



FACT SHEET

Natal Fingerfin

Chirodactylus jessicalenorum

Family: Cheilodactylidae

Other common names: Natal banky, Natalse vingervin

Description

A moderately elongate fish with an overall pink colour. Has thick fleshy lips and the lower 6-7 pectoral fin rays are extended.

Distribution

Endemic, from Algoa Bay north to Sodwana Bay. Recently found off the southeast coast of Madagascar.

Habitat

Shallow coastal waters from 10-60 m preferring rocky reefs. Small juveniles are often found sheltering under flotsam at sea. Pelagic eggs recorded in 20-30 m off the KwaZulu-Natal south coast.

Feeding

Small bottom dwelling invertebrates, squid and small fish.

Movement

Little known, but adults congregate at certain times of year in loosely packed shoals, presumably as a prelude to spawning.

Reproduction Little known, eggs most commonly found off the KwaZulu-Natal south coast in winter.

Age and growth They can reach a maximum length of 75 cm total length and a weight of 10.2 kg. This species has not been aged.

Current status Little known about the status of this species. Has been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2009).
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 Seldom takes bait and mainly shot by spearfishers. Accounts for approximately 5% of the spearfishing catch in KwaZulu-Natal. Juveniles are caught as bycatch in tuna drift nets.

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): Likely to receive protection in the no-take MPAs in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

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

