



FACT SHEET

GIANT KINGFISH

Caranx ignobilis

Family: Carangidae

Other common names: Giant trevally, Reuse koningvis

Description

A powerfully built fish with a deep body, steep forehead and long sickle-shaped pectoral fins. Colour is silvery grey with small black spots scattered on the flanks.

Distribution

Widespread in tropical areas of the Indian Ocean, West and Central Pacific. In South African waters found as far south as Algoa Bay, but less common south of the Wild Coast.

Habitat

Common in tropical and subtropical marine habitats such as shallow coastal areas, islands, atolls in isolated shoals, often associated with reefs. Mainly in shallow water but have been recorded to depths of 188 m. Sometimes semi-resident in large estuarine systems such as Kosi Bay. Often associated with the sardine run in KwaZulu-Natal. Juveniles are common in estuaries and the surf-zone.

Feeding

Fish constitutes 70% of their diet, with the balance consisting of squid, mantis shrimps and other crustaceans.

Movement

Migratory. Recent studies using acoustic telemetry have shown that adults undertake extensive movements along the South African coast. Following spawning in southern Mozambique, adults have been recorded moving as far south as Port St Johns before returning to the same spawning site the following year.

Reproduction

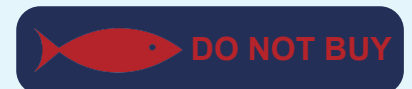
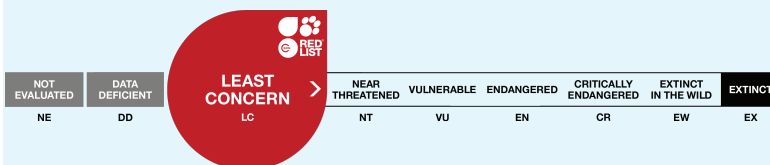
They mature at a length of 60-65cm fork length and an age of 3-4 years. They spawn during the warmer summer months, peaking between November to December over the full moon. They are known to form large spawning aggregations in areas such as within the Ponto do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve in southern Mozambique.

Age and growth

They reach a maximum size of 165 cm fork length and a weight of 68 kg, although fish of up to 80 kg have been reported. They can reach a maximum age of more than 10 years.

Current status

Unknown, but stocks may be under pressure locally due to degradation of estuarine nursery habitats and high mortality of juveniles because of inshore netting, especially in Mozambique. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2015).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.



Capture

Important recreational gamefish, caught by shore anglers, ski-boat anglers and spearfishers, highly sought after as a trophy fish but nowadays large specimens are often released. They are extremely powerful, aggressive feeders and will take a wide range of baits and lures. Of little commercial value locally but are harvested in the artisanal trap fishery within Kosi Bay.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 5 per person per day
Minimum size limit: None
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: No sale recreational species
Marine protected areas (MPAs): They are protected from capture in some no-take MPAs along the east coast of South Africa such as within the iSimangaliso, Aliwal Shoal and Pondoland MPAs. Particularly sensitive areas include the Mtentu Estuary within the Pondoland MPA and an area within the Ponto do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve where shoals of large adults aggregate during summer. Protection of such aggregation sites is critical to the conservation of this highly mobile predator.

Reference

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



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