



FACT SHEET

SNAPPER KOB

Otolithes ruber

Family: Sciaenidae

Other common names: Tigertooth croaker, Longtooth kob

Description

A small, elongate kob which has a coppery colour above and silver to white below. They are easily distinguished by the prominent, fang-like canines, a pair of which occur at the front of both jaws.

Distribution

Indo-West Pacific from South Africa to Oman (absent in Red Sea), India, Indonesia, southern China and northeast Australia. In southern African waters known to occur south to Algoa Bay.

Habitat

Mainly found offshore on soft bottoms in turbid water. Very common on the Thukela Banks and occasionally found in large turbid estuaries.

Feeding

Mainly crustaceans and small fish.

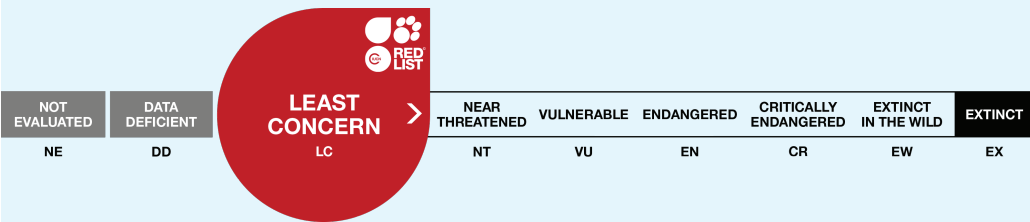
Movement

Little known.

Reproduction Females mature at 24 cm total length and an age of 1.7 years. Spawning occurs in spring and summer (August to January) in places such as the Thukela Banks in KwaZulu-Natal and the Sofala Banks in Mozambique.

Age and growth They can reach a maximum size of 50 cm total length and a weight of 1.6 kg. They have been aged to a maximum of 8 years.

Current status Snapper kob were assessed to be overexploited on the Thukela Banks during the early 1990s, where they were caught as bycatch in the prawn trawl fishery. However, as this fishery is no longer operational in this area, it is likely that the stock has subsequently recovered. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2020).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.



Capture Historically very common in shallow water prawn trawl catches on the Thukela Bank but this fishery is no longer operational. They were also fairly commonly caught by recreational paddleski anglers off Durban but their abundance appears to have declined since the damming of the Umgeni River.

Current recreational fishing regulations
Daily bag limit: 10 per person per day
Minimum size limit: None
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: None
Marine protected areas (MPAs): The recent declaration of the uThukela MPA should provide good protection for this species.

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



INCORPORATING

