

African Pompano (*Alectis ciliaris*)

Description:

African Pompano are member of the jack family (Carangidae). Their body is deep and compressed and can be metallic-blue with a white belly. Juveniles have long thread-like rays at front dorsal and anal fins (yellow arrows) that disappear as they grow. In young individuals, these elongated rays look similar to the tentacles of some jellyfishes.

Gulf Stock Characteristics: (myfwc.com; fishbase.org)

Natural mortality rate (M): Unknown
 Female sexual maturity: Unknown
 Maximum weight: ~50 lbs (23 kg) ww
 Maximum length: ~42 inches (107 cm) FL
 Discard mortality: Unknown

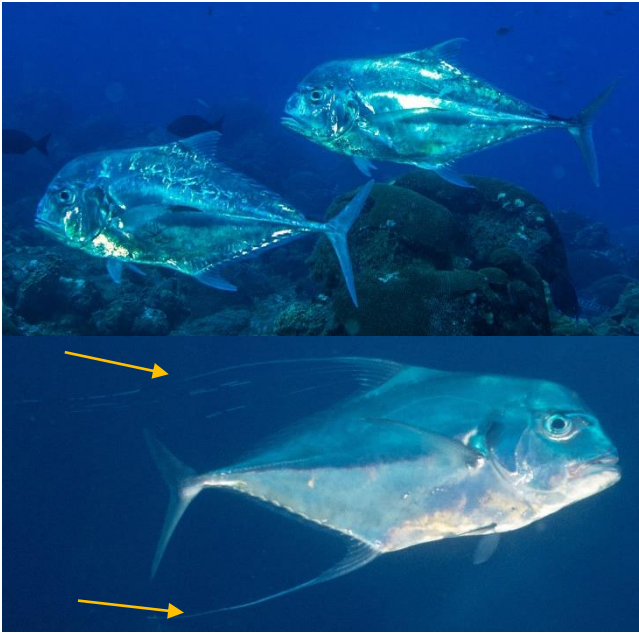


Photo credit: FGBNMS

Life History and Distribution:

African Pompano occur in tropical and subtropical waters around the world. Although there are very little data, it is suggested they spawn during spring and summer months. Juveniles are pelagic while adults can be found near reefs, wrecks, and ledges to depths of 200 ft (60 m). Their diet includes squid, small crabs, and other fishes. From 2000 – 2018, the majority of the landings in the Gulf of Mexico come from the recreational sector, mostly from Florida and Alabama. Also during this timeframe, African Pompano landings were more frequent in federal waters.

Current Gulf Council Regulations:

Currently, only the State of Florida has fishing regulations on harvesting of African Pompano and these regulations extend to federal waters. The fishing season is year-round with a 24-inch fork length minimum size limit and a daily recreational bag limit of 2 per harvester not to exceed 2 per vessel.

