

Rare native fish spotted in Wellington Harbor

January 18 2023



Scaly gurnard photographed in Wellington Harbor. Credit: Valerio Micaroni and Francesca Strano/Victoria University of Wellington

A rare native fish has been photographed in Wellington Harbor and researchers believe it's one of the few times the species has been caught on camera in its natural habitat.

Dr. Valerio Micaroni, a [marine biologist](#) at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria

University of Wellington, says the scaly gurnard is a reddish-colored [fish](#) that grows to about 20 centimeters. It's known to live in Wellington waters but sightings are rare.

The fish was spotted by Dr. Micaroni and colleague Francesca Strano while they were exploring the animal communities that live in the [shallow waters](#) (

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