

GREATER YELLOWTAIL

Seriola dumerili

IDENTIFICATION

Greater yellowtail are the largest of the three yellowtail species (*Seriola*) found in South African waters; they have an amber stripe running along the midside of the body and the second dorsal and anal fins are shorter than in the similar looking longfin yellowtail (*Seriola rivoliana*). There is an oblique dark band that runs from the eye to the back of the neck but this disappears with size.

Scientific Name: *Seriola dumerili*

Common Names: Greater yellowtail, Greater amberjack

Family: Carangidae

Size: 190cm total length and weighs up to 80kg

DISTRIBUTION

This fish is found in tropical and subtropical regions throughout the world's oceans.

HABITAT

Adult greater yellowtail are often associated with deep rocky reefs and wrecks down to depths of 360m. Juveniles are often found under floating debris and sub-adults will sometimes congregate in schools. Large adults are usually solitary.

DIET

As opportunistic predators, these fish feed on a range of benthic and pelagic fish as well as squid and crustaceans. Fish commonly preyed upon by the greater yellowtail include big-eye scads and sardines. Juveniles feed on plankton such as decapod larvae and other small invertebrates.

REPRODUCTION

Very little is known about the reproductive biology of this fish species.

Length at maturity: 109 cm fork length

Age at maturity: Unknown

Maximum age: ~17 years

CAPTURE

This species is well known as a formidable angling species and is actively targeted by recreational anglers. In South Africa a technique known as “vertical jigging” is used to target this species in deep water.

REGULATIONS

Bag limit: 10

Minimum size: None

Closed Season: None

Other Restrictions: None

SASSI List: Treat as orange