



FACT SHEET



CAPE STUMPNOSE

Rhabdosargus holubi

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Silver bream, Kaapse stompneus

Description	A deep-bodied, oval-shaped fish with a rounded dorsal profile. The body is bright silver in colour with a distinctive yellow line along the middle of each side.
Distribution	Endemic, found from Maputo Bay in southern Mozambique to St Helena Bay on the West Coast.
Habitat	An inshore species found in sandy areas and over shallow reefs to depths of 50 m. Juveniles are dependent on estuaries as nursery areas, where they remain until just prior to reaching sexual maturity. Often found in close association with seagrass beds.
Feeding	Adults feed on echinoderms, crustaceans, molluscs, bryozoans and polychaete worms. Juveniles graze on algae and seagrass, such as eelgrass but digest only epiphytic diatoms and encrusting organisms.
Movement	After living in estuaries for between 1-2 years, sub-adults migrate out of estuaries into the marine environment and do not return. Not much is known about the movement of adults in the marine environment.

Reproduction	They mature at about 18 cm fork length at an age of about 2 years. Spawning occurs in the nearshore marine environment, probably in close proximity to estuary mouths. Spawning takes place throughout their distribution but occurs earlier in KwaZulu-Natal (May to October) than further south in the Eastern and Southern Cape (July-February).
Age and growth	They can reach a maximum size of 45 cm total length and a weight of 2.4 kg. They have been aged up to a maximum of 18 years.
Current status	<p>Their status has not been assessed. However, they are an abundant species and due to their adaptive life history (extended spawning duration and short residency time in estuaries) are believed to be quite resilient to overfishing. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2014).</p> <p>South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Red.</p>
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Capture	Primarily caught by recreational and subsistence shore and estuarine fishers using light tackle. They are very important in several Eastern Cape estuaries, where they are often one of the first species caught by young anglers.
Current recreational fishing regulations	<p>Daily bag limit: 5 per person per day</p> <p>Minimum size limit: 20 cm total length</p> <p>Closed Season: None</p> <p>Other regulations: No sale recreational species</p> <p>Marine protected areas (MPAs): Adults have been recorded in most MPAs along the eastern seaboard of South Africa and will receive protection in inshore no-take areas. There are a limited number of estuarine protected areas which protect juveniles of this species.</p>
Reference	Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



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