

Study on Length Structure, Catch Composition, and Catch per Unit Effort of Pharaoh Cuttlefish (*Sepia pharaonis*) Bottom Trawling in the Gulf of Oman

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to estimate CPUE, CPUA, length structure, and by-catch composition of Pharaoh Cuttlefish trawl fishery in north continental shelf of the Gulf of Oman (Chabahar). Random sampling was done by bottom trawler during May to September 2014. Amount of cuttlefish showed significant difference between sampling period ($P < 0/05$). Mean (\pm SD) CPUE and CPUA for Cuttlefish calculated 203.1 ± 150.8 (kg/h) and 1948 ± 345.7 (kg/nm²) respectively. The length of Cuttlefish caught was from 4 to 33 (cm) with tow peak which ranged from 5-16 and 16-33 (cm) during sampling period. The composition of by-catch was comprised of 42 families including 47 teleosts, 9 elasmobranchs, 3 cephalopods, and 3 crustaceans. In teleosts, the highest mean weight and occurrence rate belonged to large-head hairtail (*Trichiurus lepturus*) and Japanese threadfin bream (*Nemipterus japonicus*) respectively. The highest mean weight in by-catch of the classes' elasmobranchs, cephalopods, and crustaceans were *Torpedo sinuspersici*, *Uroteuthis duvauceli*, and Scyllaridae respectively.

Keywords: Bottom trawl, Pharaoh Cuttlefish (*Sepia pharaonis*), CPUE, CPUA, by-catch composition, Length structure, Gulf of Oman.
