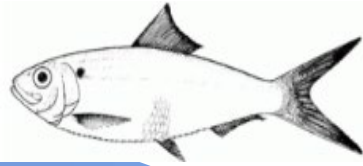


# Yabóy



**Yabóy mërëg**  
(*Sardinella aurita*)



**Yabóy tass**  
(*Sardinella maderensis*)



## Species and distributions

The *Yabóy tass* and the *Yabóy mërëg* have similarities in size and appearance.

The main distinctive feature is the black spot on the lid of the *Yabóy mërëg*. On the *Yabóy tass*, the black spot is not on the cover but rather just behind.

The *Yabóy mërëg* is generally found more offshore than the *Yabóy mërëg*, but it can also concentrate along the coast when food production drops off the coast.

The *Yabóy mërëg* makes extensive seasonal migrations (north / south) while the *Yabóy tass* is known to be more sedentary.



## Habitats and food

In all regions, the *Yabóy* preferentially evolves in the continental shelves where it prefers salt water (> 35 ‰) and hot temperatures (<24 ° C).

The *Yabóy* is plankton-eating and has a mixed diet. When young, it feeds on phytoplankton and then switches to a zooplanktonophagous diet based on copepods and euphausiids.



### Reproduction and life cycle

The different *Yabóy* species have similar life cycles. They have separate sexes and, depending on the species and location, reach reproductive maturity at around 25 cm in total length and the sex ratio close to 1.

Breeding is continuous all year round, but there is always at least a maximum of breeding.

Indeed, the reproduction of the *Yabóy mërëg* is more intense from October to the end of December while for *Yabóy tass*, the sexual activity of the is more intense from February to October with a maximum located between May and August.



### Fishing methods

The *Yabóy* are mainly exploited through two artisanal fishing gear. These are the purse-seine and the encircling gillnet.

The purse-seine makes it possible to encircle the school of fish by doubling it in the direction where it moves. The manipulation of the slide makes it possible to close the pocket-shaped net in the lower part.



### Management measures and options

There is an urgent need to take management measures through regulation based on the cross-border distribution of stocks. Any planning policy for the *Yabóy* must be concerted and should be done in common with the countries concerned.

In Senegal, to rebuild the fisheries of *Yabóy*, fisheries management should include: a revision of the Senegalese fishing code, which should set a length at the first catch  $\geq 18$  cm, is recommended by adopting  $L_c$  even if  $L_{c\_opt}$  should be the best option.

Indeed, the individuals captured at  $L_{c\_opt}$  (25 and 28 cm for *Yabóy tass* and *Yabóy mërëg*, respectively) should be a natural safeguard against any recruitment failure and allow individuals to ensure the long-term survival of populations, in a context data-poor fisheries.