



## FACT SHEET

### SPECKLED SNAPPER

*Lutjanus rivulatus*

**Family:** Lutjanidae

**Other common names:** Blubberlip snapper, Gespikkelde snapper

#### Description

A deep-bodied, stocky fish with beautiful colouring. The overall colour is brownish with lighter vertical bars. The head is covered with wavy blue lines and the fins have yellow edges. The scales have a silvery-blue spot similar to guinea fowl feathers. Juveniles have a conspicuous white spot on each flank.

#### Distribution

Widespread in the tropical Indo-Pacific. In southern African waters common along the southern Mozambique and Maputaland coast but rare south of Richards Bay.

#### Habitat


Adults are found on coral and rocky reefs from the surf-zone out to depths of 100 m, often associated with caves and ledges. Juveniles are found in subtidal gullies and on shallow surf-zone reefs.

#### Feeding

They feed on a variety of prey including small reef fish, cuttlefish, crabs, crayfish, octopus, polychaete worms and other benthic invertebrates.

#### Movement

A highly resident species with a relatively small home range size of a few 100 m<sup>2</sup>. However, some individuals (approximately 5% of the population) undertake larger movements, sometimes in excess of 100 km.

Reproduction	They mature at a size of 45-50 cm total length. Spawning occurs during summer mainly in tropical areas.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 80 cm total length and a weight of 12.3 kg. They have not been aged but, based on growth rates determined from tag-recapture data, it is possible that they can reach an age in excess of 30 years.
Current status	<p>They have not been assessed in South African waters and little is known about their current status. However, outside no-take marine protected areas, populations are thought to have been fished down to very low levels due to their high residency and vulnerability to capture. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2015).</p> <p>South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.</p>
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Capture	Mainly caught by shore anglers along the Maputaland coast north of St Lucia. Will take a range of different baits and are known for their strong fighting abilities. A valuable food fish caught by artisanal fishers in Mozambique and elsewhere in tropical East Africa. Farmed in Taiwan and sold live on the Hong Kong fish market.
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> This resident species receives protection within the inshore no-take areas of the iSimangaliso MPA. As no bottom fishing is allowed from a vessel anywhere within this MPA, adults on deeper offshore reefs also receive protection.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. <a href="http://www.saambr.org.za">www.saambr.org.za</a>



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