



FACT SHEET

DAGERAAD

Chrysolephus cristiceps

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Daggerhead seabream

Description

Has a deep body with a pointed snout and a steeply sloping forehead, which is slightly concave below the eyes. Overall colour is pinkish-red with short blue lines above and below the eyes. A small black spot marks the end of the dorsal fin.

Distribution

Endemic, found along the south-eastern seaboard of South Africa from Richards Bay to Cape Point, but rare along the KwaZulu-Natal coast.

Habitat

Adults are found on offshore reefs between 20-100 m, while juveniles occupy shallow subtidal reefs 10-30 m.

Feeding

They are benthic carnivores feeding on a wide variety of reef-associated invertebrates such as crustaceans, molluscs and polychaete worms.

Movement

Tagging results suggest that they are fairly resident, although there may be some nomadic movement between reefs.

Reproduction

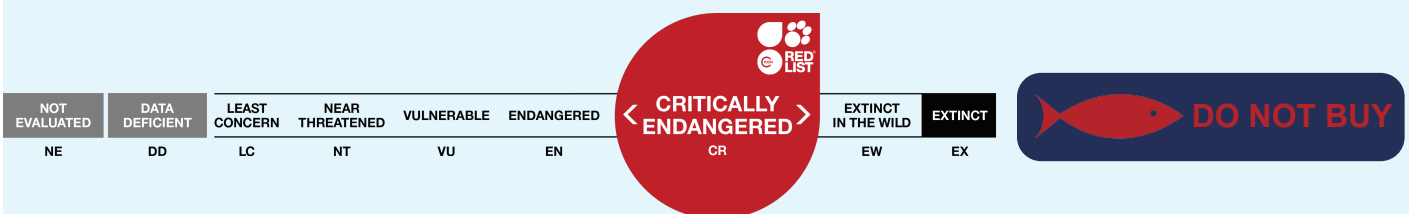
Females mature at 28-37 cm fork length and an age of 7-8 years. Females change sex to male at about 44 cm fork length and an age of about 11 years. Spawning occurs in summer (October to January) in Eastern Cape waters.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 70 cm total length and a weight of 8.7 kg. They have been aged up to a maximum of 22 years.

Current status

This species has been severely overexploited, and the stock is now considered to have collapsed with less than 5% of the pristine spawner biomass remaining. They have been evaluated as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List (2014).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.



Capture

Historically important to commercial and recreational ski-boat linefisheries in the Eastern and Western Cape but a severe decline in abundance and strict species-specific regulations has reduced their importance. Occasionally taken by spearfishers capable of diving on deeper reefs.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 1 per person per day
Minimum size limit: 40 cm total length
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: None
Marine protected areas (MPAs): The Tsitsikamma MPA has been shown to protect a higher abundance and a larger mean size of dageraad than adjacent exploited areas. Other large no-take MPAs in the Eastern and Western Cape such as Pondoland, Dwesa-Cwebe, Amathole, Addo and the Agulhas Banks should also assist in the protection of this critically endangered species.

Reference

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



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