**Fistularia commersonii**

**Taxon**
- *Fistularia commersonii* Rüppell, 1838

**Family / Order / Class / Phylum**
- Fistularidae / Syngnathiformes / Actinopterygii / Chordata

**COMMON NAMES (English only)**
- Blue-spotted cornetfish
- Smooth flutemouth

**SYNONYMS**
- *Fistularia depressa* Günther, 1880

**SHORT DESCRIPTION**
A marine, mainly piscivorous fish with a grey to olive-green body, commonly 20-100 cm long (max. 150 cm). The body is extremely elongated, the head is more than 1/3 of SL, snout tubular, ending in small mouth. Dorsal and anal fins are posterior in position, opposite to each other. The caudal fin is forked, with two very elongated and filamented middle rays. The skin is smooth, without bony plates along the midline of the back.

**BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY**

- **Dispersal mechanisms**
  - Planktonic larvae, adults.

- **Reproduction**
  - Off California spawning occurs in June- August. Planktonic eggs.

- **Known predators/herbivores**
  - Unknown.

- **Resistant stages (seeds, spores etc.)**
  - None.

**HABITAT**

- **Native (EUNIS code)**
  - A4: Sublittoral sediments. Marine sublittoral. Adults inhabit Reef habitats to a depth of at least 128 m, but also found in sandy bottoms adjacent to reef areas, and seagrass beds.

- **Habitat occupied in invaded range (EUNIS code)**
  - A4: Sublittoral sediments. Marine sublittoral soft; sandy bottoms and seagrass meadows.

**Habitat requirements**
- Temperature tolerance 15-30°C.

**DISTRIBUTION**

- **Native range**
  - Indo-Pacific: Red Sea, East Africa to Easter Island, Japan, Australia, New Zealand. Eastern Central Pacific: Mexico to Panama.

- **Known Introduced Range**
  - Mediterranean, Israel to Southern Italy and Tunisia.

- **Trend**
  - First collected in Cyprus (1999), and Israel (2000), Antalya, Turkey, Rhodes Island and Crete, Greece (2001), and off Lampedusa Island, Italy, off Zarzis, Tunisia (2002).
INTRODUCTION PATHWAY
Entered the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal.

IMPACT
Ecosystem Impact
It competes for food with native piscivorous fish.

Health and Social Impact
Unknown.

Economic Impact
It preys on native commercially important fish (*Spicara smaris, Boops boops, Mullus barbatus*). It is of minor commercial importance.

MANAGEMENT
Prevention
Erect a salinity barrier in the Suez Canal in order to reduce the number of Red Sea aliens arriving in the Mediterranean.

Mechanical
Unknown.

Chemical
Unknown.

Biological
Unknown.

REFERENCES

OTHER REFERENCES

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