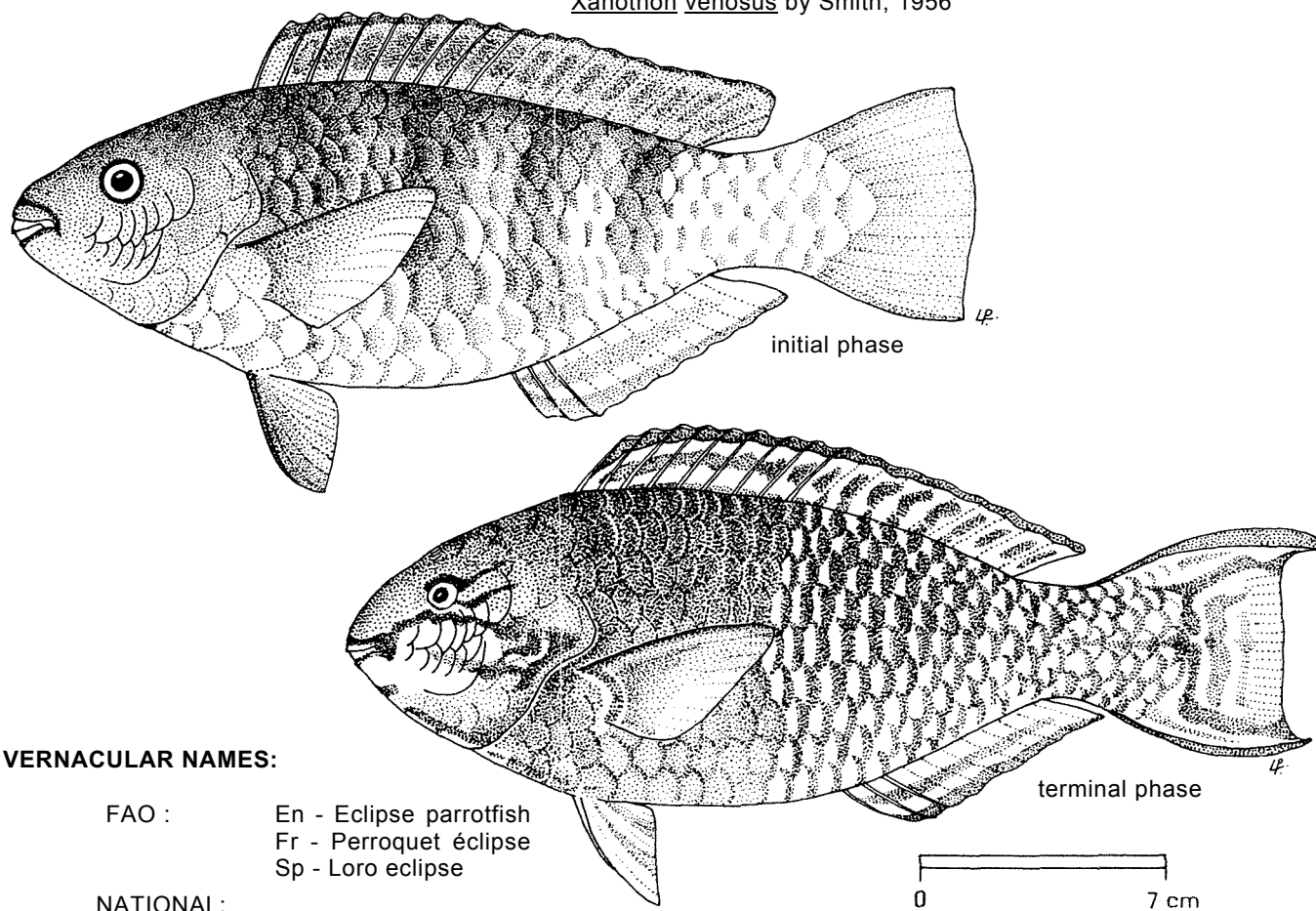


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Scarus russelii Valenciennes, 1840

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : Scarus venosus by Schultz, 1958, 1969 (in part)
Xanothon fowleri Smith, 1956
Xanothon pentazona Smith, 1956
Xanothon venosus by Smith, 1956



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Eclipse parrotfish
Fr - Perroquet éclipse
Sp - Loro eclipse

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.5 to 2.9 times in standard length. Mouth slightly inferior; teeth fused in upper and lower jaws to form dental plates; dental plates smooth, the individual teeth only visible at margins of plates; upper jaw enclosing lower jaw, lips almost covering dental plates with mouth closed; 0 to 2 canines on posterior side of upper and lower dental plates; 4 median predorsal scales; 2 rows of scales on cheek, with 6 (occasionally 7) scales in dorsal row and 6 (occasionally 5 or 7) scales in ventral row. Pectoral fin with 12 (occasionally 11 or 13) branched rays; caudal fin double emarginate with produced lobes in terminal phase fish.

Colour: 2 adult colour phases; **initial phase** - reddish to purplish brown with an orange-red bar on each scale; 5 dark bars often present on body; 3 longitudinal dark bands often present on abdomen; lips dull red-orange, edged with dull blue-green; transverse dull blue-green band crossing front of snout, joining band from lower lip at rictus and continuing faintly to orbit; a broad transverse dull blue-green band on chin and a longitudinal one ventrally on head and thorax; 3 short faint blue-green bands posterior to orbit; dorsal and anal fins dull orange

with a bluish grey margin and a median row of dull greenish spots; caudal fin dark reddish, the upper and lower edges bluish grey, with an elongate bar of dull green in centre of fin; pectoral fins with brownish rays, becoming paler distally, the membranes pale, the leading edge bluish grey; an indistinct dark brown spot at upper base of pectoral fin; pelvic fins orangish brown, the medial membranes pale to dusky, the leading edge bluish grey; dental plates whitish in both colour phases; **terminal phase** - body blue-green, the scales rimmed with salmon-pink; lower cheek with an area of dull yellow; ventral part of head pale yellowish; upper lip bright blue-green and salmon; lower lip edged in bright blue-green, joining upper lip band and continuing as a band beneath and adjacent to orbit onto opercle; deep blue-green band rimming upper orbit; large irregular blue-green patch on opercle; a short transverse blue-green band on chin and a longitudinal one ventrally on head; median fins with same pattern as initial phase but colours much intensified, bluish greys becoming bright blue, and dull red to bright orange; pectoral fin rays orange to red distally, green basally, the membranes pale, the leading edge blue-green, the upper base with a deep violet spot; pelvic fins salmon, the lateral edge turquoise, the medial rays streaked with blue. In life colour patterns of individuals can rapidly change. The bars of the initial phase may vary from faint to distinct and the terminal phase may be very dark anteriorly and pale posteriorly.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Scarus species also having 4 median predorsal scales, 2 rows of cheek scales, 12 branched pectoral fin rays and lips almost covering dental plates include: S. collana, S. fuscopurpureus and S. psittacus; all differ in coloration from S. russellii.

Remaining Scarus species: either dental plates broadly exposed or 3 rows of cheek scales; all differ in coloration.

Other genera of Scaridae: narrow dental plates, cheek scales small, in a subtriangular patch (Hipposcarus); dental plates rough to touch (Solbometopon, Cetoscarus); one row of cheek scales (Calotomus, Leptoscarus).

SIZE:

Maximum: about 30 cm standard length; 1.1 kg; terminal phases usually larger than 24 cm standard length.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, known from the East African coast to 21°S eastward to Madagascar, the Seychelles, Mauritius, south coast of India and Sri Lanka. Not recorded from the Red Sea and the "Gulf"; probably replaced in the Red Sea by S. fuscopurpureus.

A shallow water species. In life both colour phases are given to dramatic spontaneous colour changes.

Grazes on sand patches.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

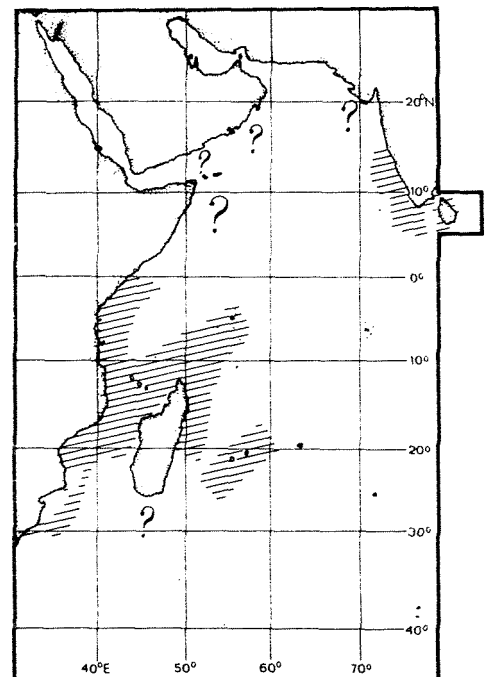
Probably caught throughout most of its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with traps.

Often seen in markets.

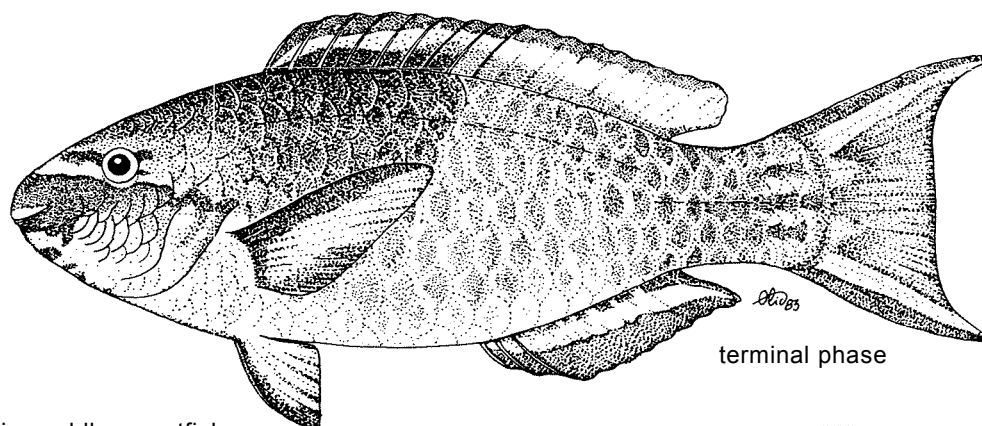
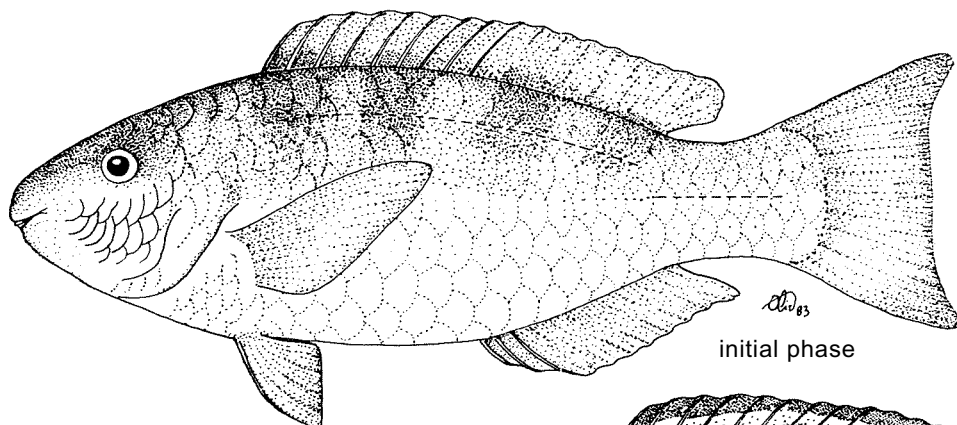


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Scarus scaber Valenciennes, 1840

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Callyodon cyanognathos by Smith, 1959Callyodon scaber by Smith, 1956

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Fivesaddle parrotfish
Fr - Perroquet à cinq selles
Sp - Loro de cinco monturas



NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.4 to 3.0 times in standard length. Teeth fused in upper and lower jaws to form dental plates; plates smooth, the individual teeth only, visible at free margins of plates; upper jaw enclosing lower jaw with the mouth closed; lips covering about 3/4 to all of dental plates; no canines on upper and lower dental plates; 4 to 7 (usually 6) median predorsal scales; 3 rows of scales on cheek, with 6 to 8 usually 7 scales in dorsal row, 5 to 9 usually 7 or 8 scales in middle row, and 1 to 4 (usually 2 or 3) scales in ventral row. Pectoral fin with 12 (occasionally 11) branched rays; caudal fin lunate in initial phase, the lobes becoming produced in terminal phase fish.

Colour: 2 adult colour phases; initial phase - upper 2/5 of body with 4 alternating slightly diagonal bars of dark grey and yellow, lower 3/4 and ventral part of head whitish with a pink cast or light yellowish, the edges of the scales dusky (except ventrally); head above level of lower edge of orbit dark grey, suffused with yellow; median and pelvic fins pale salmon-pink, pectoral fins pale yellowish; sometimes a dark stripe from side of snout through eye to upper end of opercle and a broad zone of yellow on cheek below dark stripe; dental plates whitish; terminal phase - anterior dorsal quarter of body and head purplish grey; rest of body green, the scales edges

salmon-pink; upper lip edged in salmon-pink; a broad irregular blue-green band from front of snout and lower lip across cheek to edge of opercle at level of upper pectoral fin base; a narrow blue-green band extending anteriorly from upper edge of eye to just posterior of eye; a small blue-green spot posterior to centre of eye; chin salmon with a transverse band of blue-green; a longitudinal row of faint blue-green spots ventrally on each side of head; dorsal fin light orange with a broad blue border; anal fin blue with a longitudinal band of light orange near base; caudal fin blue with a band of orange in each lobe; pectoral fin with a broad blue leading edge, middle zone of purple and lower part with blue rays and pale membranes; pelvic fins salmon-pink with a broad blue leading edge; dental plates greenish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Scarus tricolor is the only species of Scarus species in the area with 3 rows of cheek scales, 6 median predorsal scales and 12 branched pectoral fin rays. It differs from S. scaber in coloration, the initial phase being dark (almost black) with no bars, the terminal phase green and pink, with no darker anterior quarter to body; also, S. tricolor has 4 or 5 scales in the ventral row on cheek (usually 2 or 3 in S. scaber) and canines are present on upper dental plates.

Other Scarus species: either 2 rows of cheek scales, or, if 3 rows, 13 or more branched pectoral fin rays and more or less than 6 median predorsal scales. All are distinct in coloration.

Other genera of Scaridae: narrow dental plates, cheek scales small, in a subtriangular patch (Hipposcarus); dental plates rough to touch (Bolbometopon, Cetoscarus); one row of cheek scales (Calotomus, Leptoscarus).

SIZE:

Maximum: about 36 cm total length, 28 cm standard length; 0.9 kg; terminal phases usually longer than 16 cm standard length.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

East African coast from Natal northward; not as yet recorded from the Red Sea, but present in the Gulf of Aden; eastward to the Seychelles, Mauritius, Chagos Archipelago, and the Maldive and Laccadive Islands. Closely related to S. oviceps and S. dimidiatus from the Pacific.

A common shallow water species. associated with coral reefs.

Feeds on benthic algae.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

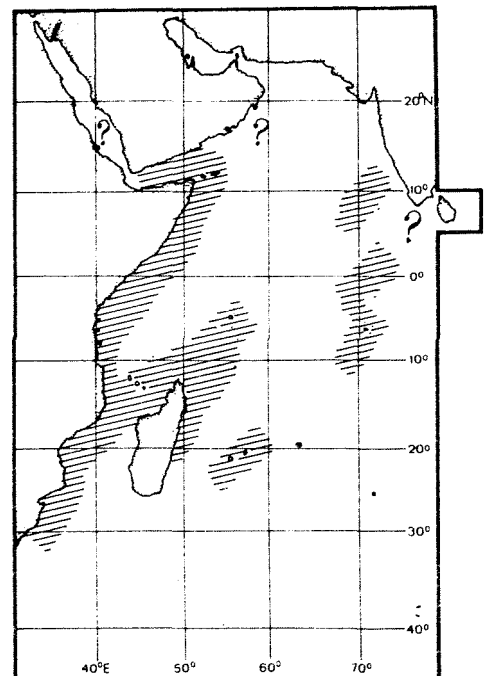
Probably caught throughout most of its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with traps, nets and other kinds of artisanal gear.

Marketed mostly fresh.

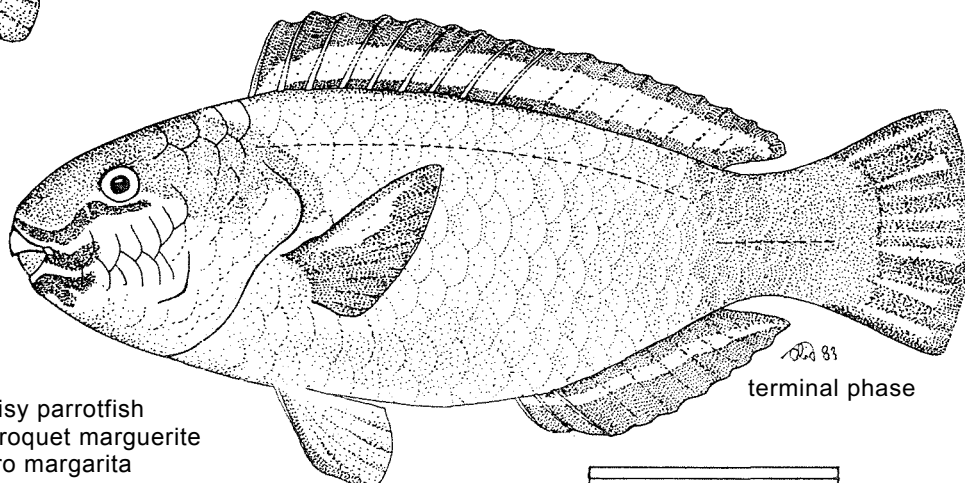
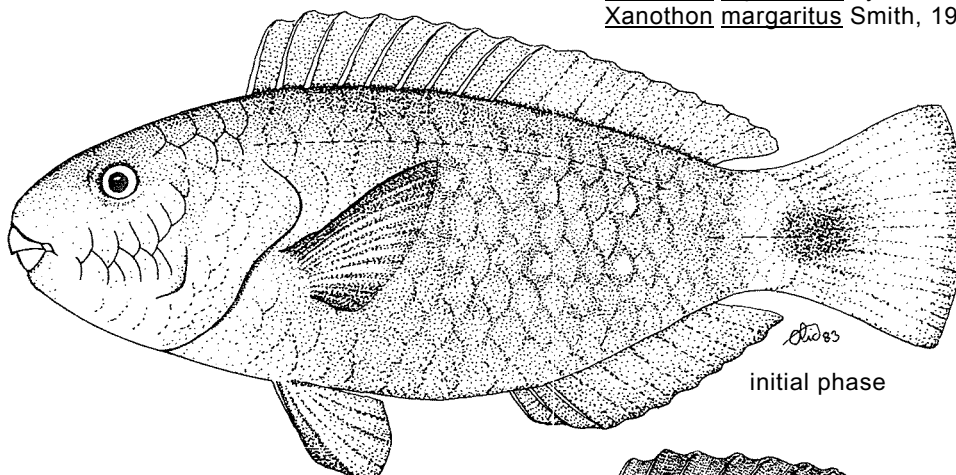


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SCARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Scarus sordidus Forsskål, 1775

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Xanothon bipallidus Smith, 1956Xanothon erythrodon by Smith, 1956Xanothon margaritus Smith, 1956

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Daisy parrotfish
Fr - Perroquet marguerite
Sp - Loro margarita

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.3 to 3.0 times in standard length. Head bluntly rounded anteriorly; teeth fused to form dental plates in upper and lower jaws; dental plates smooth, the individual teeth only visible at free margins; upper jaw enclosing lower jaw, lips covering less than half of dental plates; 0 to 2 canines posteriorly on upper plates; 4 (occasionally 3) median predorsal scales; 2 rows of scales on cheek, with 6 to 8 scales in dorsal row and 5 to 8 (usually 6 or 7) scales in ventral row. Pectoral fin with 13 (occasionally 11, 12 or 14) branched rays; caudal fin rounded at all sizes.

Colour: 2 adult colour phases; **initial phase** - body dark brown, the scales sometimes edged in dull yellow, often with 2 longitudinal rows of 5 or 6 whitish spots, smaller than eye, on side of body; a broad whitish bar containing a large circular blackish spot may be present on caudal peduncle and base of caudal fin; head grey brown shading to light red ventrally and broadly on lips; median and pelvic fins dark brown to reddish brown; pectoral fins with pale membranes and dark brown rays; dental plates reddish; **terminal phase** - body green, the edges of the scales salmon-pink except caudal peduncle and scaled basal part of caudal fin which are solid light

green; thorax and abdomen pale salmon with indistinct green stripes; anterodorsal part of body may be suffused with yellow or orange; dorsal part of head green, usually with a very broad pink to lavender band on snout which narrows at orbit; cheek green (orange to yellow in Red Sea specimens) this colour continuing into axil of pectoral fins; green bands radiating from orbit; edge of upper lip salmon-pink, above this, a green band which usually joins a broad blue-green band from posterior part of lower lip and passes between and beyond orbit; chin pink with broad irregular transverse blue-green bands; dorsal fin with a broad blue border, a broad middle zone of salmon-pink, and a basal band of green; anal fin similar; upper and lower edges of caudal fin blue with a submarginal band of salmon-pink; pectoral fins with blue-green rays except for a streak of pink on third and fourth rays; pelvic fins light orangish with a blue leading edge; dental plates greenish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Scarus species also having 4 median predorsal scales, 2 rows of cheek scales, 13 branched pectoral fin rays and dental plates broadly exposed include: S. arabicus, S. atriluriula, S. enneacanthus, S. genazontus and S. japonensis; all can be distinguished from S. sordidus on the basis of colour patterns.

Remaining Scarus species: 12 branched pectoral fin rays, lip; broadly cover dental plates and/or 3 rows of cheek scales; all differ in coloration.

Other genera of Scaridae: narrow dental plates, cheek scales small, in a subtriangular patch (Hipposcarus); dental plates rough to touch (Bolbometopon, Cetoscarus); one row of cheek scales (Calotomus, Leptoscarus).

SIZE:

Maximum: about 32 cm standard length; 0.7 kg; terminal phases usually larger than 16 cm standard length.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the Western Indian Ocean, known from the Red Sea, the "Gulf", East African coast south to Mozambique, Madagascar, the Seychelles, Mauritius, Chagos Archipelago, Maldives, Laccadives and Sri Lanka. Outside the area, in the Eastern Indian Ocean/Western Central Pacific to the Hawaiian Islands; considerable variation in colour occurs across this wide range.

A very common species on coral reefs and lagoons; often occurring in very shallow water, but found to depths of at least 50 m.

Feeds on benthic algae.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Probably caught throughout most of its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with traps.

Marketed mostly fresh.

