

FACT SHEET

BRONZE BREAM

Pachymetopon grande

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Bronze seabream, Copper bream, Bluefish, Bruin hottentot, Pens-en-derms

Description

A plump, oval-shaped fish with a small head and a bump between the eyes, which becomes more conspicuous with age. Colour is coppery bronze with the head often having an iridescent blue sheen. Has a row of conspicuous incisors in each jaw but they have far fewer teeth than the similar looking German.

Distribution

Endemic, found from Struisbaai to southern Mozambique but rare north of Cape Vidal.

Habitat

Adults inhabit shallow surf-zone reefs down to depths of at least 25 m. Juveniles are found in subtidal gullies and on shallow subtidal reefs in depths less than 10 m. Pelagic eggs and larvae are mainly found close to the coast.

Feeding

Adults are omnivorous browsers, feeding on algae and small invertebrates. They have an extended gut which assists in digestion. Juveniles are similar to adults but with small crustaceans such as amphipods being more important in their diet.

Movement

A highly resident species remaining in the same area for long periods of time.

Reproduction

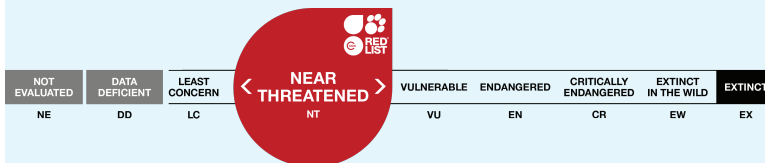
They mature at about 30 cm in length and an age of 5-6 years. They do not change sex and have an equal number of males and females. Spawning takes place from January to June and adults aggregate in shoals in the early mornings and evenings to spawn. Spawning probably takes place throughout their distribution range.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of about 65 cm total length and a weight of 5.4 kg. They have been aged up to a maximum of 38 years.

Current status

This species has been overexploited in heavily fished areas, mainly because of their high residency and slow growth rate. However, they are still relatively abundant in lightly fished areas. Categorised as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List (2009). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.



Capture

An important species in the recreational shore and spearfishery, particularly along the Eastern and Southern Cape coasts. They are shy feeders and are mainly caught on light tackle using small hooks and baits such as prawn, squid and red bait.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 2 per person per day
Minimum size limit: 30 cm total length
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: No sale recreational species
Marine protected areas (MPAs): This species has been shown to benefit from protection in coastal no-take MPAs throughout their distribution because of their high level of residency.

Reference

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



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