

# BLACK POMFRET

*Parastromateus niger*

Bloch, 1795



PIERRE DE CHABANNES

## CLASSIFICATION

**Class:** Actinopteri

**Order:** Carangiformes

**Family:** Carangidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



## LEAST CONCERN

**Identification:** The species grows up to 75 cm long. Losange-shaped, laterally compressed body with triangular dorsal and anal fins with dark edges. Black spot near pectoral fin base, small mouth. Coloration dark brown turning silvery white on belly.

**Range:** This species in the Indo-Pacific area, from the Red Sea and Persian Gulf to Philippines, north to south Japan, south to north Australia.

**Habitat :** Coastal areas over soft bottom, from 15 to 40 meters deep.

**Behavior:** The species can form huge schools and is regularly seen swimming on its side near water surface. Feeds on zooplankton at night.

**Status in the wild:** The species has a huge range and remains common to abundant. It is however overfished in most of its range and declines are locally alarming.

**In captivity:** This species is extremely rare and usually does not survive long in tanks. It has never been displayed in any European collection and seems absent from America too. Kept for a short time in a Singaporean institution, never bred.