waters and is found in large numbers where there is an inflow of food from pumping stations or behind weirs.

Description

The body of the bleak is elongated and flat. The head is pointed and the relatively small mouth is turned upwards. The anal fin is long and has 18 to 23 fin rays. The lateral line is complete. The bleak has a shiny silvery color, while the fins are pointed and colorless. The maximum length is approximately 25 cm.

Fishing

The bleak is an important food source for predatory fish. It is more sensitive than other members of the family, which might explain the decline in North-Western Europe. In the past, guanine was extracted from the scales of the bleak and use in making artificial pearls.

Closed season: none