



## FACT SHEET

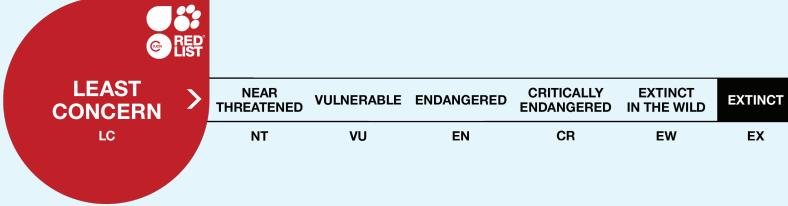
### MALABAR ROCKCOD

*Epinephelus malabaricus*

Family: Serranidae

Other common names: Malabar-klipkabeljou

Description	A large, robust rockcod. Its overall colour is light brown to olive and it has several irregular, dark oblique bands as well as light and dark spots and blotches that mark the body.
Distribution	Widespread in Indo-Pacific, from Western Indian Ocean across to Tonga in the east, Japan in the north and Australia in the south. Southern limit in South African waters reported as East London.
Habitat	Found in a variety of reef habitats to depths of 150 m. Juveniles are found on inshore reefs and in estuaries.
Feeding	Equal mixture of fishes and crustaceans and sometimes octopus.
Movement	Little known. Movement of juveniles reported from inshore and estuarine nursery habitats to depths of 150 m as adults.

Reproduction	Females mature 70-80 cm while males mature at 114 cm total length, equivalent to an age of over 5 years for males. Malabar rockcod change sex from female to male. Spawning occurs in spring (August to October), probably in more tropical waters.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 150 cm total length and a weight of 38 kg. They have not been aged.
Current status	<p>They have not been assessed in South African waters and little is known about their stock status. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2018).</p> <p>South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.</p> 
Capture	They are not a common component of linefish catches in South African waters; also likely to be under-reported owing to misidentification. Elsewhere they are caught by trawls, longlines, traps, spear and hook-and-line. Also an important aquaculture species in the Indo-Pacific region.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p><b>Daily bag limit:</b> 5 per person per day</p> <p><b>Minimum size limit:</b> None</p> <p><b>Closed Season:</b> None</p> <p><b>Other regulations:</b> None</p> <p><b>Marine protected areas (MPAs):</b> The Ponto da Ouro and iSimangaliso MPAs offer the most protection to adults; protected estuaries in the Pondoland MPA may provide some protection for juveniles.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. <a href="http://www.saambr.org.za">www.saambr.org.za</a>