Cephalopholis aurantia, Golden Hind

Assessment by: Amorim, P., Das, D., Rhodes, K., Russell, B., Law, C., Suharti, S., Samoilys, M., Nair, R., Ma, K., To, A., Myers, R. & Choat, J.H.


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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Actinopterygii</td>
<td>Perciformes</td>
<td>Epinephelidae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taxon Name: *Cephalopholis aurantia* (Valenciennes, 1828)

Synonym(s):
- *Bodianus indelibilis* Fowler, 1904
- *Cephalopholis analis* (Valenciennes, 1828)
- *Cephalopholis aurantius* (Valenciennes, 1828)
- *Cephalopholis indelibilis* (Fowler, 1904)
- *Cephalopholis obtusaurus* Evermann & Seale, 1907
- *Cephalopholis obtususaurus* Evermann & Seale, 1907
- *Epinephelus analis* (Valenciennes, 1828)
- *Epinephelus aurantius* (Valenciennes, 1828)
- *Epinephelus miltostigma* Bleeker, 1873
- *Serranus analis* Valenciennes, 1828
- *Serranus aurantius* Valenciennes, 1828
- *Serranus rufus* Hombron & Jacquinot, 1853

Common Name(s):
- English: Golden Hind, Golden Rockcod, Orange Cod
- French: Cuisinier, Maconde, Mamam Rouge, Rouge Batard, Rouge Peau Dure, Vieille Doree
- Spanish: Cherna Dorada

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-2.RLTS.T132725A100453919.en)

Year Published: 2018

Date Assessed: November 18, 2016

Justification:
*Cephalopholis aurantia* is a widely distributed and deep-living species that is infrequently captured. There are no known major threats; therefore, it is listed as Least Concern. The change in status from the previous assessment reflects an improved application of the Red List categories and criteria, as well as a better understanding of available data.

Previously Published Red List Assessments
2008 – Data Deficient (DD)
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T132725A3433665.en

Geographic Range

Range Description:
This Indo-Pacific species is distributed in the islands of the western Indian Ocean to Japan and the
central Pacific. It is also recorded from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Sachithanandan and Mohan 2014), from Rowley Shoals in Australian waters and Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean (Bray 2017) and Tanega-shima Island in Kagoshima, Japan (Koeda and Motomura 2015). The species is also recorded around Howland Island in the Pacific (B. Mundy pers. comm.). A single specimen has been caught off Natal, South Africa. Heemstra and Randall (1993) reported no other confirmed records from other continental localities of East Africa. There is one unconfirmed record from Mozambique (S. Fennessy pers. comm. 2016) and is has been reported by fishermen in Mafia Island, Tanzania (Gaspare et al. 2015). Its occurrence in Malaysia is questionable. It is recorded from Cochin, India, but the actual provenance of the specimens are unknown (R. Nair pers. comm. 2016).

The specific localities in which it occurs are as follows: American Samoa, Australia, China, South China Sea (Spratly Islands), Taiwan, Christmas Island, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Fiji, French Polynesia (Tahiti, Society Islands, Tuamotu Islands), Guam, India (Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar), Indonesia (Bali, Lesser Sunda Islands, Moluccas, Papua, Sulawesi, Sumatra), Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Madagascar, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius (Rodrigues), Micronesia, Mozambique, New Caledonia (not in Loyalty Islands), Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn, Réunion, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal), Thailand (not shown in map), Tonga, Tuvalu.

Country Occurrence:

**Native:** American Samoa; Australia; China; Christmas Island; Comoros; Disputed Territory (Spratly Is.); Fiji; French Polynesia; French Southern Territories (Mozambique Channel Is.); Guam; India (Andaman Is., Laccadive Is., Nicobar Is.); Indonesia; Japan; Kenya; Kiribati (Phoenix Is.); Madagascar; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mauritius (Mauritius (main island), Rodrigues); Mayotte; Micronesia, Federated States of; Mozambique; Myanmar; New Caledonia; Niue; Northern Mariana Islands; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Réunion; Samoa; Seychelles; Solomon Islands; Somalia; South Africa; Taiwan, Province of China; Tanzania, United Republic of; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu; Wallis and Futuna; Yemen

FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

**Native:** Indian Ocean - western, Indian Ocean - eastern, Pacific - western central, Pacific - northwest
Population
This grouper is relatively poorly known due to the deep depths which it inhabits; therefore, population data are limited. At times, it can be misidentified as *Cephalopholis sonnerati*.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)
This species inhabits steep seaward reefs, usually at depths of 100 to 250 m. It has been found at depths as shallow as 20 m in Australia (Bray 2017), but this may be outside its natural depth range. Its maximum total length is 30 cm (Craig *et al.* 2011), and a report of 60 cm is considered invalid (Heemstra and Randall 1993). A hybrid specimen of this species between *Cephalopholis aurantia* and *C. spilopararea* has been found on a barrier reef in New Caledonia at 50-60 m depth (Randall and Justine 2008).

Systems: Marine

Use and Trade
This species is occasionally incidentally caught in deep line fisheries, and is not targeted by commercial fisheries. It has been recorded in landings in the Andaman archipelago, India (Sachithanandam and Mohan 2014). In Mafia Island, Tanzania, fishermen interviewed on grouper fishing reported this species is caught infrequently compared to other species (Gaspare *et al.* 2015). It has not been recorded in Indonesia deep water fishery monitoring surveys (P. Mous and J. Pet, The Nature Conservancy Indonesia Fisheries Conservation Program database, unpublished, accessed 2016). It has also not been recorded from Solomon Island market surveys during which 65,000 specimens were investigated (Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources unpublished database, accessed 2016).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)
There are no known major threats.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)
There are no species-specific conservation measures.

Credits
Assessor(s): Amorim, P., Das, D., Rhodes, K., Russell, B., Law, C., Suharti, S., Samoilys, M., Nair, R., Ma, K., To, A., Myers, R. & Choat, J.H.

Reviewer(s): Linardich, C.

Facilitators(s) and Compiler(s): Carpenter, K.E.
Bibliography


Citation


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External Resources

For Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.
Appendix

Habitats
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Threats
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Biological resource use -&gt; 5.4. Fishing &amp; harvesting aquatic resources -&gt; 5.4.3. Unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest]</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Minority (50%)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses: 2. Species Stresses -&gt; 2.1. Species mortality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Biological resource use -&gt; 5.4. Fishing &amp; harvesting aquatic resources -&gt; 5.4.4. Unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest]</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Minority (50%)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses: 2. Species Stresses -&gt; 2.1. Species mortality</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conservation Actions in Place
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Actions in Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occur in at least one PA: Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Needed
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.2. Population size, distribution &amp; trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.3. Life history &amp; ecology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Data Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower depth limit (m): 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper depth limit (m): 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population severely fragmented: No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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