

Crevalle Jack

(*Caranx hippos*)

Habitat and Distribution: Found in tropical and subtropical waters of the Pacific Ocean and eastern Atlantic Ocean. Young are often found in estuaries and move farther offshore to the open sea as they get older.

Size: Up to 4 feet in length; up to 50 pounds

Wild Diet: Small fish, shrimp and other invertebrates

Predators: Humans, marlin and seabirds

Lifespan: Unknown

Reproduction: Females release eggs and males release sperm directly into the water. Sperm will fertilize eggs they encounter. This is called broadcast spawning. Fertilized eggs are planktonic and will float freely until hatching. The Crevalle Jack has been found to spawn in both tropical and subtropical environments.

Behavior: Usually found in fast-moving schools; however adults may be solitary or move in pairs as well. They hunt in schools by cornering smaller fish at the surface or against a seawall.

Conservation Connection: Status: Secure. Currently, there is no reason to believe this species population is in danger though they are a favorite to sport fisherman.

Interesting Facts: Crevalle Jacks can tolerate different salt levels of sea water. They create splashes that can be seen from great distances away. Females are typically larger than males. In open water the young are vulnerable to predators. For protection, they use a behavior called piloting in which they will stay within inches of a larger fish or, if none are available, will “shadow” buoys, boats, or swimmers.

