



Ethmalose
(*Ethmalosa fimbriata*)



Species and distribution

The **Cobo** is a tropical species dependent on the estuary, distributed from Mauritania to Angola and is the smallest pelagic most widespread in the brackish waters of the West African coastal estuaries. The distribution of this species shows two main areas of concentration, one between the mouth of the Senegal River and the coast of Sierra Leone, the other, along the coasts of Nigeria and Cameroon to the mouth of the Congo River.

The Cobo is limited to shallow waters (at depth <20 m).



Habitats and food

The **Cobo** is a euryhaline species that frequent coastal areas, generally close to the mouth of large rivers, which can spend part or all of its life in inland waters such as rivers, estuaries, deltas, lagoons.

Cobo's diet changes from zooplankton feeding in young fish to a more microphagous diet (with more phytoplankton) in adults. This change in diet between juveniles and adults is due to the fact that the filtration of the gills changes as the **Cobo** grows.

This leads to a decrease in the size of the gill filter mesh and thus a change in the diet.



Reproduction and life cycle

The sex ratio, expressed as a proportion of males compared to females, is generally equal to 50%. The first sexual maturity and the reproduction of **Cobo** reproduces in very variable salinity waters, between 3.5 and 38 ‰ and whose temperature values are below a value of 22°C.



Fishing methods

The artisanal fishermen in southern Senegal mainly used seines and encircling gillnets. The purse-seine is a non-selective fishing gear that catches small fish, while the encircling gillnet mainly takes the **Cobo**.

Management measures and options



Management of the **Cobo** fishery is necessary to improve the renewal of stocks in Senegal.

Therefore, in order to preserve the reproductive potential of the entire **Cobo** stock, we recommend :

Increase the size at the first catch, in order to allow individuals to grow and to ensure the long-term survival of populations and therefore of sustainable fishing,

Use a drastic reduction in fishing capacity,

A sanction, prior to an awareness-raising information campaign, the capture, sale, and processing of juveniles,

Decrease the number of active gillnets due to their low selectivity which induces a high potential for bycatch.