



FACT SHEET

Fransmadam

Boopsoidea inornata

Family: Sparidae

Other common names: Karel grootoog

Description

A small fish with a deep body and large eyes. Body colour is silvery with a bronze sheen. There is a distinctive dark bar along the edge of the gill cover.

Distribution

Endemic, found from Cape Point to southern KwaZulu-Natal.

Habitat

A loose, shoaling fish found in large numbers on high and low relief reefs in 5-30 m depth.

Feeding

Diet includes benthic crustaceans, sea squirts, algae, polychaete worms, bryozoans and molluscs. They also feed on planktonic crustaceans in the water column.

Movement

Little known but probably resident.

Reproduction

Females reach maturity at 17.8 cm and males at 18.5 cm fork length, equivalent to an age of 1.6 and 3.3 years respectively. Spawning probably occurs throughout their distribution and peaks during spring and summer.

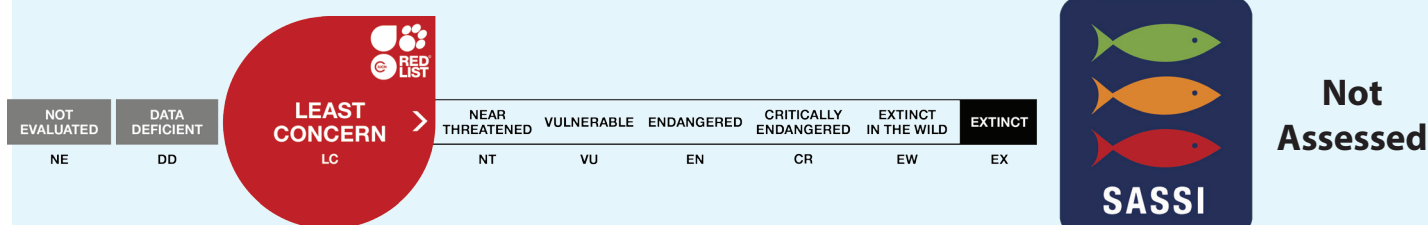
Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 31 cm fork length and a weight of 0.62 kg. They have been aged to a maximum of 37 years which is quite remarkable for such a small fish.

Current status

Their stock status has not been assessed. Although they are very slow growing, this is an extremely abundant species that is currently not heavily exploited. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2014).

South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:
Not assessed.



Capture

Although small, Fransmadam comprise a common component of recreational and commercial ski-boat catches in the Eastern and Western Cape. Primarily used as bait but increasingly being used for food as other larger reef fish species become depleted.

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): Abundant in a number of MPAs in the Eastern and Western Cape. Interestingly, they were less abundant inside the Goukamma MPA compared to adjacent exploited areas due to high intra-specific competition within the MPA.

Reference

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



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