



FACT SHEET

RED STUMPNOSE

Chrysoblephus gibbiceps

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Miss Lucy, Rooistompneus

Description

A deep-bodied fish with a steep forehead that is slightly concave below the eyes. The snout protrudes slightly. In large male fish the upper forehead develops a bulbous projection. The body is silvery-pink but darker above and has 5-7 darker red vertical bars on the sides. There are also numerous dark blotches on the body, especially on the upper flanks.

Distribution

Endemic, found from Cape Point to the Transkei.

Habitat

Found on offshore reefs to depths of 150 m.

Feeding

Diet dominated by brittle stars, gastropod molluscs and polychaete worms, but they also feed on sea urchins, octopus and crabs.

Movement

Tagging in the De Hoop and Struis Bay area have shown red stumpnose to be extremely resident. However, historical trends in commercial catches from Struis Bay reflected a seasonal increase in catches during winter (May-July) and early summer (October-November). These localised migratory patterns have now been partly lost due to severe population depletion.

Reproduction

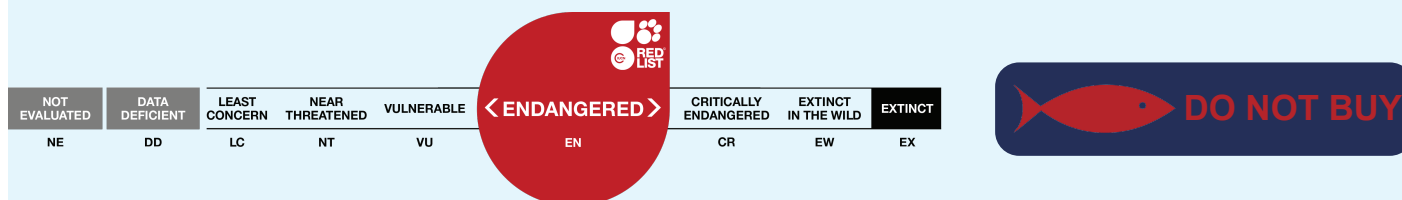
Males mature at 21 cm and females at 25 cm fork length equivalent to an age of about 2 and 4 years respectively. Spawning occurs in summer (November-December) mainly on the central Agulhas Bank. Courtship battles between male fish are likely during the spawning season.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 75 cm total length and a weight of 8.1 kg. They have been aged up to a remarkable 48 years.

Current status

Although not formally assessed, it is estimated that red stumpnose stocks have declined to between 1-5% of their historical values based on declining catch rates. They have been evaluated as Endangered on the IUCN Red List (2014). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.



Capture

Seasonal component of the commercial line-fishery, especially on the Agulhas Banks. Also taken by the recreational ski-boat fishery and spear-fishery. Incidental catches taken by inshore trawlers operating in the Mossel Bay to Cape Infanta area.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 1 per person per day
Minimum size limit: 30 cm total length
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: None
Marine protected areas (MPAs): The De Hoop and Tsitsikamma MPAs have been shown to provide protection for this species and it is likely that the recently declared Agulhas Bank MPA will provide further valuable protection.

Reference

Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



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