

The Tweed River – 27 Jun 04

John Kelley

The Tweed River is an easy shore dive and one not to be overlooked. This dive was along the rock wall on the northern bank of the river near the beach at the entrance bar. It was dived a couple of hours before high tide on a very windy day. There was a little current but not a problem and the maximum depth was only 8 metres. Visibility was a little poor but enough to see things and take some photographs. The ablutions area with the bath and toilet provided a degree of amusement.



Horned Blenny

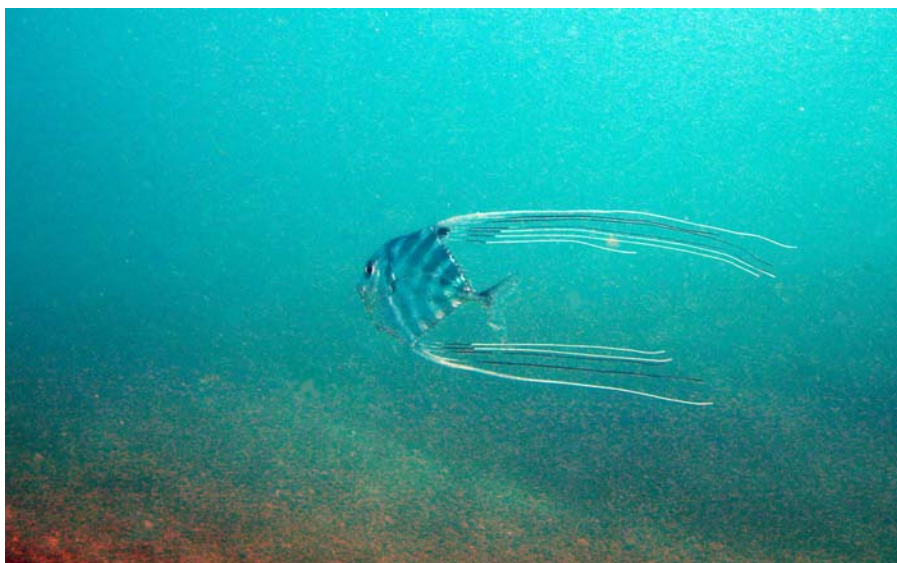


Bath



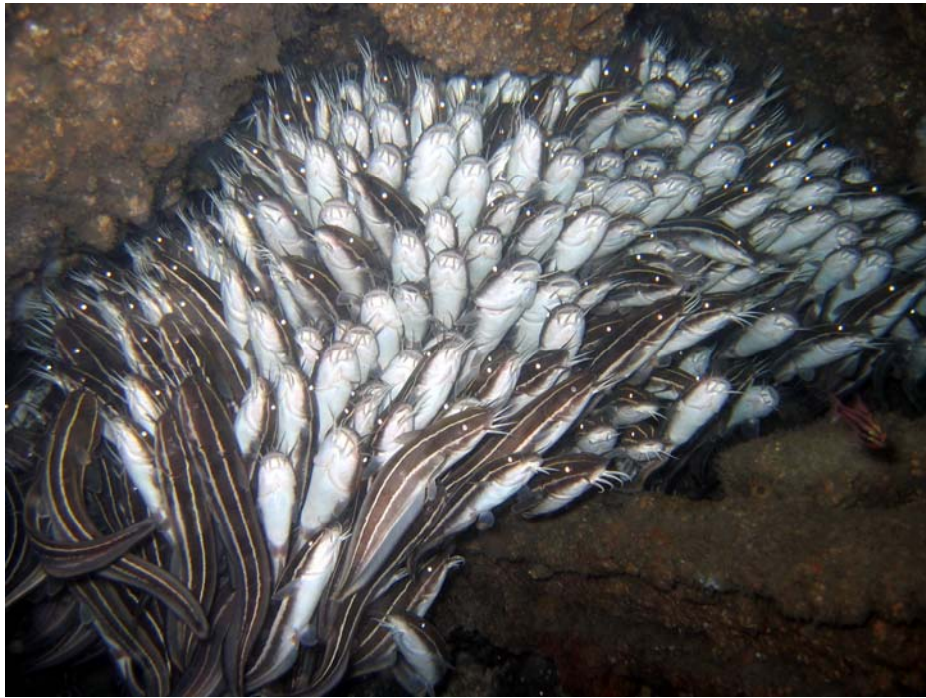
Toilet bowl

The good part about the Tweed and other similar areas is the number of juvenile fish that begin their life there. Some are startling such as the Juvenile Pennant Fish with its long trailing pennants which catch the light in a most photogenic way. There were a number swimming around and, although they kept their distance, they were relatively easily approached.



Juvenile Pennant Fish

A surprise find inside some large, encrusted, man-made container was a tightly packed school of juvenile striped catfish. They were out of the suspended gunk in the rest of the water but after the first photo dispersed a little and had some trouble getting back into their regimental tight formation. They also stirred up the gunk in the container.



Tight school of Large Juvenile Striped Catfish

An octopus, as curious as ever, could not resist playing peek-a-boo when I went away. There were beautifully coloured colonial sea-squirts in dazzling yellow and bright pink as well as blood red anemones. I noticed the absence of many soft corals which have been here before on previous dives in the last few years. A number of Silver Bream followed me for most of the dive and would have made an excellent fillet.



Peek-a-boo octopus



A large Juvenile Estuary Catfish