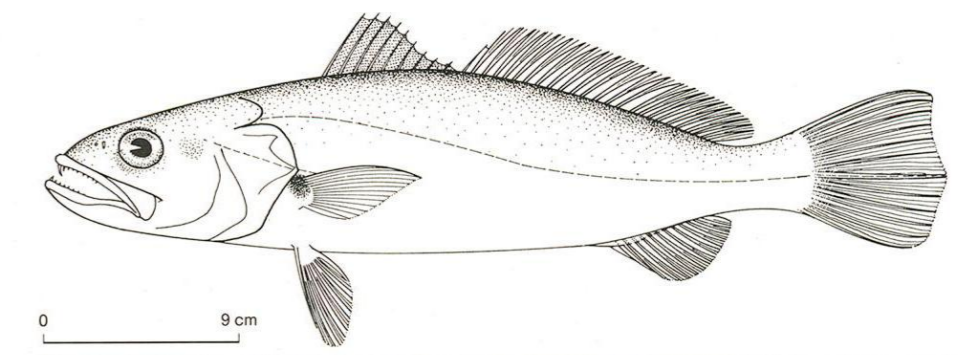


Sand seatrout

Cynoscion arenarius *Corvinata de arena*



Description

Range: The sand seatrout, a bony fish of the family Sciaenidae, is found in the coastal and shelf waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The species is one of the most abundant fish in estuaries and continental shelf waters of the Gulf.

Habitat: This demersal fish is usually found over sandy and muddy substrates in coastal and shelf waters. Juveniles and prespawners are found in estuarine and coastal waters. Adults occur generally to the edge of the continental shelf.

Feeding and Behavior: An opportunistic predator, the sand seatrout feeds mainly on crustaceans and fishes found over soft substrates.

Reproduction: Spawning grounds are located in the Gulf between 15 and 50 meter depths. Spawning occurs from March to September. Peak periods are March to May and August and September. Nursery areas are located further inshore and in estuaries. These are occupied by juveniles during spring through fall. Salt marshes may also be used during the early stages of growth.

Movement: In the late fall, juveniles leave estuarine nursery areas to winter in the open Gulf waters, returning to estuaries in the spring. Adults migrate to spawning grounds in the spring.

Fisheries: Commercial fishing for sand seatrout is concentrated along the coasts of Florida (west of Tampa Bay), Mississippi, Louisiana, and the northwestern Yucatan peninsula. Catches are marketed mostly fresh and this fish is considered a highly esteemed foodfish. The sand seatrout is fished recreationally throughout coastal areas.

References: Gutherz, E.J., pers. comm.; Moffett, A.W., L.W. McEachron, and J.G. Key, 1979; Shlossman, P.A., 1980.

-  **Adult Area (Year-round)**
-  **Major Adult Area (Winter) and Adult Area (Year-round)**
-  **Spawning Area (March to September)**
-  **Nursery Area (Spring, Summer, Fall)**
-  **Commercial Fishing Ground (Year-round)**

Winter nursery area is throughout adult areas.

References

Franks, J.S., et al. 1972; Guest, W.C., and G. Gunter, 1958; Heald, E.J., 1970; Hildebrand, H.H., 1955; Houde, E.D., et al., 1979; Rohr, B.A., pers. comm.; Simmons, E.G., 1951; Simmons, E.G., and H.D. Hoese, 1959.

Strategic Assessment Branch
 Ocean Assessments Division
 Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment
 National Ocean Service/NOAA
 and the
 Southeast Fisheries Center
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