



FACT SHEET

SCOTSMAN

Polysteganus praeorbitalis

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Scotsman seabream, Skotsman

Description

Deep-bodied in the front, tapering towards the tail, with a very steep, angular forehead. The body colour is light pinkish, and it has a series of narrow blue lines above the lateral line. There is a purple to blue stripe at the base of the dorsal fin and blue rings around the eyes. Juveniles have three brown horizontal stripes running the length of the body.

Distribution

Endemic, from Beira in Mozambique to Algoa Bay in the Eastern Cape.

Habitat

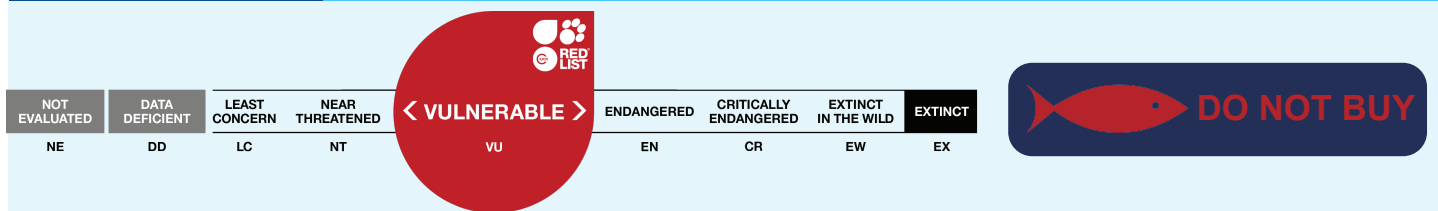
Offshore reefs between 20-120 m.

Feeding

They mainly feed on small reef fish, benthic crustaceans and cephalopods.

Movement

Juveniles of this species appear to be fairly resident, with a linear home range size of about 760 m. However, a limited number of larger individuals have been observed to undertake substantial northward movements greater than 300 km, probably for breeding purposes.

Reproduction	They reach maturity at about 40-60 cm fork length at an age of about 6 years. They probably change sex from female to male, but this has not been confirmed. Little spawning activity recorded in southern KwaZulu-Natal, but more reproductively active fish are found from Richards Bay northwards. They appear to have an extended spawning season during winter and spring.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 90 cm total length and a weight of 10.5 kg. They have been aged up to 13 years, but are likely to live much longer.
Current status	The stock of Scotsman is believed to have collapsed and the spawner biomass was estimated to be at less than 21% of its pristine level. Catch rates in the KwaZulu-Natal commercial line-fishery dropped by about 65% during the 20th Century. The sex ratio was also found to be heavily skewed towards females, due to the removal of larger male fish. They have been evaluated as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (2014). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.
	
Capture	They comprise a relatively small component of catches of the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape commercial and recreational ski-boat fishery. However, they are important on the lower KwaZulu-Natal south coast and the Pondoland coast. Anecdotal evidence suggests a shrinking of their historical range, with the catch of Scotsman in southern Mozambique now comprising less than 1% of the total linefish catch.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p>Daily bag limit: 1 per person per day</p> <p>Minimum size limit: 40 cm total length</p> <p>Closed Season: None</p> <p>Other regulations: None</p> <p>Marine protected areas (MPAs): The Pondoland MPA has been shown to be particularly important for the protection of resident juveniles and it is believed that deep reefs in the iSimangaliso MPA provide important protection for adults of this species.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



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