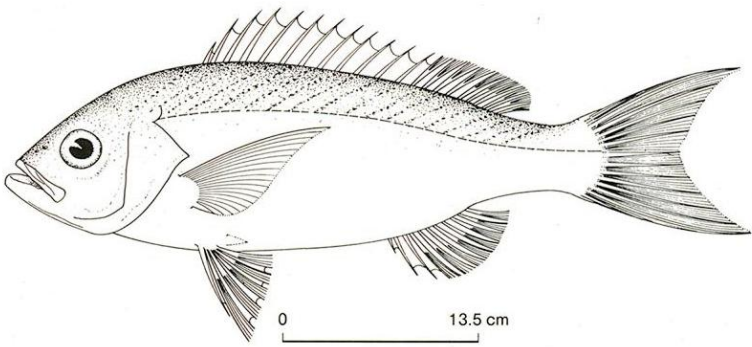


Vermilion snapper

Ocyurus chrysurus
Rabirrubia



Description

Range: The vermillion snapper, a bony fish of the family Lutjanidae, is found along the western Atlantic, from North Carolina to Brazil, and throughout the shelf areas of the Gulf of Mexico.

Habitat: This demersal fish is found in moderately deep waters, from depths of 20 to 200 meters, over rocky substrates and reefs. Juveniles occur in shallower waters.

Feeding and Behavior: The vermillion snapper preys day and night on a variety of reef organisms, mostly crustaceans, molluscs, other invertebrates and fishes found 3 to 5 meters off the bottom. Adults, and particularly juveniles, are known to form large schools.

Reproduction: Spawning occurs from April to September in offshore waters. Juveniles gather in nursery areas such as reefs, underwater structures, and hard bottom habitats 20 to 200 meters deep.

Movement: Very little movement of the vermillion snapper has been shown from the limited tagging studies that have been undertaken.

Fisheries: A component of the commercial snapper fishery extending over the northern, eastern, and southern waters of the Gulf, catches of vermillion snapper are marketed fresh and frozen. The flesh is of good quality. The vermillion is also a component of the snapper sport fishery in the northern Gulf and off Florida's northeastern coast.

References: Fable, W.A., Jr., 1980; Grimes, C.B., 1979; Grimes, C.B., and G.R. Huntsman, 1980; Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 1980b; Roe, R.B., 1976.

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

Spawning, from April to September, occurs throughout adult area.

References

Rivas, L.R., 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