



FACT SHEET

Whitebarred Rubberlip

Plectorhinchus playfairi

Family: Haemulidae

Other common names: Witbalk-rubberlip

Description

Recognised by its thick, fleshy lips and 4 distinct white vertical bars on a dark grey to bronzy upper body and a pale underside. Fins are slate grey to black in colour.

Distribution

Western Indian Ocean from Red Sea and southern Oman down to South Africa and Madagascar. In South African waters recorded as far south as Port St Johns.

Habitat

Found on rocky and coral reefs from the intertidal zone down to 80 m.

Feeding

Small invertebrates such as shrimps, marine worms, small crabs and occasionally juvenile fish.



Movement

A resident species based on limited tag-recapture data.

Reproduction Unknown.

Age and growth They can reach a maximum size of 90 cm total length and a weight of 6.8 kg. This species has not been aged.

Current status Not assessed and little is known about their current status. They have been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2018). South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List: Not assessed.

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Capture Occasionally taken by shore anglers and spearfishers. Of limited commercial importance in South Africa.

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):** Resident behaviour recorded in the surf-zone within the iSimangaliso MPA in northern KwaZulu-Natal suggests that this and other no-take MPAs in the region with suitable reef habitat can provide spatial protection for this species.

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

