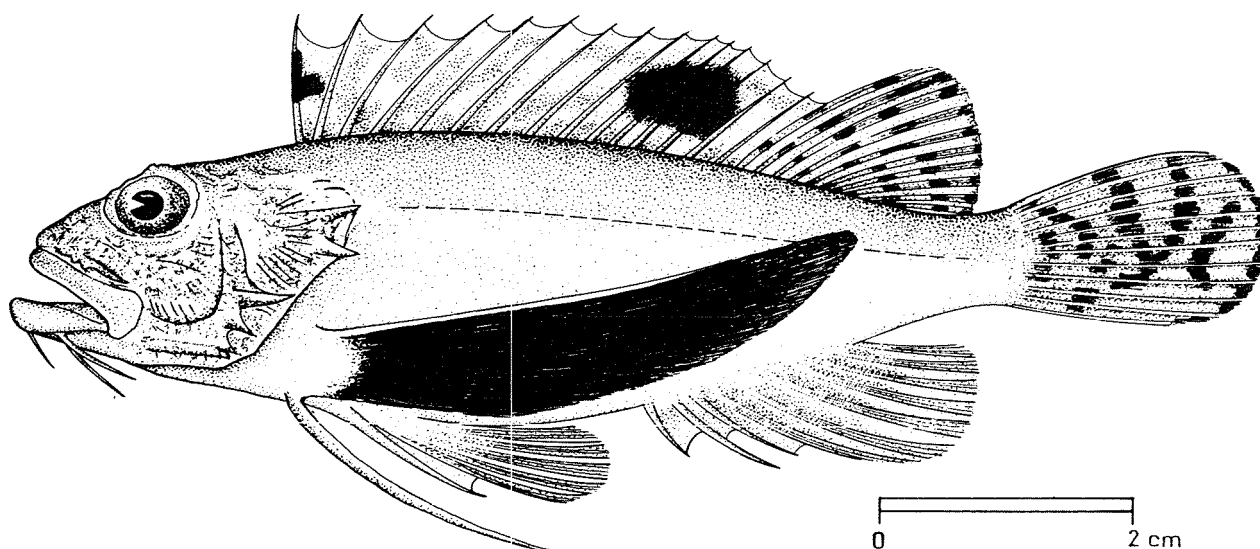


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCORPAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Apistus carinatus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Ocellated waspfish
Fr - Rascasse ocellée
Sp - Rascacio ocelado

NATIONAL

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Dorsal surface of head rugose; lacrimal with 2 small preorbital spines directed anteroventrally and a strong swordlike spine pointing posteriorly and reaching to below middle of eye; preopercle with a strong spine and 2 or 3 shorter spines below; 2 divergent ridges on opercle, each ending in a spine; a long, slender barbel on chin at symphysis of lower jaw, and a similar barbel attached halfway along lower jaw. Pectoral fins elongate, longest rays reach to or beyond base of posteriormost anal ray; ventralmost pectoral fin ray detached, free from remainder of fin. Body covered with small scales, each with a median ridge that ends in a point and 3 or 4 lobes on posterior margin.

Colour: body greyish dorsally and rosy ventrally; spinous part of dorsal fin grey, darker grey distally, with a black patch between first and second spines and a black blotch between dorsal spines 8 to 14; segmented part of dorsal fin with 3 oblique brown streaks; caudal fin with 4 irregular black bars; pectoral fin black, uppermost pectoral fin ray white; free ray milky white; pelvic fins dark brown.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other species of scorpaenids: lowermost pectoral fin ray not detached, or, if so, body scaleless.

SIZE :

Maximum: 15.0 cm (standard length); common to 10 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, from Natal, Mozambique, the Red Sea, the "Gulf", and the west coast of India. Elsewhere from the east coast of India, the Malay Archipelago, Taiwan Island, China, the Philippines, Japan, Western Australia and Queensland.

Found on soft bottoms of the continental shelf, from near shore to a depth of about 60 m.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

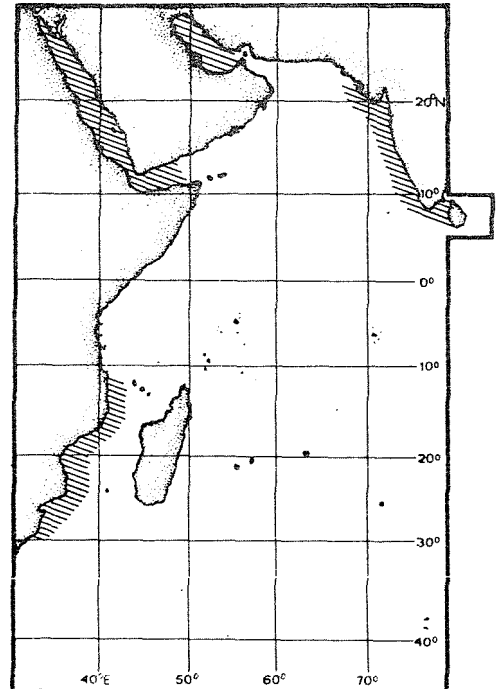
Caught incidentally throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly in bottom trawls; occasionally with shore seines.

Marketed fresh in small quantities, also dried and salted.

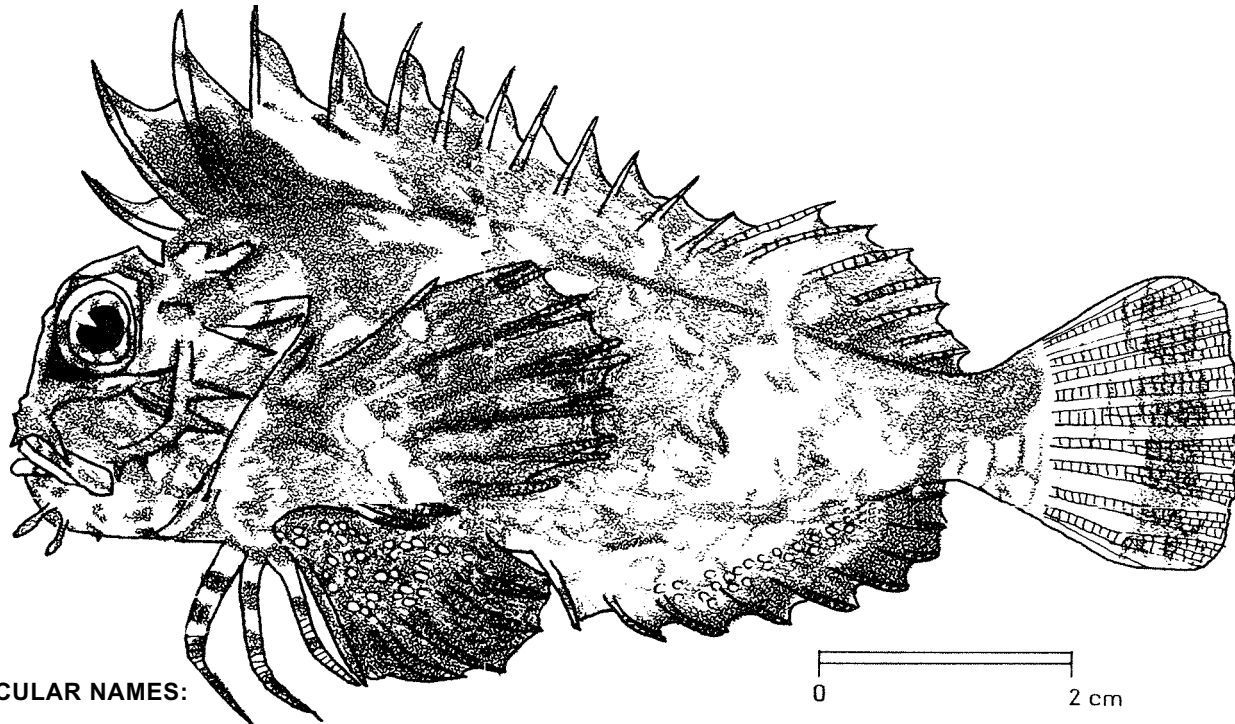


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCORPAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Choridactylis multibarbus* Richardson, 1848

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Orangebanded stingfish
Fr - Poisson pierre orangé
Sp - Pez piedra barbudo

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Dorsal fin with 12 to 14 (usually 13) spines and 8 or 9 (usually 9) segmented rays; total dorsal fin elements 21 to 23 (usually 22); anal fin with 2 spines and 8 or 9 (usually 8) segmented rays; total anal fin elements 10 or 11 (usually 10); pectoral fin with 12 rays, the lowermost 3 detached from remainder of fin. Body without scales.

Colour: fins blackish brown, with an oblique pale band between the 4th and 6th dorsal spines; margins of pectoral fins orange; caudal fin with a black band at base and another in distal third of fin, pale terminally; distal two thirds of anal fin dark brown or black; inner surface of pectoral fins black with several oblong orange bands; pelvic fins black or dark brown with numerous white spots.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Choridactylus natalensis: uppermost pectoral fin ray filamentous; coloration of inner surface of pectoral fin with dark bands (over rays) on a pale background.

Other species of scaleless scorpaenids: either without detached lower pectoral rays or with 1 or 2 lower pectoral rays detached.

SIZE :

Maximum: 12 cm (standard length); common to 10 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, known from the Red Sea, the "Gulf", Gulf of Oman, and Pakistan. Elsewhere from the east coast of India, Gulf of Thailand, China and the Philippines.

Found on sand or mud bottoms from near shore to a depth of 50 m.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS

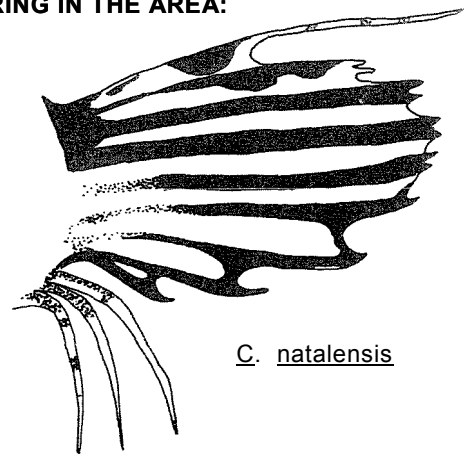
Caught incidentally throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

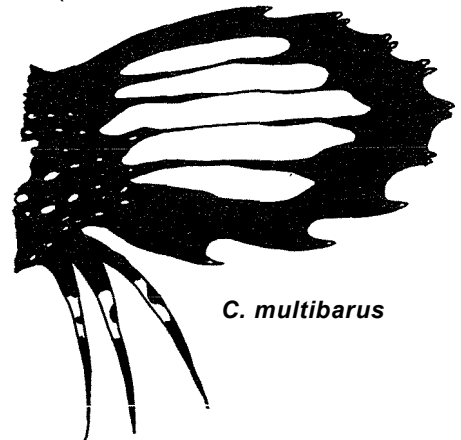
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught primarily with bottom trawls, occasionally with shore seines.

Marketed fresh in small quantities; also dried and salted.

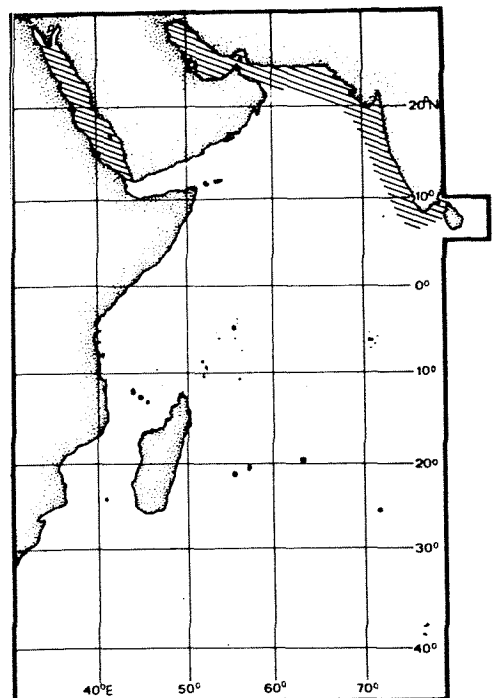


C. natalensis



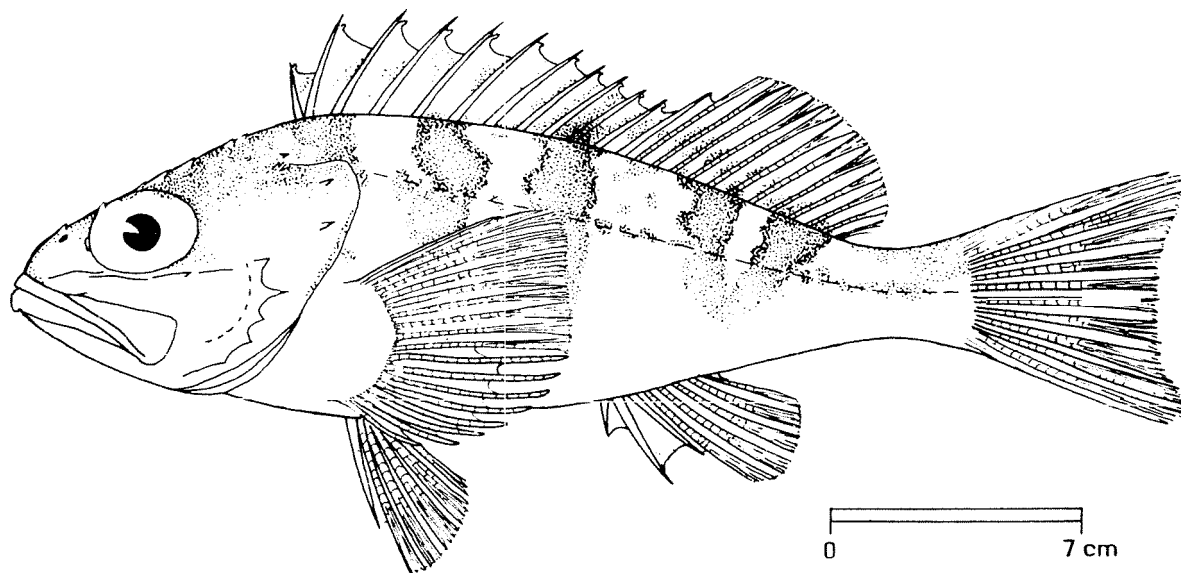
C. multibarus

inner surface of pectoral fin



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCORPAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Helicolenus dactylopterus (Delaroche, 1809)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Helicolenus maculatus (Cuvier, 1829)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Blackbelly rosefish
 Fr - Sébaste chèvre
 Sp - Rascacio rubio

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A deep-living, large-eyed scorpionfish, with a characteristic preopercular spination, the second spine from above the longest; top of head with low spines and without a pit behind eyes. Usually 11 or 12 segmented rays in dorsal fin; pectoral fins square-cut, fin membrane between lower pectoral fin rays strongly incised. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch).

Colour: red above to pinkish white below. Usually, with darker red bands on side; 3 below anterior, middle, and posterior dorsal fin spines, one V-shaped band below segmented part of dorsal fin and one at base of caudal fin, bands less well marked in larger individuals. Small individuals with black pigment near rear of spinous part of dorsal fin.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Helicolenus mouchezi: intense dark brown spots on body (lacking in H. dactylopterus); found at New Amsterdam and St. Paul Islands.

Other scorpaenids: fewer segmented dorsal rays (10 or less); uppermost preopercular spine longest (excluding the small accessory spine often found at base of uppermost spine); pectoral fins either elongate or more wedge-shaped; different coloration.

Other bass-like fishes: lack head spines characteristic of scorpaenids.

SIZE:

Maximum: 38 cm (standard length); common to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, only along southern coast of Natal and Madagascar. Elsewhere southward from Natal to the Cape and northwest to the Gulf of Guinea, Mauritania, Azores, Mediterranean Sea, Portugal, Spain, France, Guyana, Venezuela, Columbia, Mexico, northern Gulf of Mexico, Florida north to Nova Scotia, northern Argentina and Uruguay, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Found on soft bottoms of the continental shelf and upper slope, at depths of 55 to 550 m.

Feeds primarily on benthic crustaceans and fishes but part of diet is formed by pelagic species.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

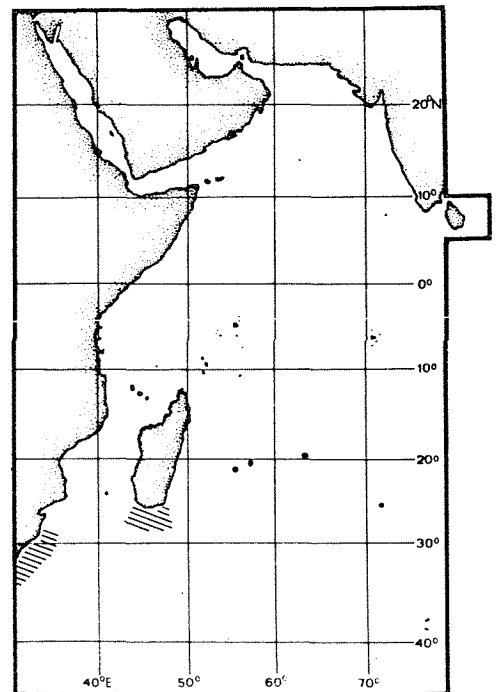
Often taken in large numbers throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh.

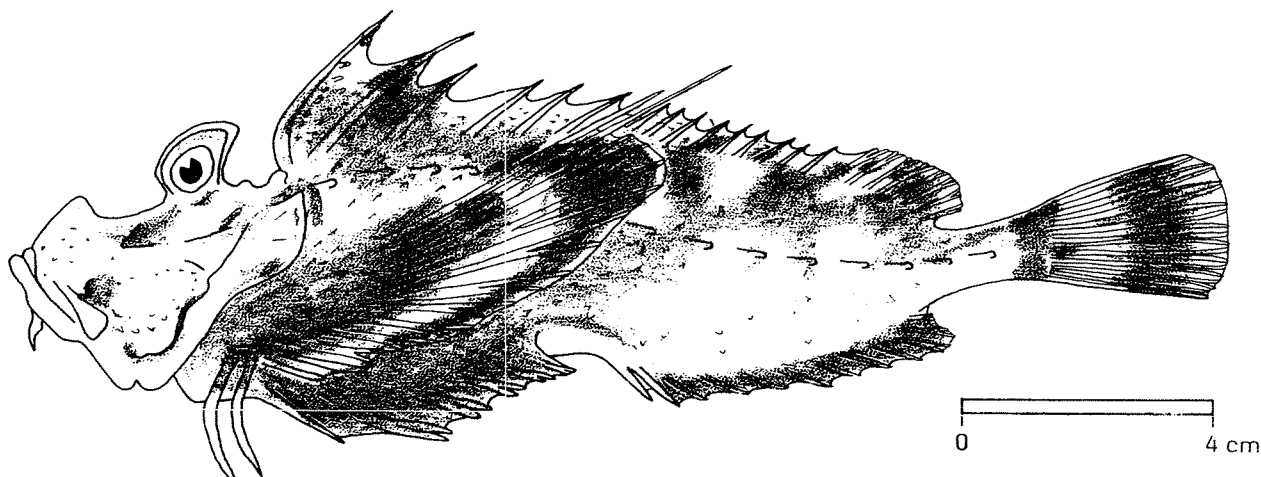


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCORPAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Inimicus filamentosus* (Cuvier, 1829)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Two-stick stingfish
 Fr - Poisson pierre béquillard
 Sp - Pez piedra muletero

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Orbits extremely elevated, close set and broadly joined at their bases; interorbital width about equal to orbit diameter; a deep, oblong pit below and in front of eye; nape depressed, forming a deep saddle behind orbits. Dorsal fin with 15 or 16 (usually 15) strong, sharp spines and 7 or 8 (usually 8) segmented rays; 23 total dorsal fin elements; anal fin with 2 spines and 9 or 10 (usually 10) segmented rays; the 2 uppermost pectoral fin rays elongate, filamentous in specimens of all sizes, with filament on second ray longer than that on first.

Colour: mostly brown and yellow. Inner surface of pectoral fin coloration diagnostic, mostly brilliant yellow, with black patches near base, brown spots subterminally, and black distally.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Inimicus sinensis: orbits only slightly elevated; upper pectoral fin rays filamentous in juveniles, but not in adults. Coloration of inner surface of pectoral fin with 15 to 35 bright yellow spots on a dark brown or nearly black background.

Other species of scaleless scorpaenids: either no detached pectoral fin ray or 1 to 3 lower pectoral fin rays detached.

SIZE :

Maximum: 25 cm (standard length); common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Known from Eilat, Gulf of Aqaba; Zanzibar, Madagascar, Réunion Island, Mauritius and the Maldives.

Found on sandy bottoms, from near shore to a depth of 55 m.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

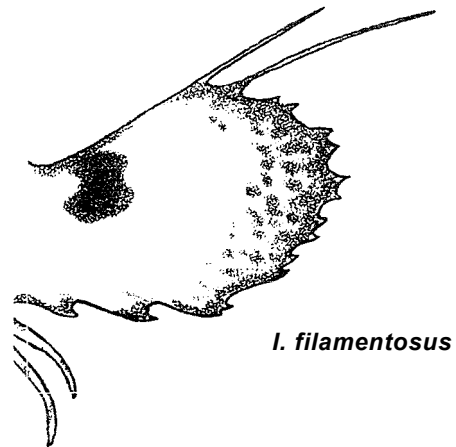
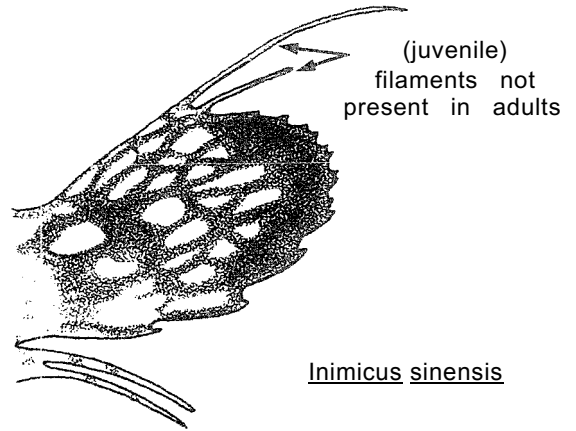
Caught incidentally throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Usually taken in bottom trawls.

Uncommon in markets.



inner surface of pectoral fin

