



FACT SHEET

ROMAN

Chrysoblephus laticeps

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Red roman, Roman seabream

Description

A stocky fish that is bright orange to red in colour. They have a characteristic white saddle over the middle of the back which reaches below the lateral line. There is also a white bar on the gill covers. A blue line joins the eyes.

Distribution

Endemic, found primarily between Cape Point and Port St Johns.

Habitat

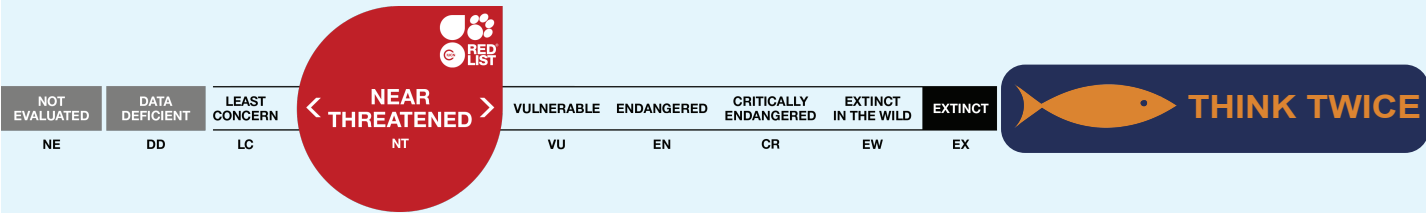
High and low-profile inshore and offshore reefs down to a depth of 100 m.

Feeding

Mainly echinoderms (basket stars and brittle stars) and cephalopods (squid and cuttlefish) with some crustaceans (decapods) and polychaete worms.

Movement

A highly resident species with a small home range less than 100 m linear extent.

Reproduction	Females reach maturity at 17-18 cm fork length equivalent to an age of 2.5-3.5 years. Roman change sex from female to male, with sex change occurring between 27-37 cm fork length. Spawning occurs from October to February in Eastern and Western Cape waters. They are pair spawners and spawning takes place in the water column after an elaborate courtship display.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 51 cm fork length and a weight of 4.6 kg. They have been aged up to a maximum of 19 years.
Current status	While there has been localised overfishing in certain areas, the stock of roman has been assessed as being optimally exploited and commercial catch rates remained relatively stable between 1985-2007. It is believed that this is due to management intervention such as the cut in commercial fishing effort between 2003-2006 and spillover from MPAs such as Tsitsikamma and Goukamma. They have been evaluated as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List (2014). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Orange.
 <p>The diagram shows the IUCN Red List categories: NOT EVALUATED (NE), DATA DEFICIENT (DD), LEAST CONCERN (LC), NEAR THREATENED (NT) (highlighted in a red circle), VULNERABLE (VU), ENDANGERED (EN), CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR), EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW), and EXTINCT (EX). To the right is a fish icon and the text 'THINK TWICE'.</p>	
Capture	Important to commercial and recreational ski-boat fisheries in the Eastern and Western Cape. Frequently speared by divers and occasionally taken by shore anglers fishing in deep water.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p>Daily bag limit: 2 per person per day</p> <p>Minimum size limit: 30 cm total length</p> <p>Closed Season: None</p> <p>Other regulations: None</p> <p>Marine protected areas (MPAs): No-take MPAs in the Eastern and Western Cape have been shown to be extremely effective in protecting this resident species. The recent declaration of the Amathole, Addo and Agulhas Bank MPAs should further contribute towards their protection.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



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