



FACT SHEET

Evileye Puffer

Amblyrhynchotes honckenii

Family: Tetraodontidae

Other common names: Toby, Evileye blaasop, Boosoog blaasop

Description

Distinguished by its blunt chin. Teeth are fused into sharp tooth plates. Upper body is pale to dark brown, marked with various-sized pale to greenish-white spots. Underside is white. A horizontal yellow band may be present on the sides. Eyes are noticeably green with an orange iris. They can inflate themselves into a large round ball if threatened or disturbed.

Distribution

Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa to China. In southern African waters found south to False Bay.

Habitat

Found from the shore to depths of 400 m and occupies a range of different habitats including sandy and rocky bottoms, seagrass beds and estuaries.

Feeding

They feed on isopods, crabs, bivalve molluscs and small fish.

Movement

Little known, juveniles often found under flotsam and are widely dispersed by currents.

Reproduction Little known, they mature at about 11 cm total length.

Age and growth They can reach a maximum size of about 25cm total length. They have not been aged.

Current status Unknown. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2014).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.

Not Assessed

Capture Often caught by shore anglers using small hooks and regarded as a nuisance. The common practice of killing landed puffers should be discouraged. The skin is highly toxic, and hands should be washed after handling this fish.

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): It is likely that this species receives protection within no-take MPAs throughout its distribution.

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



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