



FACT SHEET

BLOOD SNAPPER

Lutjanus sanguineus

Family: Lutjanidae

Other common names: Humphead snapper, Bloed-snapper

Description

Shape varies with growth and adults develop a distinctive protruding forehead. Overall body colour is bright red. Juveniles have longitudinal stripes along the body and a dark band running from each eye to the dorsal fin. They also have a black and white blotch on the caudal peduncle.

Distribution

Western Indian Ocean, from the Red Sea east to the Arabian Sea and south to KwaZulu-Natal. In South African waters they have been reported as far south as Algoa Bay, but seldom occur south of KwaZulu-Natal.

Habitat

Coral and rocky reefs to depths of at least 100 m. In South African waters blood snapper have a preference for slightly silty, turbid regions in the vicinity of offshore banks.

Feeding

Adults are generalists feeding on a wide range of organisms including red and green seaweed, sea urchins, polychaete worms, sea anemones, limpets, mussels and red bait. Juveniles feed mainly on small crustaceans and polychaete worms.

Movement

Unknown but likely to be fairly resident similar to other snapper species.

Reproduction

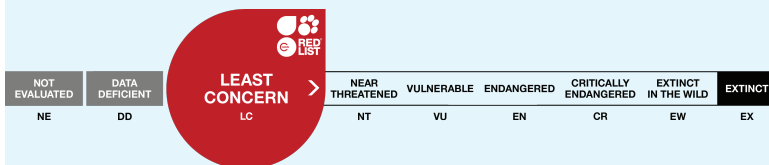
They mature at a size of 50-55 cm total length and an age of 3-6 years. Spawning occurs during spring and summer mainly in tropical areas. No reproductively active fish have been observed in South African waters.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 100 cm total length and a weight of 23 kg, although the South African spearfishing record is only 9.5 kg. They have been aged up to 13 years but may live a lot longer.

Current status

The blood snapper population in South African waters has not been assessed and little is known about their current status. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2018). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.



Capture

Bulk of the catch is taken by commercial line-fishermen in northern KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique. Occasionally taken by recreational ski-boat anglers in KwaZulu-Natal but only rarely shot by spearfishermen in South African waters, primarily due to the preference of this species for deeper water. Also taken by handlines, vertical longlines, traps and occasionally by trawl along the East African coast.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 10 per person per day
Minimum size limit: None
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: None
Marine protected areas (MPAs): As with many other snappers, blood snapper is likely to be a fairly resident species, and are therefore likely to benefit from protection in the iSimangaliso MPA in northern KZN.

Reference

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



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