



## FACT SHEET

### Cape Moony

*Monodactylus falciformis*

**Family:** Monodactylidae

**Other common names:** Full moony, Oval moony, Kitefish, Kaapse maanskynvis

<b>Description</b>	A diamond-shaped body which is strongly compressed. Bright silver in colour with a mother-of-pearl sheen on the base of the dorsal and anal fins. The other fins are grey or translucent, but the dorsal and anal fins have black tips. Juveniles have 11-12 narrow vertical bars on the flanks. Distinguished from the Natal moony ( <i>Monodactylus argenteus</i> ) which have yellow dorsal and anal fins and juveniles have 2 dark stripes across the head.
<b>Distribution</b>	Western Indian Ocean from the Breede River to Tanzania. Also reported from Madagascar.
<b>Habitat</b>	A shoaling species found in shallow rocky and sandy surf-zone habitats. Juveniles use estuaries and harbours as nursery areas, usually found in association with seagrass or algal beds. Tolerant of fresh water.
<b>Feeding</b>	They mainly feed on zooplankton in the water column including copepods, crab larvae, isopods, amphipods and insects.
<b>Movement</b>	Juveniles recruit into estuaries at a size of 5-10 mm. They remain in these estuarine nursery habitats until reaching maturity whereafter they return to the sea.

Reproduction	They reach maturity at about 15 cm total length. Spawning occurs in the sea, often near estuary mouths, from October to February.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of about 20 cm total length and a weight of 0.3 kg. They have not been aged.
Current status	<p>Not assessed but populations may have declined due to estuarine degradation. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2016).</p> <p>South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.</p>
	 <p><b>Not Assessed</b></p>
Capture	Generally too small to be of much interest to anglers, sometimes caught by young children using ultra-light tackle. A popular aquarium fish.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p><b>Daily bag limit:</b> 10 per person per day</p> <p><b>Minimum size limit:</b> None</p> <p><b>Closed Season:</b> None</p> <p><b>Other regulations:</b> None</p> <p><b>Marine protected areas (MPAs):</b> It is likely that this species receives protection within inshore no-take MPAs and estuarine protected areas throughout its distribution.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. <a href="http://www.saambr.org.za">www.saambr.org.za</a>



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