



FACT SHEET

SILVER KOB

Argyrosomus inodorus

Family: Sciaenidae

Other common names: Mild meagre, Silver kabeljou

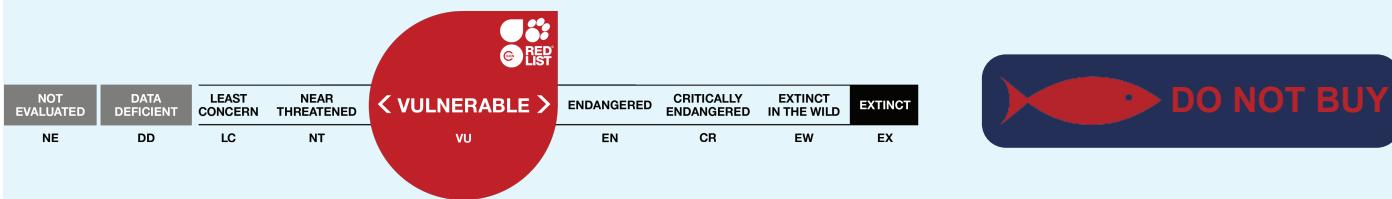
Description	An elongate fish with a slightly rounded tail fin. Silvery in colour with a bronzy sheen above and white below. Very similar in appearance to the dusky kob, but distinguished by the slightly narrower and longer caudal peduncle, slightly longer pectoral fins and the lack of the strong smell characteristic of dusky kob.
Distribution	Endemic to southern Africa from northern Namibia to southern Transkei. The Namibian stock has been shown to be genetically separate, with the cool-temperate Benguela region being a barrier for silver kob populations between the two regions.
Habitat	Adults are mostly found on moderate to low profile reefs in 20-120 m depths in the southeastern and southern Cape and from 2-120 m in the southwestern Cape. In Namibian waters they are restricted to a narrow band close to shore from the surf-zone to about 20 m. Juveniles are mainly found over sandy or muddy bottoms in shallow embayments (5-10 m depth), but move offshore with growth.
Feeding	Pelagic fish, shrimp and squid.
Movement	A mobile species, they are found inshore in depths of less than 60 m in summer dispersing further offshore in winter in response to oceanographic patterns. In Namibian waters, adults migrate to south to spawn.
Reproduction	They mature at 29-36 cm total length, equivalent to an age of 1.3-2.4 years, depending on locality. Spawning occurs throughout their distribution and throughout the year, but peaks from August to December. In Namibia, spawning occurs from October to March mainly in the vicinity of Sandwich and Meob Bays.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 145 cm total length and a weight of 36.3 kg. They have been aged up to a maximum of 25 years in South Africa and 28 years in Namibia.

Current status

An assessment in 2018 showed that silver kob in South African waters are severely depleted and continue to be overexploited. The current biomass has been estimated at 10.4% of the unfished biomass level. Similarly, stock assessments conducted on silver kob in Namibian waters during the late 1990s showed that the biomass had declined to 14-47% of the unfished level, depending on the method of assessment. They have been evaluated as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (2020). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red (for both line- and trawl-caught silver kob).



Capture

They form an important component of the commercial ski-boat fishery in the Eastern and Western Cape. Also a sought after species for many recreational ski-boat anglers, particularly in the southeastern Cape. Forms an important component of the bycatch of inshore trawlers along the southeastern Cape coast. The trawl catch is in the same order of magnitude as the linefish catch, but is not restricted by size limits. Caught by shore anglers mainly to the west of Cape Agulhas and also caught in the beach seine-net fishery in the Western Cape. In Namibia they are important in both the commercial and recreational linefishery.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 5 per person per day if caught from the shore west of Cape Agulhas or if caught anywhere from a boat offshore.
Minimum size limit: 50 cm total length if caught from a boat offshore or from the shore west of Cape Agulhas. However, only one kob greater than 110 cm total length may be caught per person per day regardless of area or sector.
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: Due to the similarity of the three kob species found in South African waters (i.e. dusky kob, silver kob and squaretail kob), complex regional differences in the regulations exist.
Marine protected areas (MPAs): Although silver kob is known to occur in several MPAs, a positive effect of MPAs on this species has yet to be shown. However, it is likely that the recently declared Agulhas Bank MPA will provide important protection for this species.

Reference

Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za