



## FACT SHEET

### SAND SOLDIER

*Pagellus natalensis*

**Family:** Sparidae

**Other common names:** Natal pandora, Tjor-tjor, Rooi tjortjor

<b>Description</b>	Small fish with a pinkish upper body and numerous rows of small, iridescent blue spots along the sides of the body.
<b>Distribution</b>	South-western Indian Ocean from Mossel Bay to Tanzania. Also recorded off southern Madagascar.
<b>Habitat</b>	Adults are extremely abundant offshore, forming large shoals over sandy and muddy bottoms in depths from 20-250 m. Juveniles appear to be more abundant in shallower water in depths less than 20 m. Eggs and larvae of this species are distinctive and extremely abundant in shelf waters.
<b>Feeding</b>	They feed on a variety of small bottom dwelling invertebrates including small crustaceans, echinoderms, polychaete worms and molluscs.
<b>Movement</b>	Unknown.

Reproduction	They appear to have an equal number of males and females. Spawning mainly takes place in spring (August to October) probably throughout their distribution.
Age and growth	Unknown.
Current status	<p>Little is known but it is an extremely abundant species sometimes called “fish of the future”. Categorised as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2009).</p> <p>South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.</p>
 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>NOT EVALUATED</span> <span>DATA DEFICIENT</span> <span>LEAST CONCERN</span> <span>LC</span> <span>NEAR THREATENED</span> <span>VULNERABLE</span> <span>ENDANGERED</span> <span>CRITICALLY ENDANGERED</span> <span>EXTINCT IN THE WILD</span> <span>EXTINCT</span> <span>NT</span> <span>VU</span> <span>EN</span> <span>CR</span> <span>EW</span> <span>EX</span> </div>	
Capture	Caught as bycatch by the inshore trawl fishery in the southern Cape and to a lesser extent by the KZN prawn trawl fishery. Seldom caught from the shore but occasionally caught and used as bait by ski-boat anglers.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p><b>Daily bag limit:</b> 10 per person per day</p> <p><b>Minimum size limit:</b> None</p> <p><b>Closed Season:</b> None</p> <p><b>Other regulations:</b> None</p> <p><b>Marine protected areas (MPAs):</b> Well represented in many MPAs throughout its range in southern Africa.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. <a href="http://www.saambr.org.za">www.saambr.org.za</a>