



Red Porgy Fact Sheet



Image courtesy of Duane Raver

Basic Biology

Latin name: *Pagrus pagrus*

Range: Through the Atlantic Ocean, in the U.S. red porgy are found from New York through the northern Gulf of Mexico

Habitat: Shallow to moderate depths (most commonly 100-300 feet) over sandy and rocky bottoms

Diet: Crustaceans, fishes and mollusks

Age and growth: Maximum size-36 inches; maximum weight-17 lbs; maximum age-18 years

Sustainability

- Harvest of red porgy decreased from 1.5 million pounds in 1990 to 117,000 lbs in 2002.
- A 2002 stock assessment found that the population was overfished, but no longer experiencing overfishing. A rebuilding plan including harvest limits was implemented.
- Red porgy is part of the limited access snapper grouper fishery and harvesters are required to have one of the limited number of snapper grouper permits.
- Management measures include a 14" minimum size limit, a closed season of January through April, and an annual commercial quota of 127,000 lbs with a trip limit of 120 fish.
- Because of good fishery management, the red porgy population is rebuilding from a severely depleted population size and is considered a sustainable fishery. In fact, red porgy is rebuilding more quickly than projected by scientific models, therefore the annual quota was increased in the fall of 2006.
- The primary gear used to harvest red porgy is hook and line, which has little impact on the environment and little bycatch.

Info for Chefs

- Red porgy spawn from December through May in this region and the fishery is closed from January through April.
- Other common names for this fish include pink snapper, pink porgy and pinky.

Info for Servers

- Red porgy are sequential hermaphrodites, beginning life as female and eventually becoming male. Red porgy generally reach female reproductive maturity around 1 to 2 years of age (8 to 12 inches in length) with transition to the male gender beginning around 4 years of age, with nearly all being male by 8 or 9 years of age (14-16 inches).

Sources: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. 2006. Snapper Grouper Amendment 13C. Accessed at www.safmc.net on 1 September, 2008.

SEDAR. 2006. Stock Assessment of Red Porgy off the Southeastern United States, SEDAR Update Assessment. Accessed at www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar_Workshops.jsp?WorkshopNum=01 on 1 September, 2008.