



## FACT SHEET

### SLINGER

*Chrysolephus puniceus*

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Slinger seabream

#### Description

A deep-bodied fish with a steep forehead and a small mouth. Pink in colour with a blue stripe under the eye.

#### Distribution

Endemic, found from Ponta Zavora in Mozambique to Algoa Bay.

#### Habitat

Abundant on offshore rocky reefs from 20-130 m.

#### Feeding

An opportunist benthic carnivore feeding mainly on crustaceans and molluscs, but they also prey on echinoderms and small fish.

#### Movement

Generally, a very resident reef fish species. However, recent tag-recapture data has shown that adult fish are able to undertake substantial northward movements in excess of 500 km, probably for spawning purposes.

**Reproduction** Females mature at 24 cm fork length at an age of about 3 years. They change sex from female to male, normally at an age of 5 years or more. They have an extended spawning season with peak reproductive activity in spring (August-October) in KwaZulu-Natal. Spawning takes place over offshore reefs from southern Mozambique to northern KwaZulu-Natal, with little evidence for spawning south of Durban.

**Age and growth** They can reach a maximum size of 52 cm fork length and a weight of 4 Kg. They have been aged up to 11 years, but can probably grow older than this.

**Current status** Slinger is estimated to be optimally exploited and has recovered from being over-fished in the 1990s largely due to the cut in commercial fishing effort that was implemented between 2003-2006. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2014).  
 South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Green if caught in South African waters, Red if imported from Mozambique, where they continue to be overexploited.

Caught in South Africa

**BEST CHOICE**  
 Imported from Mozambique  
**DO NOT BUY**

**Capture** Slinger is the most important species caught in the commercial line-fishery off the KwaZulu-Natal and southern Mozambique coast. It is also important to the recreational ski-boat fishery in both areas. Occasionally shot by spear-fishermen.

**Current recreational fishing regulations**  
**Daily bag limit:** 5 per person per day  
**Minimum size limit:** 25 cm total length  
**Closed Season:** None  
**Other regulations:** None  
**Marine protected areas (MPAs):** The iSimangaliso and Pondoland MPAs have been shown to provide important protection for slinger. It is likely that other no-take areas within the Protea Bank, Aliwal Shoal and uThukela MPAs will also play an important role in this species.

**Reference** Information from the ORI Fish App. [www.saambr.org.za](http://www.saambr.org.za)