**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**: Nemipterus japonicus

**COMMON NAMES**: Japanese threadfin bream

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**: A comprehensive stock assessment of Japanese threadfin bream stock in Indian waters is lacking. Existing stock assessments in coastal states off Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat are patchy. Biomass estimates (or equivalent) are not publicly available or have not been estimated from stock assessments. Nevertheless, threadfin breams (Nemipterus spp.) constitute one of the most important commercial demersal stocks targeted by trawlers in the Indian EEZ. They are abundant in 30-200 m depth range. Traditionally trawlers targeted this stock in the 50m depth range, but over the last two decades fishery has expanded and the stock has been exploited in deeper waters as deep as 150m along the west coast of India.

**RELATED LINKS**:
- Indian Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**

Stock Assessment of threadfin breams in all the coastal states along west coast of India has been undertaken by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), providing comprehensive information on length-weight relationships, size at first maturity, spawning seasons, etc. Although comprehensive studies are lacking on current exploitation status of threadfin breams, information from Murthy et al. (2003) and Vivekanandan (2003), indicate that current fishing pressure does not pose a problem for the stock and that the stock is optimally exploited in most of the coastal states in the Arabian Sea. A seasonal fishing ban is enforced on both East and West coasts of India for a 45 days period from April 15 to May 30 each year for mechanized vessels, however additional measures are needed since trawlers plunder the spawning aggregations and indiscriminately catch juveniles during the remainder of the year.

**Weaknesses**

Most of the stock assessments not conducted on a regular basis in all coastal states. Currently, there is no TAC or catch limits for threadfin breams in the Indian EEZ. High discards rates of juvenile threadfin breams due to decline in mesh size: only 30% of the catch was landed with the remaining 70% discarded at sea. Trawl fisheries has been reported to catch turtles and marine mammals off the Indian coast. The impact of this fishery on the habitat is very high as trawlers are reported to trawl in inshore waters during the monsoon and post-monsoon season damaging spawning areas in inshore beds. IUU fishing in the Indian waters has been a major issue, which includes a range of illicit activities: fishing without permission or out of season; using outlawed types of fishing gear; non-reporting or underreporting of catch, etc. (Pramod 2010).

**SCORES**

**Management Quality**: Not yet scored

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<th>Management Strategy</th>
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**Stock Health**

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**FIPS**

- Indian threadfin bream - trawl: Stage 3, Progress Rating C, Type: Fip, Evaluation Start Date: 5 Sep 2010

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**START A FISHERY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FIP)**

Start a fishery improvement project (FIP) to evaluate and address sustainability issues in this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP’s Seaﬁsh Industry Guide to FIPs and other resources at [https://www.sustainablefishing.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Resources](https://www.sustainablefishing.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Resources).