



FACT SHEET

Eastern Little Tuna

Euthynnus affinis

Family: Scombridae

Other common names: Kawakawa, Mackerel tuna, Oostelike kleintuna

Description	A stocky, medium-sized tuna with an overall silvery sheen. They are dark blue above and white below with a pattern of wavy stripes on the upper sides that does not extend forward of the pectoral fins. Three or more distinct black spots may occur on the chest between the pectoral and pelvic fins.
Distribution	Indo-West Pacific in warm waters close to land masses including oceanic islands and archipelagos. In South African waters, extends south to Cape St Francis in the Eastern Cape.
Habitat	A pelagic species but remains close to shore and is seldom found in water deeper than 50 m.
Feeding	Feeds on pelagic bait fish such as anchovies and silversides, but will also take squid, pelagic crustaceans and zooplankton.
Movement	A highly migratory species.

Reproduction	They mature at 45-65 cm fork length and an age of 3 years. Spawning has been recorded off the KwaZulu-Natal coast during summer.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 100 cm fork length and a weight of 13.2 kg. They have been aged up to 6 years.
Current status	<p>This species has not been assessed in South African waters. However, little change has been observed in catch rates taken by recreational ski-boat anglers in KwaZulu-Natal. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2011).</p> <p>South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.</p>
 LEAST CONCERN LC	  Not Assessed
Capture	In South Africa this species is mainly caught by recreational and commercial ski-boat fishermen, albeit often not specifically targeted. Catches by pelagic tuna longliners are insignificant in South African waters largely due to the 20 nautical mile offshore limit for longlining off KwaZulu-Natal. Elsewhere they are caught in commercial gill-nets and purse-seines.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p>Daily bag limit: 10 per person per day</p> <p>Minimum size limit: None</p> <p>Closed Season: None</p> <p>Other regulations: None</p> <p>Marine protected areas (MPAs): Probably little benefit from MPAs because they are highly migratory.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



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