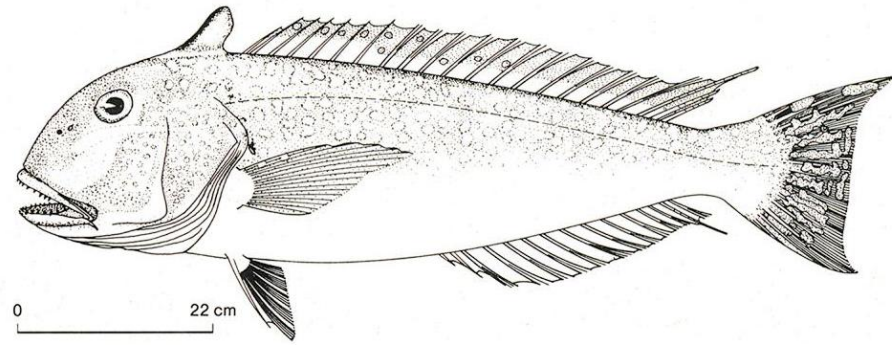


Tilefish

Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps
Blanquillo camello



Description

Range: The tilefish, a bony fish of the family Malacanthidae, is found off the western Atlantic coast from the Nova Scotian shelf to Surinam and throughout the deeper waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Habitat: A demersal species, the tilefish is found at depths from 80 to 540 meters, but is most common between depths of 250 and 350 meters. This fish prefers rough bottoms and steep slopes.

Feeding and Behavior: The tilefish feeds during the day on crustaceans, molluscs, other invertebrates and small fish found at, or within 3 meters of the ocean bottom.

Reproduction: The spawning season for the tilefish is March to September. Spawning grounds and nursery areas are throughout this species' range.

Movement: Tilefish do not undertake extensive migrations; however, movements over a few miles may occur.

Fisheries: A commercial fishery for tilefish has yet to develop, although it is considered a good quality food fish. Recreational fishing for tilefish is limited due to the great depths at which this fish lives.

References: Dooley, U.K., 1978; Freeman, B.L., and S.C. Turner, 1977; Nelson, W.R., and J.S. Carpenter, 1968.

Adult Area (Year-round)

Spawning occurs throughout adult area from March to September. Adult area is also year-round nursery area.

References

Berry, F.H., pers. comm.; Gutherz, E.J., pers. comm.; Hildebrand, H.H., pers. comm.

Strategic Assessment Branch
Ocean Assessments Division
Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment
National Ocean Service/NOAA
and the
Southeast Fisheries Center
National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA