

FACT SHEET

Rainbow Runner

Elagatis bipinnulata

Family: Carangidae

Other common names: Reenboog-pylvis

Description

A striking fish with a streamlined body, a pointed head and a large forked tail. Recognised by the two distinctive bright blue lines underlaid by a yellow band running along the length of the body. Overall colour is dark olive-green on the sides and silvery white below. The tail fin is often yellowish.

Distribution

Circumglobal in tropical and sub-tropical waters. In southern African waters they are found as far south as Durban.

Habitat

Usually found near the surface in the open ocean, sometimes over deep coral and rocky reefs to depths of 150 m. Juveniles often found under flotsam and sometimes associated with pilotfish and large sharks. Adults usually solitary or in small shoals but sometimes form large aggregations.

Feeding

Diet consists primarily of planktonic crustaceans, small pelagic fish and squid.

Movement

A highly mobile, nomadic species, penetrating higher latitudes during summer.

Reproduction

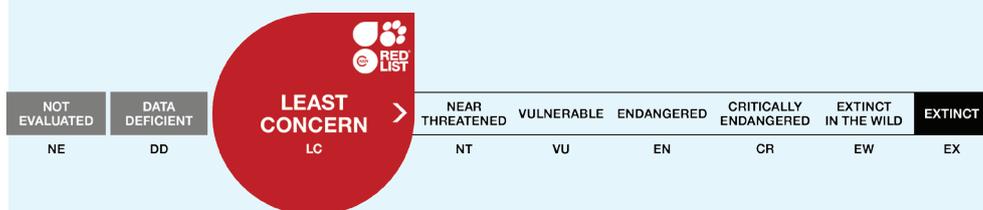
They reach maturity at about 65 cm fork length. Spawning occurs throughout the year in tropical waters. During spawning they are known to aggregate in shoals of up to 300 fish.

Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 107 cm fork length and a weight of 17 kg, although larger specimens have been recorded. They have been aged up to a maximum of 6 years.

Current status

Not assessed in South Africa. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2015).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:
Not assessed.



Not Assessed

Capture

A popular angling fish that takes a variety of small lures and baits but is difficult to land because of their soft mouths. One of the preferred prey of marlin and other billfish and hence are prized as bait by big game fishermen. Elsewhere they are often caught under fish attraction devices (FADs) or bycatch in tuna purse-seines.

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 unlikely that this species receives protection within MPAs due to their wide ranging behaviour.

Reference

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



INCORPORATING

