

Somalia's Commercial Fish Species: A Comprehensive Guide

Somalia, with its extensive coastline along the Indian Ocean (over 3,898 km), boasts a rich marine ecosystem. The country has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that extends about 1,000,000 square kilometers offshore. The country's waters are home to a variety of commercially important fish species, which play a significant role in local livelihoods and the economy. Despite this vast marine territory, Somalia's fisheries have not been fully exploited; current local fish catches are significantly lower than the sustainable potential estimated at over 200,000 metric tons per year. Below is a detailed list of Somalia's commercial fish species, their habitats, and information on sustainable yields.

List of Somalia's Commercial Fish Species

Key Fish Species

Highly Migratory Species: These include large pelagic fish.

1. Tuna (*Thunnus* spp.)

- **Species:** Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*), Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)
- **Habitat:** Pelagic, found in open waters.
- **Importance:** Highly valued for export and local consumption.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Managed through regional fisheries organizations like the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
- By having harvest strategies, monitoring, and reducing bycatch.

2. Marlin & Sailfish Spp

- **Species:** Black marlin, (*Istiompax indica*), striped marlin, (*Kajikia audax*), Indo-Pacific blue marlin (*Makaira mazara*) Shortbill spearfish (*Tetrapturus angustirostris*), Indo-Pacific sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*), Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*).
- **Habitat:** Pelagic, found in open waters.
- **Importance:** Highly valued for export and local consumption.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Requires monitoring to prevent overfishing.

3. Other pelagic Spp.

- **Species:** Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus* spp.), wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*), Blue mackerel (*Scomber australasicus*)
- **Habitat:** Coastal and offshore waters.
- **Importance:** Popular in local and regional markets.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Requires monitoring to prevent overfishing.

4. Sharks (Various Species)

- **Species:** Great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*), Tiger Shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*)
Scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*).
- **Habitat:** Coastal and oceanic waters.
- **Importance:** Fins are highly valued in international markets.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Many species are threatened; strict regulations are needed.

Demersal Species

5. Snapper (Lutjanus spp.)

- **Species:** Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*), Malabar Snapper (*Lutjanus malabaricus*)
- **Habitat:** Coral reefs and rocky bottoms.
- **Importance:** High market demand for fresh and frozen products.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Vulnerable to overfishing; requires strict management.

6. Grouper (Epinephelus spp.)

- **Species:** Greasy Grouper (*Epinephelus tauvina*), Orange-spotted Grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*)
- **Habitat:** Coral reefs and rocky areas.
- **Importance:** High-value species for export.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Sensitive to overfishing; needs protection during spawning seasons.

7. Emperor Fish (Lethrinus spp.)

- **Species:** Yellowtail Emperor (*Lethrinus atkinsoni*), Red-spot Emperor (*Lethrinus lentjan*), Emperor scavenger (*Lethrinus nebulosus*), Long face emperor (*Lethrinus miniatus*)
- **Habitat:** Coral reefs and seagrass beds.
- **Importance:** Popular in local markets.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Moderate; requires monitoring.

8. Barracuda (Sphyraena spp.)

- **Species:** Great Barracuda (*Sphyraena barracuda*)
- **Habitat:** Coastal and offshore waters.
- **Importance:** Valued for its firm flesh.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Generally resilient but needs regulation.

9. Lobster (Panulirus spp.)

- **Species:** Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus homarus*), (*Panulirus ornatus*), (*Panulirus longipes*), (*Puerulus swelli*), (*Puerulus carrinatus*).
- **Habitat:** Rocky and coral reef areas, *Puerulus swelli* & *Puerulus carrinatus* depths between 150 m and 400 m along the east coast.
- **Importance:** High-value export product.

- **Sustainable Yield:** Overfishing is a concern; requires careful management.

9. Sardines (*Sardinella* spp.)

- **Species:** Round Sardinella (*Sardinella aurita*)
- **Habitat:** Coastal waters.
- **Importance:** Important for local consumption and bait.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Generally abundant but needs monitoring.

10. Mackerel (*Rastrelliger* spp.)

- **Species:** Indian Mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*)
- **Habitat:** Coastal and offshore waters.
- **Importance:** Widely consumed locally.
- **Sustainable Yield:** Resilient but requires regulation.

Habitats of Somalia's Commercial Fish Species

1. **Coral Reefs:** Home to snappers, groupers, and emperor fish.
2. **Open Ocean** (Pelagic Zone); Habitat for tuna, mackerel, and barracuda.
3. **Coastal Waters:** Support sardines, kingfish, and smaller pelagic species.
4. **Rocky and Seagrass Areas:** Important for lobsters and some reef-associated species.

Market Prices (General Information)

Market prices for fish in Somalia vary depending on the species, Quality, size, and demand. For example:

- **Tuna:** High-value species, often exported to international markets.
- **Lobster:** Expensive, primarily exported to Asia and the Middle East.
- **Sardines and Mackerel:** Affordable, widely consumed locally.

Sustainable Yield and Fisheries Management

1. Challenges

- Overfishing by local and foreign vessels.
- Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Lack of effective fisheries management and enforcement.

2. Investment opportunities

- Investing in fish processing facilities can significantly increase the value of Somalia's fish products.
- Developing capabilities for processing fish into products such as fillets or canned goods can open new market segments both domestically and internationally

- Investing in cold storage solutions and efficient transportation networks, Somalia can ensure that fish products remain fresh during transit to markets.
- Improving the capabilities of small fishing enterprises and directing them towards achieving higher fish quality.

3. Sustainable Practices

- Implementing catch limits and seasonal closures.
- Doing constant research on stock assessment.
- Protecting spawning grounds and juvenile fish.
- Promoting community-based fisheries management.

4. Regional Cooperation

- Somalia is part of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), which works to manage tuna stocks sustainably.
- Collaboration with neighboring countries to combat IUU fishing.

5. International collaboration for sustainable fisheries guidelines

- NOAA Fisheries - Sustainable Fisheries
- FAO - Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries
- Marine Stewardship Council - Effective Fisheries Management
- WWF - Sustainable Fishing Practices
- Oceana - Securing Sustainable Fisheries Management
- Food Forward NDCS - Implementing Sustainable Fisheries Management
- FAO - Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
- Ocean Conservancy - Global Fisheries Collaboration
- MSC - Innovations in Sustainable Fishing
- WWF - Seafood Guides

Recommendations for Sustainable Fisheries in Somalia

1. Invest and implement Science-Based Management Plans.
2. Establish Catch Limits and Quotas.
3. Enhance Monitoring and Surveillance
4. Reduce Bycatch
5. Promote alternative livelihoods to reduce fishing pressure.
6. Support Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM).
7. Raise awareness about sustainable fishing practices among local communities.
8. Foster International Cooperation
9. Invest in Research and Development

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of Somalia's commercial fish species, their habitats, and the importance of sustainable fisheries management.

Somalia's Commercial Fish Species

No.	Scientific name	English Name	image
1.	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Yellowfin Tuna	
2.	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Skipjack Tuna	
3.	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Bigeye Tuna	
4.	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>	longtail tuna	
5.	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	Kawakawa	
6.	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Albacore	
7.	<i>Sarda orientalis</i>	Striped bonito	
8.	<i>Auxis thazard</i>	Frigate tuna	
9.	<i>Auxis rochei</i>	Bullet tuna	
10.	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel	
11.	<i>Scomber australasicus</i>	Blue mackerel	
12.	<i>Istiompax indica</i>	Black marlin	

13.	<i>Kajikia audax</i>	Striped marlin	
14.	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	Shortbill spearfish	
15.	<i>Makaira mazara</i>	Indo-Pacific blue marlin	
16.	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	Indo-Pacific sailfish	
17.	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish	
18.	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	wahoo	
19.	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great hammerhead	
20.	<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>	Tiger Shark	
21.	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark	
22.	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead	
23.	<i>Alepes vari</i>	Herring scad	
24.	<i>Lethrinus spp</i>	emperors	
25.	<i>Epinephelus spp</i>	groupers	

26.	<i>Lutjanus spp.</i>	snappers	
27.	<i>Sphyraena spp</i>	Barracuda	
28.	<i>Sardinella aurita</i>	Round Sardinella	
29.	<i>Sardinella sindensis</i>	Sind sardinella	
30.	<i>Sardinella neglecta</i>	East African sardinella	
31.	<i>Sardinella melanura</i>	Blacktip sardinella	
32.	<i>Sardinella longiceps</i>	Indian oil sardine	
33.	<i>Sardinella albella</i>	White sardinella	
34.	<i>Sardinella gibbosa</i>	Goldstripe sardinella	
35.	<i>Moolgarda buchanani</i>	Bluetail mullet	
36.	<i>Panulirus homarus</i>	scalloped spiny lobster	
37.	<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>	Ornate spiny lobster or tropical rock lobster	
38.	<i>Panulirus longipes</i>	longlegged spiny lobster	
39.	<i>Puerulus sewelli</i>	Arabian whip lobster	

Somalia Fish for selling 1st trip Wadani 1

in Operation



Name:	Cuttle fish		Block
Size:	XXL	3kg. Up	226
	L	1-3 kg.	143
	M	300-500g.	101
	S	120-300g.	52
	SS	100g. Down	21
Quantity			543
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	8959.5 kg.	



Name:	Squid		Block
Size:	XXL	8" up	
	L	6"-8"	16
	M	4"-6"	85
	S	3"-4"	225
	SS	3" down	65
Quantity			391
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	6451.5 kg.	



Name:	Dusky Trevally		Block
Size:	XXL	1.5 kg. up	
	L	800g.-1.2 kg.	
	M	500g- 800g.	
	S	300-400 g.	
	SS	300g. Down	
Quantity			0
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	0 kg.	



Name:	Golden / Long Trevally	Block
	Mixed size offer	
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	311
	L 800g.-1.2 kg	736
	M 500g- 800g.	690
	S 300-400 g.	1000
	SS 300g. Down	41
Quantity		2778
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	676.5 kg.



Name:	Saddle Grunt	Block
	Mixed Size offer	1661
Size:	XXL 3 kg. up	
	L 1-2 kg.	
	M 500g. -1 kg.	
Quantity		1661
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	27406.5 kg.



Name:	Red Snapper	Block
Size:	XXL 3 kg. up	
	L 1-2 kg.-2	1
	M 500g. -1 kg.	
Quantity		1
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	16.5 kg.



Name:	White Seabeam	Block
	Mixed size offer	4
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 500-700g.	
	S 500 down	
Quantity		4
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	66 kg.



Name:	Red Seabeam	Block
	Mixed size offer	
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	74
	L 800-1.2 kg.	33
	M 500-700g.	
	S 500 down	
Quantity		107
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	1765.5 kg.



Name:	Red Threadfin Beam	Block
Size:	Yemen Redbeam	217
	L 550g. Up	16
	M 350-500g.	123
	S 150-300g.	467
	SS 100 g. down	31
Quantity		854
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	14091 kg.



Name:	Starry Pigface		Block
Size:	XXL	1.5 kg. up	
	L	800-1.2 kg.	
	M	500-700g.	
Quantity			0
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.		0 kg.



	Seapike			
Name:	Big Baracu	สาวก	Block piece	
	Mixed size offer			
Size:	XXL	3 kg. up	104	25
	L	1.5-3 kg.	140	
	M	1.0-1.5 kg.		
Quantity			244	25
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.		4026 KG.	500 Kg.



Name:	Baracuda	น้ำดอกไม	Block
Size:	XXL	1.5 kg. up	
	L	800-1.2 kg.	5
	M	500-700g.	
Quantity			5
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.		82.5 kg.



Name:	Big Goat Fish	Block
	Mixed size offer	
Size:	XXL 550g. up	
	L 350-500g.	46
	M 150-300g.	305
	S 100 down	
Quantity		351
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	5791.5 kg.



Name:	Shark / Smooth Hound	Block	piece
	Mixed size offer	527	7
Size:	XXL 7Kg. Up		
	L 3kg. 5kg.		
	M 1.5-3kg.		
	S 1.2kg. Down		
Quantity		527	7
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	8695.5 kg.	154 kg



Guitar Fish / Ronin

Name:	Guitar Fish	Block	piece
	Mixed size offer		9
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	473	
	L 1.2-1.5 kg.	161	
	M 800- 1kg.		
	S 500-800g.		
Quantity		634	9
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	10461 kg	198 kg



Name:	Spot Grouper	piece
Size:	XXL 3kg. Up	
	L 2-3 kg.	
	M 1-2 kg.	
	S	
Quantity		0
Unit / piece	16-17 kg.	0 kg.



Name:	Turbot / Halibut	Block
	Mixed size offer	
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	13
	L 800-1.2 kg.	84
	M 500-700g.	
	S 500 down	
Quantity		97
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	1600.5 kg.



Name:	Emperor	Block
	Mixed size	101
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 500-700g.	
Quantity		101
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	1666.5 kg.



Name:	Grouper		Block
	Mixed size offer		
Size:	XXL	1.5 kg. up	252
	L	800-1.2 kg.	35
	M	550-700g.	
	S	350-500	
Quantity			287
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.		4735.5 kg.



Name:	Croaker		Block
Size:	XXL	1.2 kg. up	
	L	500-800g.	2
Quantity			2
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.		33 kg.



Parrot Fish			
Name:	Parrot mixed color		block
Size:	1Kg. Up		71
Quantity			71
Unit / Piece	15 kg. up		1171.5 kg. / Estimate



Parrot Fish



Name:	Big Grouper	piece
Size:	XXL	200
Quantity		200
Unit / Piece	15 kg. up	4400 kg. / Estimate



Name:	Lizard Fish	Block
Size:	Mixed Size	706
	L 550g. Up	
	M 350-500g.	
Quantity		706
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	11649 kg.





Name:	Spotted Big Eye		Block
Size:	XXL	800g up	19
	L	550-800g.	
	M	350-500g.	
Quantity			19
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	313.5 kg.	



ROUND STING RAY



Name:	Sting Ray	Block	piece
Size:	Round Sting ray	94	3
	Eagle Sting Ray	11	
Quantity		105	3
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	1732.5 kg.	66 kg



EAGLE RAY

Name:	COBIA	pieces
Size:	10 kg. up	16
Quantity		16
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	352 kg.



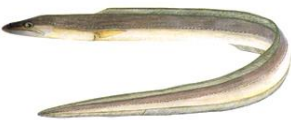
Name:	Spanish Mackerel	pieces
Size:	10 kg. up	1



Quantity	1
Unit / Block	16-17 kg. 10 kg.



Name:	Tripletale fish	Block
	Mixed size offer	280
Size:	L	
	M	
	S	
	SS	
	XXL	piece
Quantity	280	
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	4620 kg.



Name:	Eel	Block
Size:	2kg.	21



Quantity	21
Unit / Block	16-17 kg. 346.5 kg.



Name:	Leather jacket fish	Block
Size:	None	26

Quantity	26
Unit / Block	16-17 kg. 429 kg.



Name:	Common Dolphin	piece
Size:	5 kg. up	5
Quantity		5
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	30 kg.



Name:	Russell's Snapper	Block
	Mixed size offer	2
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 550-700g.	
	S 350-500	
Quantity		2
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	33 kg.



Name:	Yellow Stripe Scad	block
	Mixed size offer	
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 550-700g.	1
	S 350-500	
Quantity		1
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	16.5 kg.



Name:	Round Scad Scad	Block
	Mixed size offer	
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 550-700g.	
	S 350-500	4
Quantity		4
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	66 kg.



Name:	Ribbon Fish	Block
	Mixed size offer	
Size:	XXL 700g. Up	
	L 500-700g.	6
	M 300-500g	
	S 200-300g.	
Quantity		6
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	99 kg.



Name:	Painted Sweetlip	Block
	Mixed size offer	9
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 550-700g.	
	S 350-500	
Quantity		9
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	148.5 kg.



Name:	Spadefish / Batfish	Block
	Mixed size offer	1
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 550-700g.	
	S 350-500	
Quantity		1
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	16.5 kg.



Name:	Butter fish	Block
	Mixed size offer	1
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 550-700g.	
	S 350-500	
Quantity		1
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	16.5 kg.



Name:	streak spine foot	Block
	Mixed size offer	20
Size:	XXL 1.5 kg. up	
	L 800-1.2 kg.	
	M 550-700g.	
	S 350-500	
Quantity		20
Unit / Block	16-17 kg.	330 kg.