



FACT SHEET

Gorgeous Swallowtail

Meganthias natalensis

Family: Serranidae

Other common names: Pronk-swaelstert

Description

A strikingly beautiful fish characterised by its oval shape, upward facing mouth and extended upper and lower tail fin lobes. Body colour is pink to purple with bright yellow fins.

Distribution

Western Indian Ocean, from Kenya to South Africa, including Madagascar. In southern African waters found as far south as East London.

Habitat

Found in deeper shelf waters, normally in the water column above rocky reefs at depths of 70 to at least 150 m.

Feeding

Little known, but judging from the well developed gill-rakers, probably mainly feeds on zooplankton.

Movement

Unknown.

Reproduction Unknown.

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 (2018).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.

NOT EVALUATED (NE) DATA DEFICIENT (DD) **LEAST CONCERN (LC)** NEAR THREATENED (NT) VULNERABLE (VU) ENDANGERED (EN) CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR) EXTINCT IN THE WILD (EW) EXTINCT (EX)

SASSI Not Assessed

Capture A rare catch but sometimes caught by ski-boat anglers fishing on deep reefs with small hooks. This attractive fish almost always stimulates interest from anglers.

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

