



### **81. RUFF / KAULBARSCH (*Gymnocephalus crenuus*)**

**IDENTIFICATION:** The Ruff reaches a length of about 20 cm and are of little significance for fishing management. In the past, the Ruff was fished in the lower stretches of bigger rivers and mostly used for fish soup.

**HABITAT:** The Ruff inhabits the middle and lower stretches of big rivers. However, it can often be found in bigger lakes. The Ruff gave its name to the Ruff-Flounder-Region of rivers, which from the lowest zones of moving waters. In inland waters, the Ruff reaches a length of about 20 cm. In lower stretches of rivers and in brackish waters, it can reach a length of about 30 cm. For some years, Ruff stocks have been on the increase in Germany and Central Europe. In North America, where the Ruff was introduced some years ago, it can be found in a great number of waters. It is not clear how Ruff stocks could have spread so fast. The Ruff may have been introduced into other waters as bait in the past.

**FOOD:** The Ruff feeds on water animals of all types. It also likes feeding on the spawn of other fish.

**SPAWNING:** Ruff spawn from March through May. During the spawning period, they form schools and move to shallow bank areas where they deposit their eggs. Eggs will adhere to rocks and plants.