



## FACT SHEET

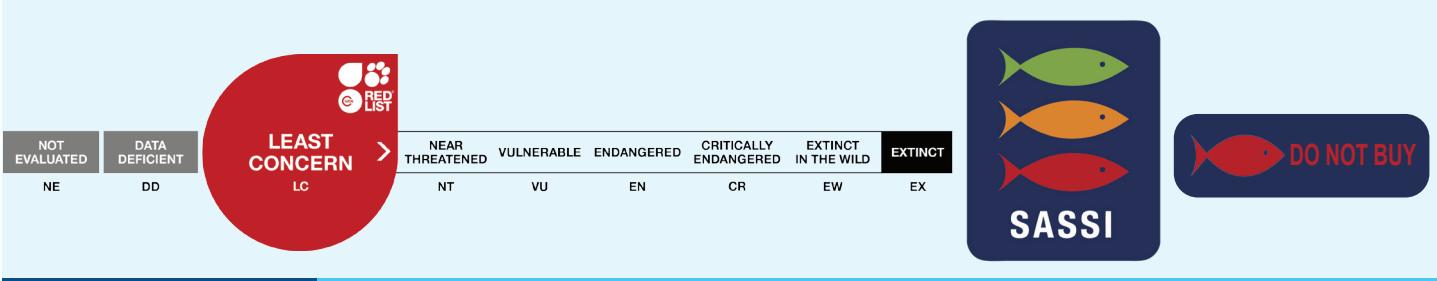
### Natal Wrasse

*Anchichoerops natalensis*

**Family:** Labridae

**Other common names:** Natalese lipvis

Description	A large, robust wrasse which has variable colouration, normally reddish-brown with yellow or orange spots. Some 7-10 dark, vertical bars may be present on the sides, but these tend to fade with age. The dorsal, caudal and anal fins have a blue margin. The mouth has thick, fleshy lips and visible canines.
Distribution	Endemic, from Port St Johns to Sodwana.
Habitat	Found off rocky headlands and on shallow rocky reefs in depths of 10-55 m.
Feeding	Feeds on sponges, ascidians, corals and small crustaceans.
Movement	Believed to be highly resident.

<b>Reproduction</b>	Little known but spawning has been recorded on reefs in KwaZulu-Natal.
<b>Age and growth</b>	They can reach a maximum size of at least 75 cm total length and a weight of 15.4 kg. They have not been aged.
<b>Current status</b>	<p>Not assessed but historically they were heavily depleted by spearfishing prior to the national ban placed on harvesting this species in 1984. They are now commonly seen on shallow reefs off KwaZulu-Natal. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2010).  South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.</p>
	 <p>The image displays two status indicators. On the left is the IUCN Red List logo, showing a red circle with the text 'LEAST CONCERN LC' and a scale from 'NOT EVALUATED' (NE) to 'EXTINCT' (EX) with intermediate categories: DATA DEFICIENT (DD), NEAR THREATENED (NT), VULNERABLE (VU), ENDANGERED (EN), CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR), EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW), and EXTINCT (EX). On the right is the SASSI logo, featuring three fish (green, orange, red) and the text 'SASSI' next to a 'DO NOT BUY' button.</p>
<b>Capture</b>	Rarely taken on bait by ski-boat fishermen but an easy target for spearfishermen and hence its full protection by law.
<b>Current recreational fishing regulations</b>	<p><b>Daily bag limit:</b> Zero  <b>Minimum size limit:</b> Not applicable  <b>Closed Season:</b> Not applicable  <b>Other regulations:</b> Prohibited species  <b>Marine protected areas (MPAs):</b> In addition to the moratorium placed on harvesting this species, it is likely that this species has also benefitted from protection within no-take zones of MPAs such as Aliwal Shoal and Pondoland.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	Information from the ORI Fish App. <a href="http://www.saambr.org.za">www.saambr.org.za</a>

