



## FACT SHEET

### BAARDMAN

*Umbrina robinsoni*

**Family:** Sciaenidae (Previously incorrectly identified as *U. ronchus* and *U. canariensis* with the latter being a separate deepwater species)

**Other common names:** Belman, Tasselfish

#### Description

A sloping head profile and an underslung mouth. Has a short, thick chin barbel. Overall colour is grey-brown with numerous oblique silver wavy lines on the body which fade with age.

#### Distribution

Found in the Western Indian Ocean from Oman to South Africa. In southern African waters it is found along the entire eastern seaboard from northern Mozambique to Cape Point.

#### Habitat


Found in the surf-zone with mixed rocky and sandy bottoms and on subtidal reefs down to depths of 130 m; most commonly associated with high relief limestone or sandstone reefs. Often found in close association with rocky overhangs on a sandy bottom.

#### Feeding

They feed on a variety of invertebrates, including polychaete worms, crustaceans and molluscs.

#### Movement

Tagging data has shown very limited movement along the coast and underwater observations suggest that they may remain quite resident in and around "home" caves.

Reproduction	They mature between 37-48 cm total length at an age of 2-4 years, with males maturing earlier than females. Spawning occurs year round in KwaZulu-Natal, but mainly during the summer months in Cape waters. Eggs are pelagic and normally found close inshore.
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 87 cm total length and a weight of 12.6 kg and have been aged to a maximum of 21 years.
Current status	Baardman have been heavily overexploited and the stock is down to between 21-25% of their pristine level. They have not been evaluated on the IUCN Red List. South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.
<div><div><div>NOT EVALUATED NE</div></div><div><div>DATA DEFICIENT DD</div><div>LEAST CONCERN LC</div><div>NEAR THREATENED NT</div><div>VULNERABLE VU</div><div>ENDANGERED EN</div><div>CRITICALLY ENDANGERED CR</div><div>EXTINCT IN THE WILD EW</div><div>EXTINCT EX</div></div><div><div> DO NOT BUY</div></div></div>	
Capture	Important target species in the spearfishery throughout its range where it ranks as one of the top 10 species harvested. Relatively easy to spear as it often aggregates in caves. Also targeted in the shore angling fishery, especially in the Eastern and Western Cape using small natural baits such as polychaete worm or white mussel. Occasionally taken as a bycatch in beach seines along the northern shore of False Bay.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<b>Daily bag limit:</b> 5 per person per day <b>Minimum size limit:</b> 40 cm total length <b>Closed Season:</b> None <b>Other regulations:</b> No sale recreational species <b>Marine protected areas (MPAs):</b> All inshore no-take MPAs on the south-eastern seaboard of South Africa are likely to play an important role in the conservation of this highly resident and vulnerable species.
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. <a href="http://www.saambr.org.za">www.saambr.org.za</a>



INCORPORATING

OCEANOGRAPHIC  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE



Helping people to care for our ocean