Teraglin

*(Atractoscion aequidens)*

**EXPLOITATION STATUS**

**FULLY FISHED**

Commercial catch data suggest a long-term decline in this stock, although the species appears to be fairly quick growing and may be subject to large variations in recruitment strength. There is concern that the stock may actually be 'overfished' but that insufficient information is available to support this determination.

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<td><em>Atractoscion aequidens</em></td>
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**Background**

Teraglin (*Atractoscion aequidens*) occur around southern Africa from Angola to South Africa and, in Australia from southern Queensland to Montague Island in NSW. Juvenile fish can be found in inshore waters, including deeper estuaries, while schools of adult fish can be found at depths of 20-80 m over gravel or broken reef substrates.

There is very little information available on the biology of this species in Australian waters, however some biological information is available for teraglin from South Africa. In South African waters, teraglin reach a maximum length of around 130 cm and a maximum weight of around 18 kg, spawn during spring and the diet of teraglin mainly consists of pilchards and anchovies. Growth was similar for males and females, and slowed at the onset of sexual maturity. The size at which 50% of teraglin mature in South African waters was reported to be about 90 cm fork length (FL, equivalent to about 5 years of age) while 100% maturity was recorded at around 93 cm FL (about 6 years of age).

In NSW, teraglin are reported to grow to more than 100 cm FL and 10 kg in weight, but the majority of fish landed are 40 to 70 cm FL and 1 to 3 kg in weight. Study of growth and reproductive biology of teraglin in Australia is currently underway.

The majority of commercial landings of teraglin are made by line fishers in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery, and significant numbers are taken by recreational fishers. The largest catches are made off northern and central NSW and they are, in general, quite sporadic.
**Additional Notes**

- Teraglin is a schooling species, which is very susceptible to line fishing methods.
- Recent commercial landings have been less than 20 t, compared with 50 - 100 t prior to the 1970s.
- Recreational landings are likely to be greater than the commercial catch.
- Sampling in 2006/07 showed the commercial catch to be comprised mostly of young fish less than 3 years of age, with small numbers of older fish up to 10 years of age.
- Length-based monitoring of commercial catches is continuing, along with further sampling to study age composition and size at maturity.
- There is a minimum legal length of 38 cm total length and a recreational bag limit of 5 teraglin.

**Catch**

*Recreational Catch of Teraglin*

The annual recreational harvest of teraglin in NSW is likely to lie between 70 and 110 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 Teraglin*

Commercial landings (including available historical records) of teraglin for NSW from 1947/48 to 2008/09 for all fishing methods.

*Catch Per Unit Effort Information of Teraglin Harvested by Handlining in NSW*

Catch rates of teraglin harvested using handlining 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.
The length distribution of teraglin landed since the 1970s by NSW commercial fishers has comprised mainly of fish between 40 and 70 cm fork length (FL). Catches in recent years have shown a higher proportion of fish in the 40 to 50 cm FL size classes. The minimum legal length for teraglin in NSW is currently 38 cm total length (TL).

Further Reading


Please visit the CSIRO website, http://www.marine.csiro.au/caab/ and search for the species code (CAAB) 37 354020, common name or scientific name to find further information.