



FACT SHEET

HONEYCOMB MORAY EEL

Gymnothorax favagineus

Family: Muraenidae

Other common names: Laced moray, Tessellate moray,
Heuningkoek-bontpaling

Description	One of the largest and most distinctive moray eels. The body is dark brown to black with a yellowish-white honeycomb-like pattern.
Distribution	Indo-West Pacific from East Africa to Papua New Guinea. In southern African waters occurs south to Algoa Bay.
Habitat	Rocky surf-zone and offshore rocky and coral reefs to depths of 50 m. Normally active nocturnally.
Feeding	They feed on octopus and small fish. Often found in association with cleaner wrasse or cleaner shrimps.
Movement	Unknown.

Reproduction	Unknown.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of about 200 cm total length. They have not been aged.
Current status	<p>Not assessed. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2019).</p> <p>South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed</p>
	
Capture	Occasionally caught by shore and ski-boat anglers. Should be handled with care as they can inflict a painful bite.
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): This species is likely to benefit from protection within no-take MPAs throughout its distribution.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



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