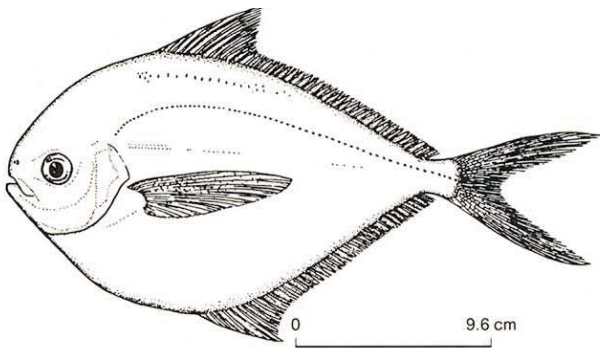


Gulf butterfish

Peprilus burti
Palometa pintada



Description

Range: The Gulf butterfish, a bony fish of the family Stromateidae, is found along the east coast of the United States and along the entire Gulf coast to the western Yucatan Peninsula.

Habitat: This demersal fish favors brackish to oceanic waters within depths of about 160 meters. This demersal species is **more** commonly **associated** with sand and mud substrates.

Feeding and Behavior: Gulf butterfish feeds mainly on jellyfish and ctenophores, small fish, copepods, other crustaceans, and worms found at or near the bottom. Juveniles are plankton feeders. Young juveniles of this species are associated with jellyfishes.

Reproduction: Spawning occurs during the spring, summer, and fall with two peak periods from February to early May and September to November. Spawning grounds are offshore; nursery areas are inshore.

Movement: As juveniles mature, they move offshore congregating in waters 30 to 100 meters deep. Butterfish also display seasonal inshore-offshore movements, retreating to deeper, warmer waters during the winter.

Fisheries: The Gulf butterfish is an important component of the industrial bottomfish fishery in the northern Gulf.

References: Murphy, M.D., 1981.

-  **Adult Area (Spring, Summer, Fall)**
-  **Adult Area (Winter)**
-  **Nursery Area (Year-round)**

Spawning, from February to May and September to November, occurs primarily in winter adult area and in seaward portions of spring, summer, and fall adult area.

References

Fischer, W., ed., 1978; Gutherz, E.J., pers. comm.; Houde, E.D., et al., 1979; Murphy, M.D., 1981.

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