



FACT SHEET

Bridle Triggerfish

Sufflamen fraenatum

Family: Balistidae

Other common names: Masked triggerfish, Toom-snellervis

Description

Body covered with tough interlocking plate-like scales and the first dorsal fin spine is large and strong and can be locked erect by the second spine. Overall colour is changeable from olive green to brown and yellowish below. A pinkish-yellow ring encircles the snout and a distinctive white line runs back from the corner of the mouth to the base of the pectoral fin forming the characteristic “bridle” pattern. Juveniles are white with a dark brown back and wavy, horizontal lines on the sides.

Distribution

Indo-Pacific, East Africa to Hawaii. In southern African waters they are found as far south as Port St Johns.

Habitat

Offshore coral and rocky reefs from 8-150 m. Favours sandy and broken reef areas. One of the more common triggerfish species in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape and seems to be more tolerant of cooler water.

Feeding

They feed on a wide range of reef invertebrates including echinoderms, ascideans, molluscs, crustaceans and polychaete worms, which are chiselled off the reef using their strong teeth.

Movement

A territorial, resident species, especially during the breeding season.

Reproduction

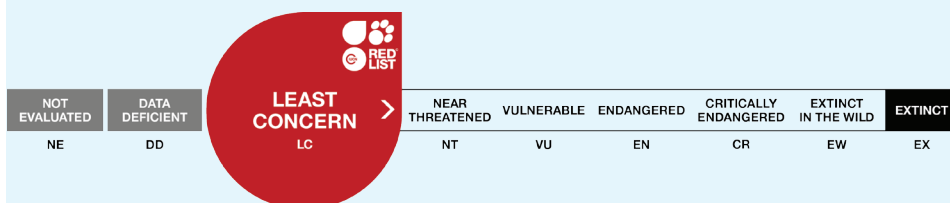
Females build nests on the seabed and are solely responsible for defending the eggs. Males may spawn with multiple females.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 40 cm total length. They have not been aged.

Current status

Not assessed in South Africa. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2010).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:
Not assessed.



Not Assessed

Capture

Readily takes most types of bait and is quite often caught by ski-boat anglers bottom-fishing on reefs. Sometimes referred to as “boots”, these fish are seldom kept, and most are discarded.

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): This species is likely to benefit from protection within offshore no-take areas with suitable reef habitat throughout their distribution.

Reference

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



INCORPORATING

