

Geelstert

Cape Yellowtail

Seriola lalandi



About the Yellowtail

The Cape Yellowtail is a common, but seasonal, game fish of great esteem along the Cape Agulhas coastline. It is mainly an inhabitant of Atlantic waters. It is a favourite with anglers because of its excellent taste and being a strong fighter.

Conservation status

Yellowtail was caught with purse seine, but because of dwindling numbers, it was stopped. Yellowtail is however still the best managed fish which can withstand the fishing pressure.

Origin of names

Seriola is an old Italian name for the Yellowtail. The Latin name, *lalandi*, is after the French naturalist Delalande who visited the Cape in 1820. Cape Yellowtail is a reference to its region of major occurrence and its bright yellow tail. It should not be confused with the *Geelbek* or Cape Salmon.

Distribution & habits

The Yellowtail occurs in offshore shoals, but will move to areas with abundant food and to spawn in the warmer coastal waters during the summer months about 30 to 40km from the coast and at depths of 50m. It lives from October to March in the southern coastal waters and follows each winter the pilchard migrations up the East coast. The Yellowtail feeds on small fish and squid.



Curry fish, a local traditional dish

Curry fish is a famous local Strandveld dish usually made with Yellowtail. It is fried in a pan or in the oven with salt, pepper and flour and then marinated in a curry sauce. The curry sauce: fry onions until soft and add white vinegar. Stir in curry, turmeric and pickled fish spice. Add sugar to taste. Cook onion until soft. Layer the cooked fish in a dish, cover with the curry sauce and leave for two to three days before eating. (Verenique du Plessis)



(SOURCES: Coast Care file, n.d.; VAN DER ELST, R. 2010. *A guide to the common sea fishes of southern Africa*.)