

Research Article

Volume 11 Issue 1 - October 2019
DOI: 10.19080/OFOAJ.2019.11.555801

Oceanogr Fish Open Access J

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Length-Weight Relationships for Eight Caught Marine Fish Using Midwater Trawler in Chabahar Fishing Grounds, Sistan and Bluchestan (The Sea of Oman)



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Submission: September 10, 2019; Published: October 21, 2019

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Abstract

The present research provides length-weight relationship (LWR) of eight fish species included *Pomadasys stridens* (Forsskål, 1775), *Epinephelus areolatus* (Forsskål, 1775), *Pristipomoides multidens* (Day, 1871), *Pomadasys maculatus* (Bloch, 1793), *Johnius borneensis* (Bleeker, 1851), *Diagramma pictum* (Thunberg, 1792), *Epinephelus malabaricus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) and *Epinephelus coioides* (Hamilton, 1822) from Chabahr fishing grounds (latitude 25° 11' to 25° 12' N; longitude 60° 04' to 60° 13' E) in the Sea of Oman. All fish specimens were caught using midwater trawl net, with 65 mm mesh size in the cod-end, from April to May 2016 during the spring season. The LWRs for fish species were $W = 0.0127L^{2.874}$ for *P. stridens*, $W = 0.0153L^{2.971}$ for *E. areolatus*, $W = 0.0227L^{2.873}$ for *P. multidens*, $W = 0.0534L^{2.689}$ for *P. maculatus*, $W = 0.0023L^{3.157}$ for *J. borneensis*, $W = 0.0164L^{2.807}$ for *D. pictum*, $W = 0.0487L^{3.287}$ for *E. malabaricus*, and $W = 0.0487L^{3.287}$ for *E. coioides*, respectively.

Keywords: Marine fish; Fishing grounds; Chabahr fishing; Bluchestan province

Introduction

Length-weight relationships are fundamental information to understanding the biological parameters of fishes for fisheries management, fish stock assessment, determination of biomass using measured weights, comparison of life cycle characteristic of fish populations from different regions, and estimation of weight ranges from length ranges [1-4]. This research prepares length-weight relationships for eight fish species in Chabahr fishing grounds located in the Sea of Oman.

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted between April and May 2016 from Chabahar fishing grounds, Sistan and Bluchestan province (latitude 25° 11' to 25° 12' N; longitude 60° 04' to 60° 13' E)

in the Sea of Oman. The fish specimens were collected using midwater trawler with 65 mm (STR) mesh size in the coded. Trawl duration varied from 2 to 3 hours at speeds of about 2.5 to 3 knots. For each fish specimen, the total length (TL) was measured with a digital caliper to the nearest 0.1 mm, and body weight was measured on a digital scale to 0.01 g. LWRs were estimated by linear equation [5,6]: $W = aL^b$. Where W is the whole-body weight (g) and L the total length (cm). Log-log plots of the length-weight pairs were performed to identify outliers. The optimum regression parameters were fitted by minimizing the residuals errors by the least square residuals method [7,8].

Results

Totally, 679 specimens were collected. LWRs characteristics of the trapped species are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Length-weight relationship parameters for eight marine fish in the Chabahr fishing ground, Sistan and Bluchestan, the Sea of Oman 2016.

Species	n	Length (cm)		LWR parameters and statistics				
		Min	Max	a	a CI 95%	b	b CI 95%	r ²
<i>Pomadasys stridens</i> (Forsskål, 1775)	62	7.5	14.6	0.0127	0.0103-0.0157	2.845	2.526-3.182	0.966
<i>Epinephelus areolatus</i> (Forsskål, 1775)	76	16.2	45.6	0.0153	0.0128-0.0175	2.971	2.688-3.240	0.98
<i>Pristipomoides multidens</i> (Day, 1871)	84	19.5	54.2	0.0227	0.0195-0.0268	2.873	2.599-3.208	0.984
<i>Pomadasys maculatus</i> (Bloch, 1793)	75	34.7	58.4	0.0534	0.0489-0.0645	2.689	2.445-2.948	0.973
<i>Johnius borneensis</i> (Bleeker, 1851)	55	17.5	32.5	0.0023	0.0018-0.0027	3.157	2.823-3.475	0.968

Diagramma pictum (Thunberg, 1792)	106	37.5	89.1	0.0164	0.0139-0.0188	2.807	2.431-3.204	0.977
Epinephelusmalabaricus (Bloch&Schneider,1801)	128	28.6	95.8	0.0487	0.0446-0.0524	3.287	2.902-3.578	0.992
Epinephelus coioides (Hamilton, 1822)	93	23.1	94.5	0.0389	0.0334-0.0435	3.169	2.725-3.371	0.98

N = sample size; Min = minimum; Max = maximum; a = intercept of log-log relationship; b = slope of relationship; CI 95% = confidence limits; r² = coefficient of determination

Discussion

Length-weight relationships in different fish species are affected by numerous factors such as gonad maturity stage, temperature, reproductive activities, food availability, gender, population dynamics, season, environment desirability, health conditions, fishing gears, sample size and preservation methods [9,10]. Based on Froese (2006) the proper ranges of b value are between 2.5 and 3.5 which the LWR slopes for eight collected species were within the estimated ranges. Nevertheless, these obtained results are valuable for fishery and biology researchers for interrelated studies and protection of fish stocks in the Sea of Oman in the next years [11].

Acknowledgment

The authors are thankful to Vice Presidency for Research and Technology of Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (GAU) for their supports during study period.

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DOI: 10.19080/OFOAJ.2019.10.555801

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