



FACT SHEET

Santer

Cheimerius nufar

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Soldier, Santer seabream

Description

Has an oval-shaped body with an overall silvery pink colour. Anal and pelvic fins have a bluish tinge in live specimens. Juveniles and sub-adults have 5 red vertical crossbars on their sides. The 3rd to the 7th dorsal spines are more elongate.

Distribution

Western Indian Ocean, from the Red Sea south to South Africa and east to India and Sri Lanka. In southern African waters found from northern Mozambique to Cape Agulhas.

Habitat

Found in loose shoals primarily over deeper, low relief reefs down to 130 m. Also frequently found over sand adjacent to reefs.

Feeding

Primarily piscivorous, feeding on species such as pilchards and small reef fishes, but also preys on squid, octopus, crabs and shrimps.

Movement

Based on tagging studies, santer appear to be nomadic, freely moving between reef complexes, sometimes at distances of over 10 km. They are well known to undertake local movements into shallow water following cold water upwelling events.

Reproduction	<p>They reach maturity at 25-30 cm fork length equivalent to an age of 3-4 years. Spawning takes place throughout their distribution but is earlier (May to November) in KwaZulu-Natal waters than in the Eastern Cape (November to February). During the spawning season large males set up territories on the reef that they actively defend against other males and entice ripe females to mate with them using an elaborate courtship display.</p>
Age and growth	<p>They can reach a maximum size of 75 cm total length and a weight of 8 kg. They have been aged up to a maximum of 22 years.</p>
Current status	<p>When Santer was assessed in South African waters in 2018 it was found that the stock was recovering from a previously overexploited state, largely due to the cut in commercial effort implemented between 2003-2006. They have been evaluated as Data Deficient on the IUCN Red List (2014). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Orange for South African line-caught fish, Red for santer imported from Mozambique, where they remain overfished.</p>
 DATA DEFICIENT DD <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> NOT EVALUATED LEAST CONCERN NEAR THREATENED VULNERABLE ENDANGERED CRITICALLY ENDANGERED EXTINCT IN THE WILD EXTINCT </div>	 South Africa  Mozambique 
Capture	<p>Very important to the commercial and recreational ski-boat fishery in Mozambique and along the southeastern seaboard of South Africa, especially in KwaZulu-Natal. Seldom taken by spearfishermen but occasionally caught from the shore at specific sites in the southern Cape following cold upwelling events. Also recorded from inshore bottom trawls along the southern Cape coast and off Mozambique.</p>
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p>Daily bag limit: 5 per person per day Minimum size limit: 30 cm total length Closed Season: None Other regulations: None Marine protected areas (MPAs): Santer are likely to receive protection in the larger no-take MPAs on the southeastern seaboard of southern Africa that contain suitable reef habitat and that are large enough to accommodate their nomadic movement behaviour.</p>
Reference	<p>Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za</p>