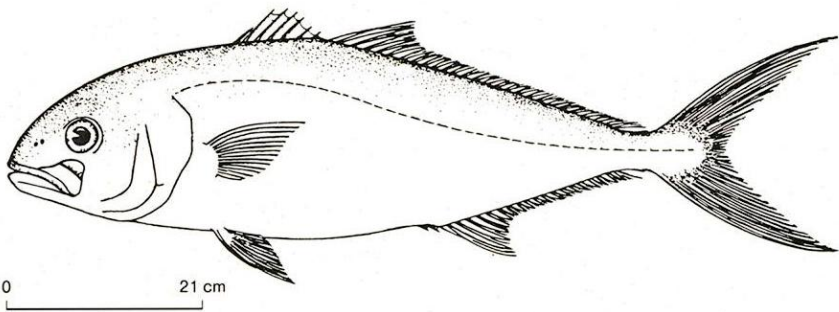


Greater amberjack

Seriola dumerili
Medregal coronado



Description

Range: The greater amberjack, a bony fish and the largest member of the family Carangidae, is found in the tropical waters of the western Atlantic, and in the Gulf of Mexico to depths of 400 meters.

Habitat: Adult greater amberjacks are pelagic and epibenthic, possibly more oceanic than other amberjack species. They are found around reefs, wrecks, and buoys. Juveniles are also pelagic and often attracted to floating plants and debris.

Feeding and Behavior: An opportunistic predator, the greater amberjack is known to feed on fish, crustaceans, and cephalopods found throughout the water column. It may attack trolled artificial bait and bottom-fished dead bait. This species also exhibits schooling behavior.

Reproduction: Spawning occurs year-round in oceanic waters. Nursery areas are also offshore.

Movement: Tagging programs for greater amberjack show little evidence of mass migration. Most amberjacks are recaptured in the general area of their release. The longest distance recorded for a tagged amberjack is 2,500 kilometers - a journey from Jacksonville, Florida to Colombia, South America.

Fisheries: The greater amberjack is considered an under-utilized resource in the Gulf. Most of the catch is now taken off the east coast of Florida and the Florida Keys. Recreational fishing for this species is reported throughout the range.

References: Berry, F.H., and R.K. Burch, 1979; Fisher, W., ed., 1978; International Game Fish Association, 1979; US DOI, FWS, Office of Biological Services, 1978.

- Adult Area (Year-round)
- Commercial Fishing Ground (Year-round)

Year-round spawning occurs throughout adult area. Year-round nursery area is throughout the adult area.

References

Berry, F.H., pers. comm.; Berry, F.H., and R.K. Burch, 1979; Mather, F.J. III, pers. comm.