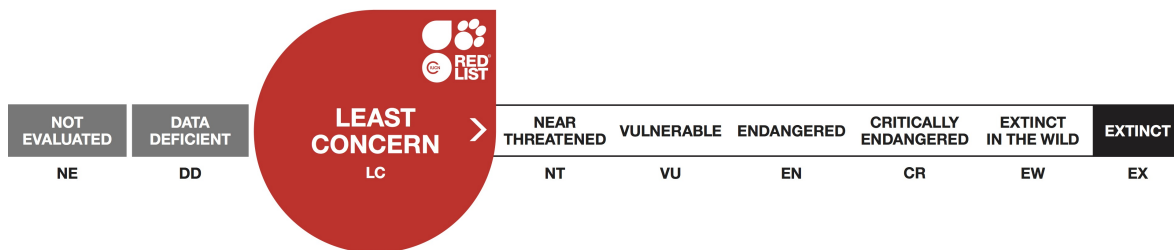


## *Epinephelus longispinis*, Longspine Grouper

Assessment by: Nair, R.



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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Perciformes	Epinephelidae

**Taxon Name:** *Epinephelus longispinis* (Kner, 1864)

### Synonym(s):

- *Epinephelus fario* (Thunberg, 1793)
- *Epinephelus longispinnis* (Kner, 1864)
- *Serranus longispinis* Kner, 1864

### Common Name(s):

- English: Longspine Grouper, Long-spine Rock Cod, Spotted Grouper, Streaky Spot Rockcod
- French: Cabot Sale, Culotte De Singe, Merou Longues Epines
- Spanish: Mero Espigon

## Assessment Information

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

**Year Published:** 2018

**Date Assessed:** November 22, 2016

### Justification:

This widely distributed species inhabits coral and rocky reefs. It is taken in fisheries in parts of its range, but this is not considered a major threat on a global-level at this time. It is listed as Least Concern with a recommendation to monitor exploitation levels and conduct further research on its life history.

### Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T132748A3440221.en>

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

This species is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from Eastern Cape, South Africa to Kenya (Fiona and Whittington 2002, Mehenga and Ali 2013, Ogongo *et al.* 2015), including Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and Réunion, east to India (Sujatha *et al.* 2014, Mahapatra and Lakra 2015, Nair *et al.* 2016), Sri Lanka, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Glorieuses Islands (Durville *et al.* 2003), Malaysia, Singapore, southern Indonesia (western Sumatra, southern Java, Bali, Lombok) and the Watubela Island Group of the eastern Banda Sea (Heemstra and Randall 1993, R. Myers pers. comm. 2006, Allen and Erdmann 2012). Its distribution is considered to not extend further east than the Banda Sea (Allen and Erdmann 2012). It is not known from the Red Sea or Persian Gulf and records from Fiji are likely misidentifications of *Epinephelus maculatus*. It was recently reported from Iraq in the Persian Gulf by Almkhtar *et al.* (2012). Its depth range is 1-70 metres.

**Country Occurrence:**

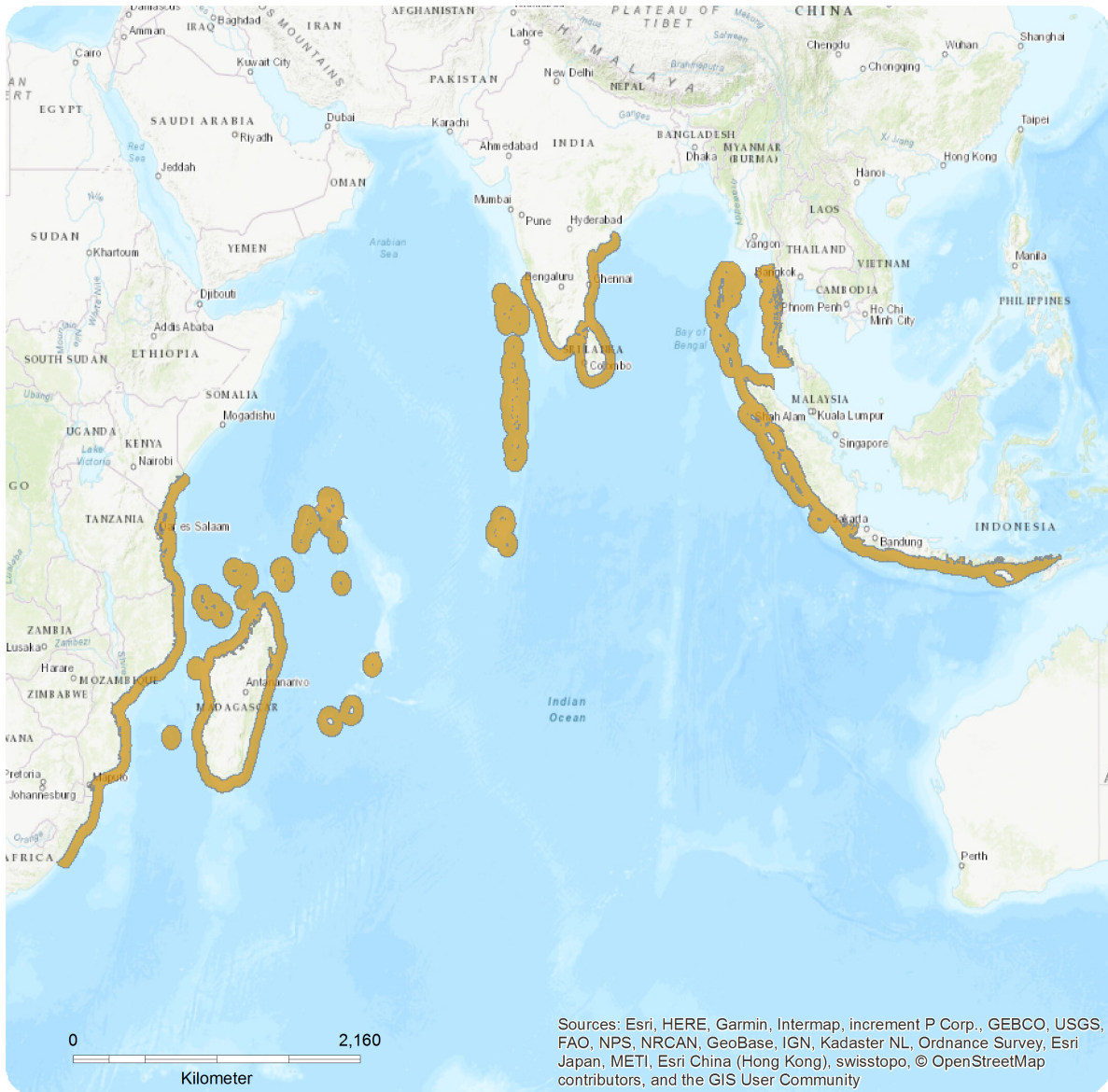
**Native:** British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Archipelago); Comoros; French Southern Territories (Mozambique Channel Is.); India; Indonesia; Kenya; Madagascar; Maldives; Mauritius; Mayotte; Mozambique; Myanmar; Réunion; Seychelles; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Tanzania, United Republic of; Thailand

**FAO Marine Fishing Areas:**

**Native:** Indian Ocean - western, Indian Ocean - eastern, Pacific - western central

# Distribution Map

*Epinephelus longispinis*

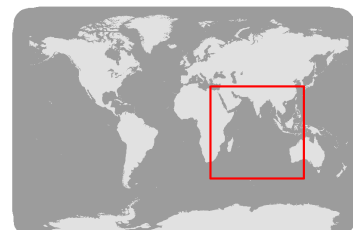


## Range

Extant (resident)

## Compiled by:

IUCN Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



## Population

This species is not uncommon, but does not appear to be particularly abundant through much of its range (Heemstra and Randall 1993).

**East Africa:** This species was not observed during an underwater and angling survey on coral reefs conducted from 1987 to 1992 in the St. Lucia and Maputaland Marine Reserves of northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (Chater *et al.* 1993, 1995). It was rarely recorded (six individuals out of 1,278 groupers) in a survey of boat catches from non-coral reefs off the central KwaZulu-Natal coast during 1985 to 1987 (Oceanographic Research Institute 1988) and no individuals were recorded from commercial boat line catches in the same area from 2002 to 2006 (S. Fennessy unpublished data). It was not reported from commercial line catches in southern Mozambique in the mid-1990s (Dengo and David 1993, van der Elst *et al.* 1994) or from trap catches in central Mozambique from 1997 to 1999 (Abdula *et al.* 2000). It was also not reported in subsequent port monitoring of this fishery to 2005 (D. Gove pers. comm.). This species commonly occurs in the catch in the commercial linefishery of Madagascar (A. Pages pers. comm.). On the North Kenya Banks, 17 individuals (2.5% by number to overall serranid catch) of this species were recorded in catches there (Morgans 1964). Catches may be declining along the South Kenyan coast (Ogongo *et al.* 2015).

**India:** In western India, this species was only recorded at two of nine shallow water survey sites (Sluka 2013). It appears to be abundant along the western Indian coast and it has been reported in commercial fisheries landings there since 2008 (Sujatha *et al.* 2015). It was regularly observed in trawl catches from 2013-2015 off southeast India (CMFRI Annual Reports). About 70 tonnes were reported landed in Kerala (southwest coast) from 2010 onwards, and it comprised 8.4% of the catch (Nair *et al.* 2016, CMFRI 2011-2012). Only two individuals of this species were recorded during a shallow underwater survey conducted on North Bay Reef in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Ray *et al.* 2013), it also has a low presence in fisheries catches of the Andaman Islands (Nair 2015).

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species inhabits coral or rocky reefs and occasionally on sandy bottoms. It attains a length of 55 cm (Smith and Heemstra 1986). It primarily consumes crustaceans, especially crabs and stomatopods, rarely on small fishes, squids and pelecypod flesh. In India, the estimated length at maturity for females and males is 38.5 and 42.2 cm, respectively, and a natural mortality of 0.69 (R. Nair pers. comm. 2016).

**Systems:** Marine

## Use and Trade

This species is occasionally taken in fisheries in parts of its range. It has been reported in catches from Reunion Island (D. Miossec pers. comm.) and contributes to trawl catch in southeaster India (James *et al.* 1996). In India, it is caught by handline, longline and trammel nets; however, hook and line fishing is the method most widely used along the central eastern coast of India (Sujatha *et al.* 2015). Large individuals are exported for international markets and smaller are sold in local markets, but is not yet a major component of fisheries catch in India (Nair *et al.* 2016).

## **Threats (see Appendix for additional information)**

Fishing is not considered a major threat on a global-level at this time.

## **Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)**

About 225 km<sup>2</sup> of reefs are no-take protected areas in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique (Wells *et al.* 2007), and the level of compliance is not clear. In KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, most of the north coast is protected by a 145 km long marine protected area in which no demersal fishing is allowed, and is strictly enforced. This area is expected to be expanded into adjacent waters of southern Mozambique from Ponta d'Ouro to Maputo. In South Africa, a maximum of five individuals of this species may be retained by recreational fishers per day, but there are no limits for commercial fishers. In Mozambique, a maximum of 10 individuals of demersal species may be retained by recreational fishers.

## **Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Nair, R.

**Reviewer(s):** Linardich, C.

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# Appendix

## Habitats

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

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.2. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.4. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	Resident	Suitable	Yes

## Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.1. Intentional use: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.2. Intentional use: (large scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

## Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
In-Place Species Management
Harvest management plan: Yes

## Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

## Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Lower depth limit (m): 70
Upper depth limit (m): 1
<b>Population</b>
Population severely fragmented: No

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