



## FACT SHEET

### Spot Damselfish

*Abudefduf sordidus*

**Family:** Pomacentridae

**Other common names:** Blackspot sergeant, Kol-nooientjie

#### Description

A small, deep-bodied fish. Grey-brown in colour with 5 pale vertical bars and a distinct black spot on the caudal peduncle. Several small black spots occur just above and behind the eye. Juveniles are greyer in colour and have a black saddle underneath the first dorsal fin.

#### Distribution

Indo-Pacific, found from East Africa to Hawaii. In southern African waters found as far south as Mossel Bay.

#### Habitat

Found in the rocky surf-zone in depths of 1-5 m. Juveniles utilise intertidal rock pools as nurseries. A very vocal species and known to emit a series of different sounds underwater.

#### Feeding

They mainly feed on algae but will also take plankton and small benthic crustaceans. Are thought to actively “farm” patches of algae within their territories by “weeding” out undesirable species of algae.

#### Movement

Resident and highly territorial during the breeding season. Small juveniles are often found under flotsam and are widely dispersed by ocean currents.

## Reproduction

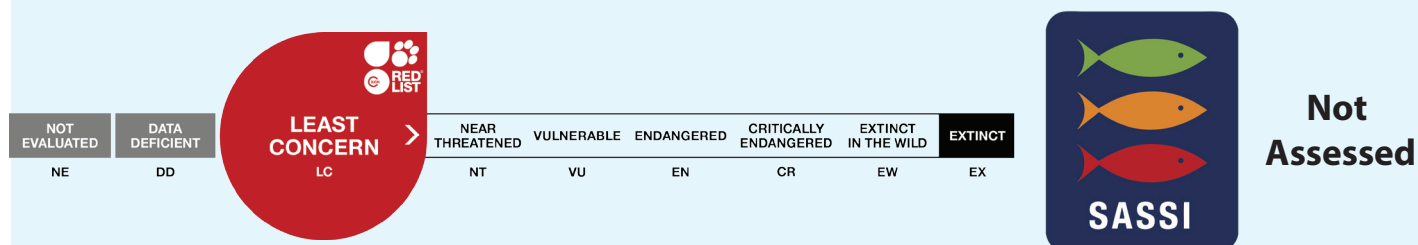
They form distinct pair bonds during the breeding season and the female lays sticky eggs in a nest. The male actively guards the nest and aerates the eggs until they hatch.

## Age and growth

They can reach a maximum size of 23 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 (2017).  
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:  
Not assessed.



## Capture

Occasionally caught by shore anglers using ultra-light tackle.

## 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 inshore no-take areas throughout their distribution.

## Reference

Information from the ORI Fish App. [www.saambr.org.za](http://www.saambr.org.za)



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