

Comb Grouper (*Mycteroperca acutirostris*) Information from Catches at Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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Abstract

Reef fishes are of great importance for artisanal fisheries in the coast of Brazil. For example, snappers and groupers are very important targets of small-scale fisheries; among the groupers, two are of notable importance: the dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*) and the comb grouper (*Mycteroperca acutirostris*). The urgency of their management has been stressed in some studies. Compared to *E. marginatus* and to other groupers, there is a rather scarce literature and information on comb grouper. There is some information for *M. bonaci*. Comb grouper is an important target fish for artisanal fisheries in Brazil. Even though there are studies of comb groupers in Brazil, there is lack of information on the reproduction of comb groupers.

Keywords: *Mycteroperca acutirostris*, C

with small-scale motor canoes or boats, using nets, hook and lines and

| | | |
|---|------|-----------------|
| April | 3 | 13 ^d |
| May | 1 | 58 |
| June | 0 | 14 |
| July | 0 | 23 |
| August | 0 | 10 |
| September | 1 | |
| Other data | | |
| Mean Total Length (cm) | 39.6 | 43.0 |
| SD Total Length | 4.88 | 11.77 |
| Maximum Length | 52.0 | 90.0 |
| Minimum Length | 31.0 | 20.0 |
| Mean Weight (Kg) | 0.80 | 1.35 |
| SD Weight (Kg) | 0.32 | 1.41 |
| Maximum Weight | 1.8 | 8.90 |
| Minimum Weight | 0.4 | 0.55 |
| Number of months collected | 20 | 12 |
| Total comb groupers in catches | 33 | 178 |
| Total comb groupers with data on size and gonad development | | |

Concluding Remarks

There is urgency on data about target reef fishes, such as on comb groupers. Reef fishes are targets of in many fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries. Data on the reproduction of comb grouper is scarce and very limited. Our study shows difficulties in obtaining data on comb grouper reproduction, but it also shows how collaborative research can be of value in order to increase sampling effort towards the acquisition of biological information. Biological information on reproduction is very important in order to detect periods in which the fishery