

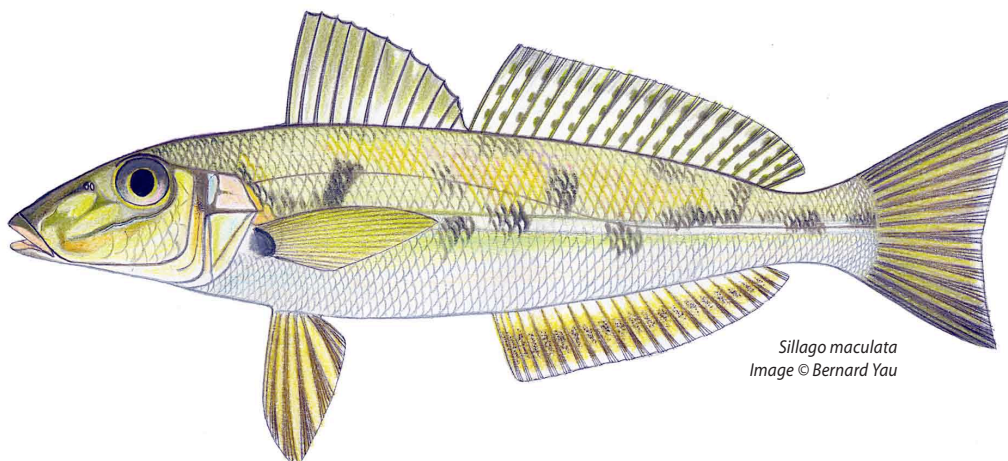
Trumpeter Whiting

(*Sillago maculata*)

EXPLOITATION STATUS UNDEFINED

Small commercial and recreational landings, mainly from a few estuaries. Biological studies of growth and maturity have recently been completed, but estimates of mortality rates from size and age composition data are lacking.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	STANDARD NAME	COMMENT
<i>Sillago maculata</i>	trumpeter whiting	Also known as winter whiting.



Background

Trumpeter whiting (*Sillago maculata*) are distributed along the east coast of Australia. They favour silty or muddy substrates in estuaries and coastal embayments. Juvenile trumpeter whiting are found in estuarine seagrasses and shallow habitats, while adults are common in deeper estuarine waters down to depths of 30 m.

Trumpeter whiting grow to about 30 cm fork length (FL) and a weight of about 260 g. They reach a maximum age of about 12 years, mature at a length of about 15 cm FL and typically spawn within estuaries during spring and summer.

Trumpeter whiting forage for burrowing or benthic animals and eat mainly polychaete worms, crustaceans (amphipods, shrimps, crabs), bivalve molluscs and a variety of other benthic animals and small fish.

Trumpeter whiting are caught commercially by hauling and seine nets in shallow water (Estuary General Fishery) and by otter trawl in slightly deeper water (Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery).

The recreational catch of trumpeter whiting is significant and is probably around the same order of magnitude as commercial landings.

Additional Notes

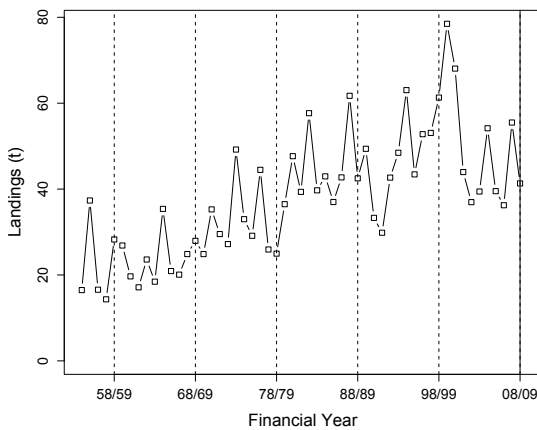
- The recreational catch is probably of a similar order of magnitude as commercial landings.
- Fish mature between 1-3 years old and live to a maximum of 12 years.
- Species is subject to highly variable recruitment, which means that estimates of mortality will also be variable.
- There is a combined recreational bag limit of 20 for all whiting.

Catch

Recreational Catch of Trumpeter Whiting

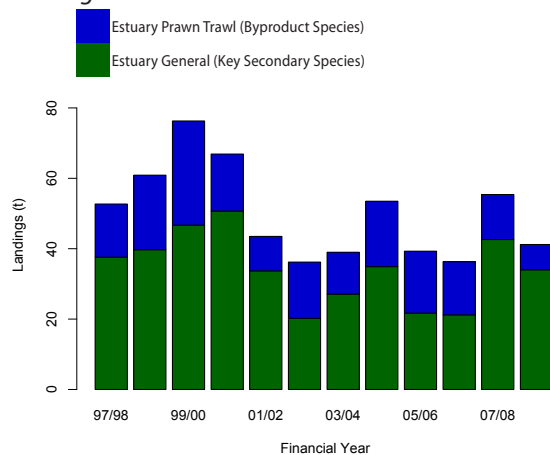
The annual recreational harvest of trumpeter whiting in NSW is likely to lie between 10 and 30 t. This estimate is based upon the results of the offsite National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey (Henry and Lyle, 2003) and onsite surveys undertaken by I & I NSW.

Historical Landings of Trumpeter Whiting



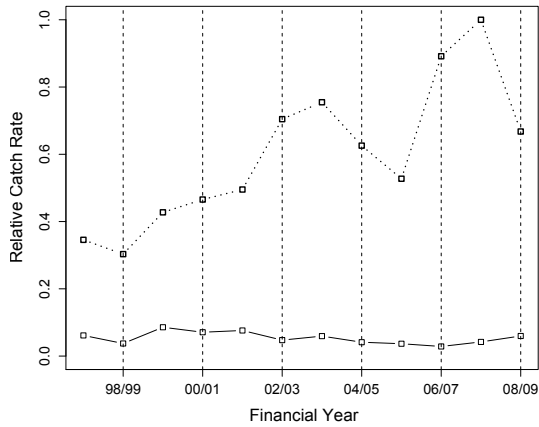
Commercial landings (including available historical records) of trumpeter whiting for NSW from 1954/55 to 2008/09 for all fishing methods.

Landings by Commercial Fishery of Trumpeter Whiting



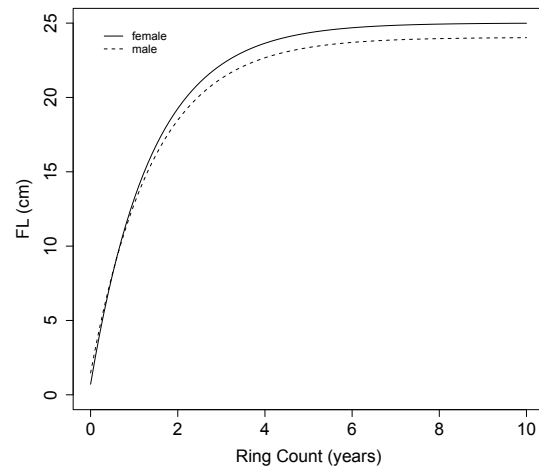
Reported landings of trumpeter whiting by NSW commercial fisheries from 1997/98. Fisheries which contribute less than 2.5% of the landings are excluded for clarity and privacy.

Catch Per Unit Effort Information of Trumpeter Whiting Harvested by Hauling in NSW



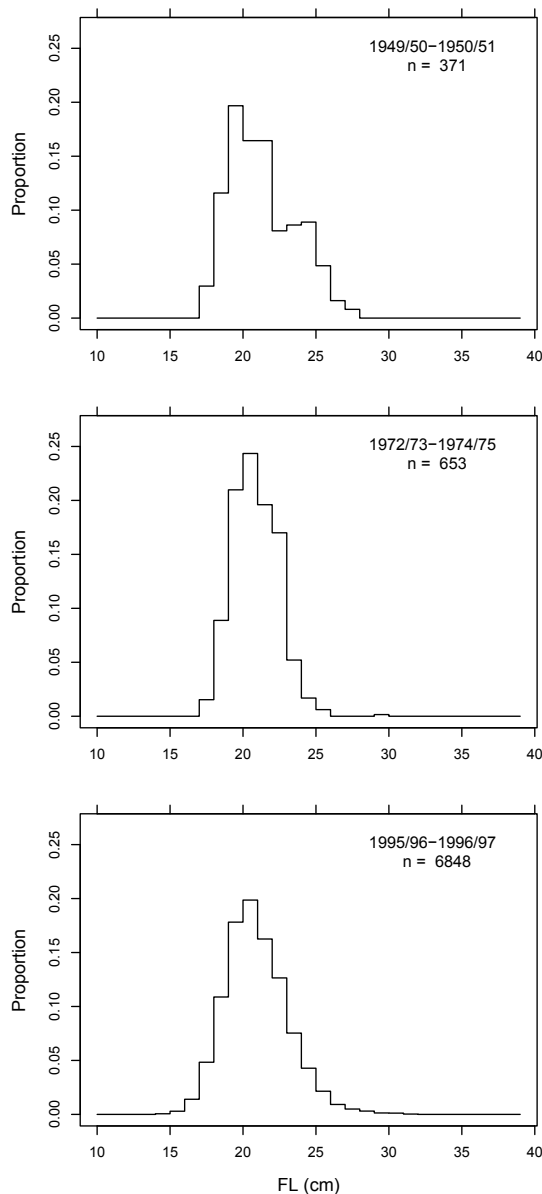
Catch rates of trumpeter whiting harvested using hauling for NSW. Two indicators are provided: (1) median catch rate (lower solid line); and (2) 90th percentile of the catch rate (upper dashed line). Note that catch rates are not a robust indicator of abundance in many cases. Caution should be applied when interpreting these results.

Growth Curve of Trumpeter Whiting



Growth curves of trumpeter whiting using parameters from Kendall and Gray (2009). Lengths are presented as fork length (FL).

Length Frequency of Trumpeter Whiting



The length distribution of trumpeter whiting in NSW commercial landings was relatively stable between the 1970s and the 1990s, and was comprised mainly of fish between 18 and 25 cm fork length (FL). There is no minimum legal length for trumpeter whiting in NSW.

Further Reading

- Broadhurst, M.K., D.J. Young, C.A. Gray and M.E.L. Wooden (2005). [Improving selection in south eastern Australian whiting \(*Sillago* spp.\) trawls: effects of modifying the body, extension and codend](#), *Scientia Marina* **69**: 301-311.
- Butcher, P., M. Broadhurst and C. Brand (2005). [The mighty whiting](#). Fishing World, October edition. 80-81.
- Gray, C.A. and S.K. Kennelly (2003). [Catch characteristics of the commercial beach-seine fisheries in two Australian barrier estuaries](#), *Fisheries Research* **63**: 405-422.
- Henry, G.W. and J.M. Lyle (2003). [The National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey. Final Report to the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation and the Fisheries Action Program Project FRDC 1999/158](#). NSW Fisheries Final Report Series No. 48. 188 pp. Cronulla, NSW Fisheries.
- Kendall, B.W. and C.A. Gray (2009). Reproduction, age and growth of *Sillago maculata* in south-eastern Australia. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology* **25** (5): 529-536.
- Steffe, A.S. and D.J. Chapman (2003). [A survey of daytime recreational fishing during the annual period, March 1999 to February 2000, in Lake Macquarie, New South Wales](#). 124 pp. Sydney, NSW Fisheries.
- Steffe, A.S., J.J. Murphy, D.J. Chapman and C.C. Gray (2005). [An assessment of changes in the daytime recreational fishery of Lake Macquarie following the establishment of a 'Recreational Fishing Haven'](#). 103 pp. Cronulla, NSW Fisheries.

Please visit the CSIRO website, <http://www.marine.csiro.au/caab/> and search for the species code (CAAB) 37 330015, common name or scientific name to find further information.

