

Black jewfish

Gonad staging guide 2020



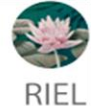
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Female Stage 1 (F1)

- Thin, translucent, pinkish colour, immature
- Ova not visible to naked eye
- ~ 1/3 of length of body cavity



F1 gonad: thin, pink, small

Female Stage 2 (F2)

- Thin, pinkish and semi-translucent. ~ 1/2 of length of body cavity
- Re-developing ovaries: thicker, sausage-like, sometimes with superficial blood vessels
- Virgin: Usually smaller than recovering spent. Membrane is usually softer and more malleable



F2 gonad: virgin



F2 gonad: recovering

Female Stage 3 (F3)

- Ovary ~ 2/3 of length of body cavity
- Pink-yellow with a slight granular appearance
- Hollow interior with thick layer of ova (not loose)
- Eggs not completely formed. Eggs are contained in a gelatinous structure and require teasing apart



F3 gonad: sausage shaped



F3 gonad: eggs granular but not loose

Female Stage 4 (F4)

- Ovary 2/3 to full length of body cavity, yellow-green and swollen. Superficial blood vessels
- Ova visible to the naked eye and loose/easily dislodged from the interior lining. Interior may still be hollow
- Ova are round and robust with abundant lipid globules



F4 gonad: large and swollen



F4 gonad: interior hollow



F4 gonad: granular ova

Female Stage 5 (F5) – rarely seen

- Gonad soft, flabby membranous
- Blood present inside the gonad
- Usually a small number of developing ova present on the interior lining



Male Stage 1 (M1)

- Testes ~ 1/3 length of body cavity
- Whitish and translucent, thin



Male Stage 2 (M2)

- Testes ~ 1/2 length of body cavity
- Whitish, usually some areas of translucence
- Quite thin and watery

Male Stage 3 (M3)

- Testes ~ 2/3 length of body cavity
- Areas of whitish/cream, but usually not throughout the whole teste
- **No milt expressed when broken or gently squeezed**



Male Stage 4 (M4)

- Testes 2/3 to full length of body cavity
- Creamy white and swollen, soft
- **Milt expressed by fish upon handling or when teste is broken or gently squeezed**



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