

## *Seriola rivoliana* (Almaco Jack)

Family: Carangidae (Jacks and Pompanos)

Order: Perciformes (Perch and Allied Fish)

Class: Actinopterygii (Ray-finned Fish)



**Fig. 1.** Almaco jack, *Seriola rivoliana*.

[<http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/1663>, downloaded 27 October 2016]

**TRAITS.** *Seriola rivoliana*, commonly known as the almaco jack, has a few other common names including almaco amberjack, highfin amberjack, and silvercoat jack. Size up to 80cm fork length, but most frequently about 55cm fork length (Smith-Vaniz et al., 2015). Has two dorsal fins, the longer of the two is approximately twice as long as the longest dorsal spine. Colour is pale blue-green, with a lavender sheen (Bray, 2016). The almaco jack has a short upper jaw, with a yellowish streak from the jaw across the eyes to the first dorsal fin (Abdussamad et al., 2008) but the colour becomes less distinguishable as the fish ages (Fig. 1). Younger almaco jacks usually have six dark bars on their sides (Luna, 2016).

**DISTRIBUTION.** *Seriola rivoliana* is widely dispersed over the seas as shown in Fig. 2. They are mainly found in tropical areas, but can also be seen in temperate regions. Almaco jacks are found in the western Atlantic Ocean from areas such as the Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Caribbean Sea; in the eastern Atlantic Ocean along West Africa and the Canary Islands; and in addition in India, the Philippines, Australia, the Hawaiian Islands and to the coast of Peru (Smith-Vaniz et al., 2015).

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY.** Almaco jacks live in the pelagic area of marine waters (Smith-Vaniz et al., 2015) i.e. they live in the water column, not close to either the bottom or the shore

(NOAA, 2014). They can also be epibenthic (Smith-Vaniz et al., 2015), i.e. living near the bottom of the water. Younger ones live in algae beds, for example *Sargassum*. They feed mostly on other fish, and also other sea creatures including shrimps, crabs, octopus and squid (Luna, 2016). Almaco jacks are fast swimming and search for food both day and night, and are mainly found in small groups (Fig. 3). Adult *Seriola rivoliana* are nomadic (MarineBio, 2016).

**REPRODUCTION.** Almaco jacks are known to form spawning groups in Gladden Spit, Belize (Smith-Vaniz et al., 2015). Spawning occurs throughout spring, summer and fall, depending on water temperature (MarineBio, 2016).

**BEHAVIOUR.** Almaco jacks are found in waters from 3-250m deep. The adults are demersal, i.e. feeding closer to the bottom of the sea, whereas the young are mostly observed surrounding floating objects (Luna, 2016). *Seriola rivoliana* rub against the skin of passing sharks to remove parasites (MarineBio, 2016).

**APPLIED BIOLOGY.** They aren't any known major threats to *Seriola rivoliana*, and it is listed as of Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (Smith-Vaniz et al., 2015) i.e. it is not an endangered species. *Seriola rivoliana* is mainly sought in artisanal fishing in the Caribbean regions. However they can cause ciguatera poisoning (Luna, 2016) if contaminated with ciguatoxin, which is found in fish in coral reef areas (Arnold, 2015).

#### REFERENCES

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**Fig. 2.** Almaco jack geographic distribution.

[<https://web.archive.org/web/20140303223535/http://www.aquamaps.org/preMap.php?cache=1&SpecID=Fis-22208>  
downloaded 27 October 2016]



**Fig. 3.** Almaco jack found in small groups.

[[http://www.panoramio.com/photo\\_explorer#view=photo&position=736&with\\_photo\\_id=78590782&order=date\\_desc&user=291273](http://www.panoramio.com/photo_explorer#view=photo&position=736&with_photo_id=78590782&order=date_desc&user=291273), downloaded 28 October 2016]

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