

FACT SHEET

Strepie

Sarpa salpa

Family: Sparidae

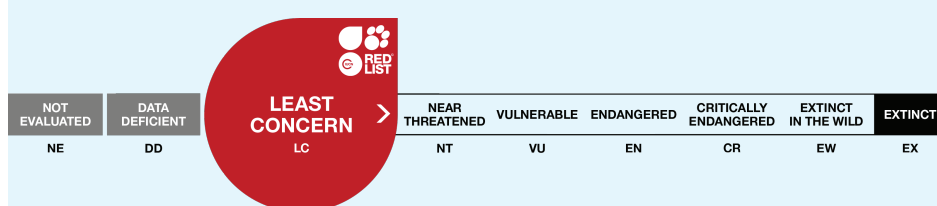
Other common names: Karanteen, Sasa, Salema

Description	A small, slightly elongate but plump fish. They have a silvery body with 8-10 bright yellow horizontal lines running from head to tail.
Distribution	Throughout the Mediterranean and parts of the eastern Atlantic down to southern Africa. The southern African distribution is from Saldanha Bay to Maputo in Mozambique.
Habitat	Adults are a shoaling species found in subtidal gullies and over shallow rocky reefs, largely confined to the surf-zone. Juveniles are found in tidal rockpools, along sandy beaches and in estuaries in the Eastern and Western Cape. Very small juveniles (about 30 mm fork length) have been recorded at the sea surface about 4 km offshore on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast during August, being driven south to juvenile nursery areas by strong northeasterly winds.
Feeding	Adults are herbivorous, feeding mainly on red algae but also occasionally on hydrozoans and small molluscs. Shoals of strepies can often be seen grazing on algae on subtidal rocks at low tide. Small juveniles feed mainly on planktonic organisms such as copepods but with growth they change to become herbivorous with an associated change in dentition.
Movement	Adults migrate from juvenile nursery areas in the Eastern and Western Cape to breed in warmer KwaZulu-Natal waters. They remain in the inshore zone in depths less than 15 m and there is little evidence of a return migration to the Cape, although some of the largest specimens have been caught in Cape waters.

Reproduction	Males mature at 14-15 cm and females at 16-17 fork length at an age of 1-2 years. They change sex from male to female but not all females are derived from functional males. Spawning occurs during winter and spring (April-September), over shallow subtidal reefs along the KwaZulu-Natal and Transkei coast.
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Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 30 cm total length and a weight of 0.7 kg. They have been aged up to a maximum of 6 years.
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Current status	This species was assessed as underexploited in the mid-1990s with the spawner biomass estimated to be at 60% of the pristine level. However, there has subsequently been a decline in catch rates recorded along the KwaZulu-Natal coast. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2014). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.
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Capture	Strepies are caught almost exclusively by recreational shore anglers and subsistence shore fishers throughout their distribution and are the second most important species by number (after elf/shad) caught along the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape coast. They are mainly caught using small hooks and tiny pieces of sardine for bait, and can provide young anglers with hours of fun. They are commonly used for both food and bait.
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Current recreational fishing regulations	Daily bag limit: 10 per person per day Minimum size limit: 15 cm total length Closed Season: None Other regulations: None Marine protected areas (MPAs): Strepies are found in abundance in MPAs between Durban and Cape Town but the level of protection in these MPAs is not known due to their migratory habit. Nevertheless, inshore no-take MPAs in southern KwaZulu-Natal and the Transkei are likely to be important for protecting spawning adults.
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Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za
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