



FACT SHEET

Natal Fingerfin

Chirodactylus jessicalenorum

Family: Cheilodactylidae

Other common names: Natal banky, Natalse vingervin

Description	A moderately elongate fish with an overall pink colour. Has thick fleshy lips and the lower 6-7 pectoral fin rays are extended.
Distribution	Endemic, from Algoa Bay north to Sodwana Bay. Recently found off the southeast coast of Madagascar.
Habitat	Shallow coastal waters from 10-60 m preferring rocky reefs. Small juveniles are often found sheltering under flotsam at sea. Pelagic eggs recorded in 20-30 m off the KwaZulu-Natal south coast.
Feeding	Small bottom dwelling invertebrates, squid and small fish.
Movement	Little known, but adults congregate at certain times of year in loosely packed shoals, presumably as a prelude to spawning.

Reproduction	Little known, eggs most commonly found off the KwaZulu-Natal south coast in winter.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum length of 75 cm total length and a weight of 10.2 kg. This species has not been aged.
Current status	Little known about the status of this species. Has been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2009). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.
 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-weight: bold;"> NOT EVALUATED DATA DEFICIENT LEAST CONCERN > LC </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-weight: bold;"> NEAR THREATENED VULNERABLE ENDANGERED CRITICALLY ENDANGERED EXTINCT IN THE WILD EXTINCT </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-weight: bold;"> NE DD NT VU EN CR EW EX </div>	 <p>Not Assessed</p>
Capture	Seldom takes bait and mainly shot by spearfishers. Accounts for approximately 5% of the spearfishing catch in KwaZulu-Natal. Juveniles are caught as bycatch in tuna drift nets.
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): Likely to receive protection in the no-take MPAs in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



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