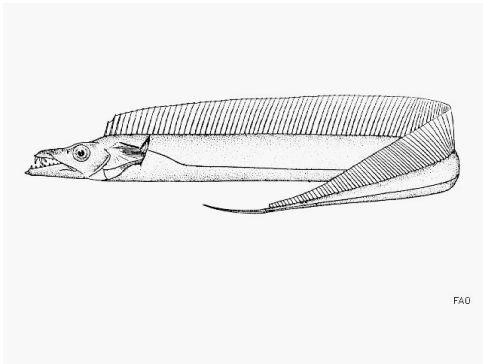


Largehead hairtail Ecuador

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Trichiurus lepturus

SPECIES NAME(S)

Largehead hairtail, Cutlassfish, Corbata (Spanish)

COMMON NAMES

Corbata (Spanish)

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

The largehead hairtail (locally know as "corbata") is globally distributed in tropical and temperate waters except the central Pacific; the eastern Atlantic population reported as this species is probably an undescribed species though. It is very common and locally abundant throughout its range (*Collete et al. 2015*). The stock structure of *Trichiurus lepturus* in the Eastern Pacific is not know, and no assessment of this species has been recently performed by the National Fisheries Institute (INP) of Ecuador. Therefore an unascertained top node is assigned with a management unit for Ecuador, where in the last years represented one of the main species of the fishery for small pelagics being mostly used for reduction purposes (*González et al. 2008*).



RELATED LINKS:

- [Vice Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador \(MAGAP\)](#)
- [Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Ecuador \(INP\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- Catches are above the long-term average and reached record high values in 2016.
- A two-months fishing ban is established every year to protect the reproduction of the species.
- There is a regulation on mesh size and some spatial protection measures have been adopted to protect reproductive phases, as advised.
- The first mile from coast is closed to fishing to protect the reproduction of aquatic species
- Marine habitats and bottom types have been identified an mapped.
- There is a national plan for the conservation of sea turtles and a national plan for the conservation of sharks and rays.

Weaknesses

- The stock structure is unknown hindering a proper assessment at a relevant spatial scale.
- No stock assessment has been conducted; the stock status in therefore unknown and no reference points have been set.
- The fishery is not managed through fish quotas.
- Fishery statistics, particularly catch data, seems to be underestimated based on the amount of fish meal production and exports of canned fish.
- The impact on bottom habitats and the whole ecosystem, as well as on ETP species, is unknown.
- There is no current information on the degree of compliance and enforcement of existing regulation measures.
- Ecosystem impact of this fishery and the role of largehead hairtail in the ecosystem of the area where this fishery operates have not been evaluated

Options

- Investigate stock structure of largehead hairtail off Ecuador and conduct stock assessment in order to know the stock status.
- Set minimum landing size as recommended by INP.
- Improve bycatch monitoring and reporting.
- Increase transparency both in assessment and management issues and the accessibility to historical and recent official reports and fisheries data.
- Support the approval and implementation of the new fisheries law for increased monitoring and enforcement of existing regulation measures.
- Improve official catch records and specifically provide catch data for largehead hairtail separately and not as part of a group of species.

SCORES

| Management Quality: | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Management Strategy | Managers Compliance | Fishers Compliance |
| < 6 | ≥ 6 | DATA DEFICIENT |

| Stock Health: | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Current Health | Future Health |
| DATA DEFICIENT | DATA DEFICIENT |

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC


No related MSC fisheries

Fisheries

Within FishSource, the term "fishery" is used to indicate each unique combination of a flag country with a fishing gear, operating within a particular management unit, upon a resource. That resource may have a known biological stock structure and/or may be assessed at another level for practical or jurisdictional reasons. A fishery is the finest scale of resolution captured in FishSource profiles, as it is generally the scale at which sustainability can most fairly and practically be evaluated.

|  MANAGEMENT UNIT |  FLAG COUNTRY |  FISHING GEAR |
|---|--|--|
| Ecuador - Artisanal | Ecuador | Purse seines |

Management Unit

|  MANAGEMENT UNIT | ORGANIZATION | FISHING AREA |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Ecuador | Vice Ministry of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador (MAGAP) | FAO 87.1.22, FAO 87.1.12 |