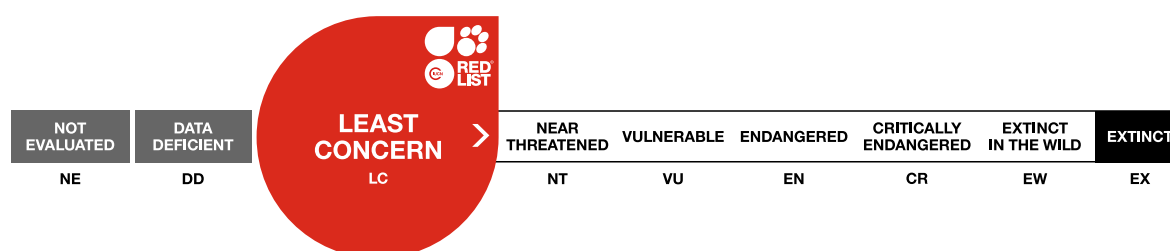


Congiopodus peruvianus, Horsefish

Assessment by: Buratti, C., Díaz de Astarloa, J., Hüne, M., Irigoyen, A., Landaeta, M., Riestra, C. & Vieira, J.P.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Scorpaeniformes	Congiopodidae

Scientific Name: *Congiopodus peruvianus* (Cuvier, 1829)

Synonym(s):

- *Agriopus peruvianus* Cuvier, 1829

Common Name(s):

- English: Horsefish
- Spanish; Castilian: Chanchito

Taxonomic Source(s):

Fricke, R., Eschmeyer, W.N. and Van der Laan, R. (eds). 2020. Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Updated 02 March 2020. Available at: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: December 4, 2019

Justification:

This widely distributed, demersal species is common through most of its range. There are no known major threats; therefore, it is listed as Least Concern.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is distributed in the southeastern Pacific from Lima, Peru to the southern tip of Chile and in the southwestern Atlantic off Argentina at 50°S north to Uruguay. The depth range is 0-200 metres.

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Argentina; Chile; Peru; Uruguay

FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

Native: Atlantic - southwest

Native: Pacific - southeast

Distribution Map

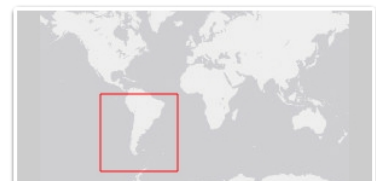


Legend

■ EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN Marine Biodiversity Unit/GMSA 2020



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

Population

This species is common through most of the Patagonia Sea region. It is common and frequently observed in Argentina (Scarlato *et al.* 2016, C. Buratti and J.M. Díaz de Astarloa pers. comm. 2019). It is less common off Chile than in Argentina, and its abundance is lower in the northern parts of Chile to Peru as compared to the southern parts of Chile (M. Hüne pers. comm. 2019).

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This demersal species occurs in rocky reef habitats, including kelp beds, and often hides in caves and rocky overhangs (A. Irigoyen pers. comm. 2019). It can also occur in sandy and shelly areas (C. Buratti pers. comm. 2019). Juveniles rest on the bottom and mimic dead leaves. The maximum length is 27 cm (Betti and Daneri 2019). Females and males are remarkably sexually dimorphic in the colour pattern. Females are lighter than males. Females have a light brown/orange background with black stripes and blotches all over the body, including fins. The belly is unpigmented. Males, in contrast, are much darker than females. Most of the body is dark brown except the mid part of body which is light brown. All fins are dark and the belly as well (J.M. Díaz de Astarloa pers. comm. 2020).

Systems: Marine

Use and Trade

This species is not commercially exploited. It is occasionally collected, dried and sold in some parts of Patagonia as a souvenir (J.M. Díaz de Astarloa pers. comm. 2019). It is sometimes discarded as bycatch in hake fisheries off Argentina, but has a relatively high survival rate (C. Buratti pers. comm. 2019).

Threats

There are no known major threats.

Conservation Actions

There are no species-specific conservation measures. It occurs in a permanent closed area for the Argentine hake trawl fisheries on the Argentine continental shelf around 45°S (Alemany *et al.* 2013).

Credits

Assessor(s):	Buratti, C., Díaz de Astarloa, J., Hüne, M., Irigoyen, A., Landaeta, M., Riestra, C. & Vieira, J.P.
Reviewer(s):	Linardich, C.
Contributor(s):	Campagna, C.
Facilitator(s) and Compiler(s):	Falabella, V., Linardich, C. & Wildlife Conservation Society

Bibliography

Aleman, D.; Iribarne, O. O.; Acha, E. M. 2013. Effects of a large-scale and offshore marine protected area on the demersal fish assemblage in the Southwest Atlantic. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 70: 123-134.

Betti, F. and Daneri, G. 2019. Leaf-like morphology and behaviour of juvenile horsefish (*Congiopodus peruvianus*)(Scorpaeniformes: Congiopodidae) from Chilean Patagonia. *Marine Biodiversity* 49(6): 2493-2494.

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Scarlato, N.A., Ibañez, P. and Tringali, L. 2016. Study of the environmental relationships, distribution and composition of the accompanying fauna of hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) in spring 2008 / Study of argentine hake (*merluccius hubbsi*) by- catch distribution, composition and relationships with environmental variables. *Frente Marítimo* 24: 185-214.

Citation

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External Resources

For [Supplementary Material](#), and for [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.2. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.3. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.4. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	Resident	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.7. Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Use and Trade

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

End Use	Local	National	International
Handicrafts, jewellery, etc.	Yes	No	Yes

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower depth limit (m): 200
Upper depth limit (m): 0

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