# GEORGIA AQUARIUM ANIMAL FACT SHEET

## **Vermilion Snapper**

Rhomboplites aurorubens

### Range/Habitat

- The vermilion snapper is found in the western Atlantic from Bermuda and North Carolina to about Rio de Janeiro, including the West Indies, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.
- It inhabits moderately deep waters and is most common over rock, gravel or sand bottoms at water depth of about 130 to 980 feet (40 300 m), near the edge of the continental and island shelves. Young fish occur in shallower depths below about 80 feet (25 m).

### **Physical Characteristics**

- The vermillion snapper has a short snout with a slightly projecting lower jaw and a small mouth.
- Its pectoral (side) fins are relatively short and its tail is shallow and forked.
- The upper head, body, dorsal and tail fins are light red to salmon in color. Its lower body fades to silver. There are thin diagonal lines on its upper body that are formed by rows of tiny blue dots. Occasionally its mid-body will have yellow streaks.
- This snapper averages about 1 to 2 feet (30 60 cm) in length, with a maximum length of 2.5 feet (70 cm). Maximum weight is about 6.9 lbs. (3.2 kg).

### Diet/Feeding

• It feeds on fishes, shrimps, crabs, marine worms, other benthic invertebrates, cephalopods and planktonic organisms

#### **Conservation Status**

• The vermillion snapper is not on the IUCN Red List.

#### **Additional Information**

- Young vermillion snapper often form schools.
- Adults also will occasionally mix with schools of grunts or other snappers
- It is considered a good food fish throughout its range and is harvested commercially.
- This snapper is believed to live for as long as 10 years.

#### Sources

# www.fishbase.org

Reef Fish Identification: Florida Caribbean Bahamas. Humann, P. and Deloach, N., pg. 113