

## Aspects of the fishery of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Central Mexican Pacific coast

### Fisheries

**Elaine Espino-Barr** INAPESCA, CRIP-Manzanillo. Playa Ventanas s/n, Manzanillo, Colima. C.P. 28200. - Corresponding Autor

**Manuel Gallardo-Cabello** Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Av. Ciudad Universitaria 3000, Col. Copilco, México, D.F. C.P. 04360.

**Arturo Garcia-Boa** INAPESCA, CRIP-Manzanillo. Playa Ventanas s/n, Manzanillo, Colima. C.P. 28200.

**Marcos Puente-Gómez** INAPESCA, CRIP-Manzanillo. Playa Ventanas s/n, Manzanillo, Colima. C.P. 28200.

### ABSTRACT

Studies on the population dynamics of fish species exploited commercially allow to write down a series of management norms to avoid its overexploitation by means of catch quotas and exploitation indexes. Specimens for this study were obtained from November 2012 to October 2013, from the commercial captures in Manzanillo and Santiago bays in Manzanillo, Colima, México. The highest average captures occur during autumn and winter and diminish in spring and summer. The recruitment length was  $L_r = 18.20$  cm, length of first capture was  $L_c = 20.00$  cm. Total mortality for ages 2 to 4 years was  $Z = 1.630$  and the survival rate was  $S = 0.196$ . Natural mortality rate was  $M = 0.700$ , and fishing mortality was  $F = 0.930$ , the exploitation rate was  $E = 0.570$ . Increasing fishing mortality from  $F = 0.930$  to  $F = 2.000$  will increment the yield per recruit from 45.9 g to 67.0 grams. The actual age of first capture is 2.3 years, and is the one that produces the best yields. Results on natural mortality rate (M) were compared to those of other authors in other geographic areas of the world, finding differences probably due to climate, genetic and latitudinal position, as well as to the fishing pressure. The increase of the fishing mortality and direct human consumption would improve the fishery yield and would provide higher protein consumption for the low income social class, due to the low cost of this species.

### KEYWORDS:

Production, recruitment, first capture rate, total, natural and fishery mortality, exploitation rate, yield per recruit.

### Introduction

The big eye scad *Selar crumenophthalmus* (Bloch, 1793) is a coastal pelagic fish distributed in the Indo-Pacific Ocean: from East Africa (Smith-Vaniz, 1984) to Rapa, North and South Japan and the Hawaiian Islands, South to New Caledonia; in the Eastern Pacific: from Mexico to Peru, including the Galápagos Islands (Chirichigno, 1974). Western Atlantic: Nova Scotia, Canada and Bermuda through the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean to São Paulo, Brazil (Figueiredo *et al.*, 2002). Eastern Atlantic: Cape Verde to southern Angola (Smith-Vaniz *et al.*, 1990). Breder and Rosen (1966) established that the big eye scad has an external reproduction, dioic, whose eggs and larvae are scattered in open waters by currents.

Worldwide captures of *Selar crumenophthalmus* from 1950 to 2013 were 66 330.91 t average, the minimum 1 300 t and the maximum was 213 300 tons. In our country captures of this species go up to 2 549 851 tons in five states from 2000 to 2016, reporting each one as continues: Guerrero 1 554 244 tons, Oaxaca 579 419 t, Colima 326 071 t, Jalisco 88 799 t and Michoacán 1 318 tons (CONAPESCA, 2017). It is important to mention that in other states the register is underestimated or do not appear. The price of this product can vary from one to two US dollars per kilogram.

Studies on the determination of total, natural and fishing mortality, as for the first capture length and exploitation indexes of *Selar crumenophthalmus* have been carried out by Datzell & Peñaflor (1989) in Philippines waters, Armada (2004) in Davao Gulf, Philippines, Adeb *et al.* (2014) in Maldiva waters and Panda *et al.* (2015) in Mumbai, India. Nevertheless, the studies on the analysis of the fishery of this species are scarce, taking into account its wide tropical distribution and its use for both direct human consumption and bait.

Because of this, the objectives of the present study were: determine total, natural and fishing mortality, length of recruitment and of first capture, exploitation index, yield per recruit and its simulation changing the first capture age. Likewise, the results obtained in this study were compared with those reported by other authors in different geographical locations.

### Materials and methods

From November 2012 to October 2013, 230 organisms of the bigeye scad *Selar crumenophthalmus* were taken directly from the

commercial captures in Manzanillo and Santiago Bays in Manzanillo, Colima, México (Fig. 1) to the laboratory of the Regional Fishery Research Center of the National Fishery Institute (CRIP-INAPESCA). Organisms were captured with fixed trap-net, gill net, "robador" (hand line with five hooks) and pound net, to obtain a stratified sample which includes all the age groups and size classes.

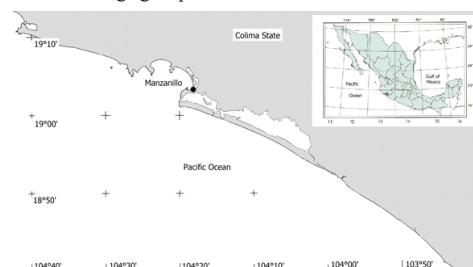


Fig. 1. Study area of Colima State, Mexico.

In the laboratory, data taken from each organism were: total length (TL, cm), total weight (TW, g), eviscerated weight (EW, g) and sex.

The results of growth parameters used in this paper were obtained by us and published (Espino-Barr *et al.*, 2016). Growth parameters were:  $L_{\infty} = 24.60$  cm,  $k = 0.662$  and  $t_0 = -0.247$ . Mean size for each age were: age one = 13.73 cm, age two = 19.04 cm, age three = 21.73 cm, age four = 23.12 cm. The allometric index from the weight-length relationship was positive allometric  $b = 3.232$  with total weight and  $b = 3.227$  with eviscerated weight. Longevity was obtained by Taylor method (Taylor, 1958, 1960):  $A_{0.95} = 4.5$  years.

The source of information was the Notice of Arrival or Landing Reports (Aviso de Arribo), which is the official statistical information provided by fishers with species name and capture quantities (kg per month), and collected in the Fisheries Bureau (Oficina de Pesca), from 2000 to 2016.

Values of individual total length (cm) were used to calculate length at first capture ( $L_{50}$  or  $L_c$ ) and recruitment length ( $L_{25}$  or  $L_r$ ), by means of the accumulated frequency. The logistic function is (Gaertner & Laloe, 1986, Sparre & Venema, 1995):

$$H_p = \frac{1}{1 + e^{a-b \cdot Lt}}$$

where:  $H_p$  = percentage of individuals,  $a$  and  $b$  are constants. Its logarithmic transformation is:  $\ln(1/(H_p-1)) = a-b \cdot Lt$

and the length at which 50% of the population is fished ( $L_{50}$ ) is:  $L_{0.50} = a/b$ .

Linearized catch curve method was used to estimate the total mortality coefficient ( $Z$ ) by plotting age groups versus natural logarithm of the relative abundance of each group (Sparre & Venema, 1995), where  $x$  corresponds to age groups and  $y$  to natural logarithm of relative abundance for each age group.

Survival rate was obtained by the equation:  $S = e^{-Z}$  (Ricker, 1948, Ehrhardt, 1981). Natural mortality ( $M$ ) was estimated using the Taylor's method (Taylor, 1958, 1960):

$$M = -\ln(1-0.95)/A_{0.95}$$

where:  $A_{0.95}$  = longevity based on the von Bertalanffy growth parameters (von Bertalanffy, 1938).

Growth parameters were compared with the equation of growth performance index of phi prima  $\phi' = \log k + 2 \cdot \log L_{\infty}$ .

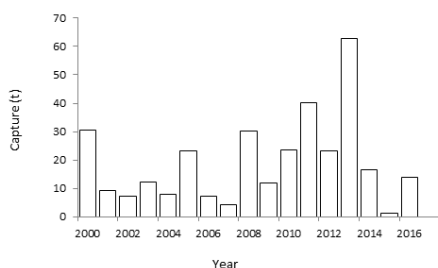
Exploitation rate was determined as  $E = F / Z$  (Sparre & Venema, 1995), and the yield per recruit (Beverton & Holt, 1957) with the equation:

$$y/r = F * e^{-M \cdot t} * W_{\infty} * \left( \frac{1}{Z} - \frac{3e^{-K \cdot t}}{Z + K} + \frac{3e^{-2K \cdot t}}{Z + 2K} - \frac{e^{-3K \cdot t}}{Z + 3K} \right)$$

where:  $y$  = catch or yield,  $r$  = recruit,  $F$  = fishing mortality,  $M$  = natural mortality,  $t' = t_R - t_0$  time between recruitment and the hypothetical  $t_0$ ,  $W_{\infty}$  = corresponding weight to asymptotic length  $L_{\infty}$ ,  $Z$  = total mortality, and  $K$  = growth coefficient.

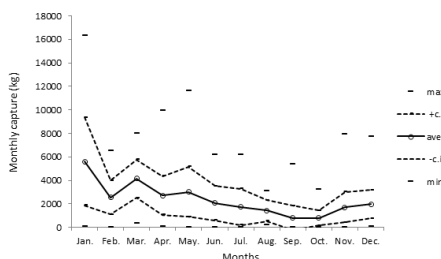
**Results**

Official data of annual catch for the years 2000 to 2016 in Colima show an inter-annual variation (Fig. 2), being more abundant in 2000, 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2013. Maximum catch of 62.9 tons was obtained during 2013. In other years the maximum catch ranked from 1.00 to 40.00 tons.



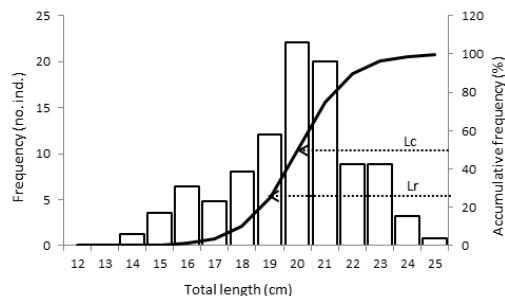
**Fig. 2. Total catch of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima State, Pacific coast of Mexico, from 2000 to 2016.**

Monthly average captures in Colima were from 792.9 tons in October to 5 607.4 tons in January. The maximum value was of 16 322.0 tons in January and the lowest was 5.0 tons in June (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 3. Monthly catch of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima State, Mexico; average values, maximum, minimum and confidence interval.**

The recruitment length ( $L_{25}$ ) was 18.2 cm that corresponds to an age of 1.8 years. The first capture length ( $L_{50}$ ) was 20.0 cm corresponding to an age of 2.3 years (Fig. 4). Differences between sexes were found between sexes, being the recruitment length  $L_{25} = 19.5$  cm (2.1 years) in females and 19.2 cm (2.0 years) in males. The first capture length  $L_{50} = 20.1$  (2.3 years) in females and  $L_{50} = 20.1$  cm (2.3 years) in males (Table 1).



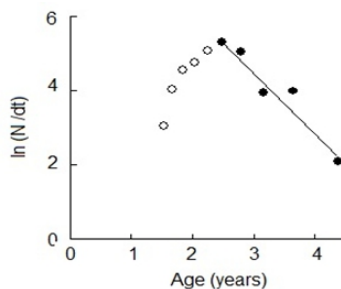
**Fig. 4. Length frequency distribution, size of first capture ( $L_{50}$  or  $L_c$ ) and recruitment ( $L_{25}$  or  $L_r$ ) of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima State, Mexico.**

**Table 1. First capture and recruit lengths, weight and age of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima, México.**

	Length *	Length (cm)	Weight (g)	Age (years)
all individuals	Lr	18.2	66.2	1.8
	Lc	20.0	89.7	2.3
females	Lr	19.5	82.0	2.1
	Lc	20.1	91.2	2.3
males	Lr	19.2	78.6	2.0
	Lc	20.1	91.2	2.3

\*: Lt = recruitment length, Lc = first capture length

An ascendant slope from ages 1 to 4 years is shown in the catch curve. The right descendant side corresponds to ages with a complete recruitment to the fishing gears (Fig. 5). The regression equation calculated to obtain the slope was:  $y = 9.420 - 1.630x$ ,  $r^2 = 0.931$ ,  $n = 5$ . Total mortality at ages between 2 and 4 years was  $Z = 1.630$  and the survival rate was  $S = 0.196$  (Table 2).



**Fig. 5. Length-converted catch curve of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima State, Mexico.**

**Table 2. Population parameters of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima, México.**

Parameter	Value
$L_{\infty}$ (cm)	24.6
$k$ (year <sup>-1</sup> )	0.662
$t_0$	-0.247
$Z$ (year <sup>-1</sup> )	1.630
$M$ (year <sup>-1</sup> )	0.700
$F$ (year <sup>-1</sup> )	0.930
$S$	0.196
Longevity (years)	4.500
Survival %	19.59
Total mortality (%)	80.41
If $Z =$	100.00
dead by fishing	57.04
dead by natural causes	42.96
$E = F/Z$	0.570

Natural mortality rate was  $M = 0.700$ , therefore fishing mortality was  $F = 0.930$ . Value of the calculated exploitation rate was  $E = 0.570$ , which

is close to  $E = 0.5$  suggested by Gulland (1964) for a healthy fishery (Table 2).

Table 3 shows the parameter values used in the model of yield per recruit ( $y/r$ ). The calculated values were  $y/r = 45.9$  g with a value of current fishing mortality  $F = 0.930$ . The highest values that could be obtained without changing the fishing method would be increasing the fishing mortality to  $F = 2.00$  (Figs. 6, 7) to obtain a  $y/r = 67.0$  grams.

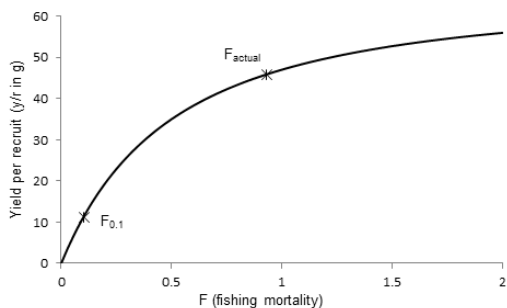


Fig. 6. Yield per recruit curve of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima State, Mexico at present fishing mortality.

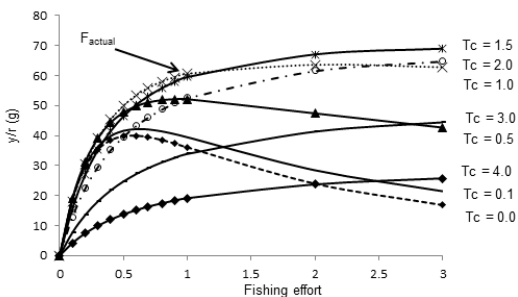


Fig. 7. Yield per recruit simulation with different ages of first capture of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima State, Mexico.

Table 3. Parameters and values of yield per recruit model of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima, México.

Parameter	Value
$k$ ( $\text{year}^{-1}$ )	0.662
$M$ ( $\text{year}^{-1}$ )	0.700
$T_c$ (year)	2.3
$T_r$ (year)	1.8

Table 4. Growth,  $\phi'$ , longevity and natural mortality parameters *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima, México.

Locality	Length	$L_\infty$ (cm)	$k$ (1/y)	$\phi'$	Longevity (year)	$M$ ( $\text{year}^{-1}$ )	Author
Manila Bay, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	36.50	0.890	3.074	3.37	0.890	Ingles & Pauly (1984)
		31.00	1.400	3.129	2.14	1.400	
Java Sea, Indonesia	TL (length frequency)	26.90	1.350	2.990	2.22	1.350	Sadhotomo & Atmadja (1985)
Java Sea, Pekalongan, Indonesia	TL (length frequency)	25.90	1.250	2.924	2.40	1.250	Dwiponggo <i>et al.</i> (1986)
Camotes Sea, Central Visayas, Philippines	TL (otoliths daily marks)	31.20	1.770	3.236	1.69	1.770	Dalzell & Peñaflores (1989)
Tablas Strait-Tayabas Bay region, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	26.50	1.250	2.943	2.40	1.250	Philbrick (1988)
North Marianas, East Philippines	FL (annuli otoliths)	32.00	0.610	2.796	4.91	0.610	Ralston & Williams (1988)
Moro Gulf, Philippines	TL (otoliths daily marks)	27.00	2.070	3.179	1.45	2.070	Dalzell & Peñaflores (1989)
North Sulu Sea, Philippines	TL (otoliths daily marks)	29.00	2.050	3.237	1.46	2.050	Dalzell & Peñaflores (1989)
Guimaras Strait, Philippines	TL (otoliths daily marks)	31.50	1.700	3.227	1.76	1.700	Dalzell & Peñaflores (1989)
Guimaras Strait, Philippines	FL (length frequency)	25.40	1.000	2.810	3.00	1.000	Padilla 1991
Sofala Bank and Boa Paz, Mozambique	TL (length frequency)	32.90	0.750	2.909	3.99	0.750	Sousa (1992)
South west coast, Sri Lanka	FL (length frequency)	34.80	0.500	2.782	5.99	0.500	Dayaratne & Sivacumaran (1994)
Java Sea, off Pekalongan and Juwana, Indonesia	FL (length frequency)	26.10	1.100	2.875	2.72	1.100	Suwarso & Atmaja (1995)
Pujada Bay, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	23.30	1.200	2.814	2.50	1.200	Lavapie-Gonzales <i>et al.</i> (1997)
South Sulu Sea, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	24.60	1.490	2.955	2.01	1.490	Lavapie-Gonzales <i>et al.</i> (1997)
Leyte Gulf, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	24.60	1.500	2.958	2.00	1.500	Lavapie-Gonzales <i>et al.</i> (1997)
Camotes Sea, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	28.50	2.000	3.211	1.50	2.000	Lavapie-Gonzales <i>et al.</i> (1997)

$t_0$	-0.247
$W_{max}$ (g)	173.3

Simulating different scenarios of the fishing activity, the method to obtain organisms of age 2.3 years provides the best yield. Any increase in age of capture results in a lower gain in weight (Fig. 7).

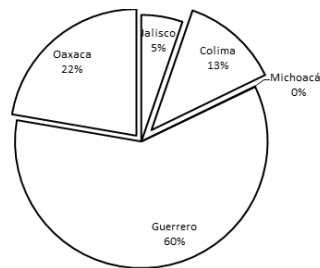


Fig. 8. Capture proportion of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in the States of the Mexican Central South Pacific.

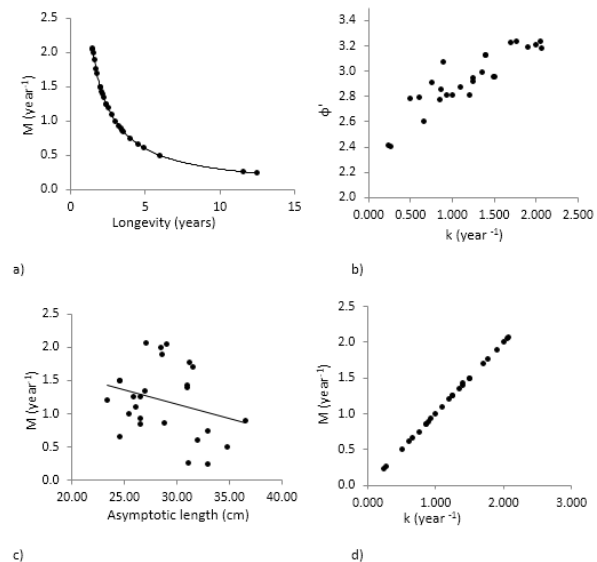


Fig. 9. Relationships between : a) growth performance ( $\phi'$ ) and catabolic index ( $k$ ), b) natural mortality and longevity, c) natural mortality and asymptotic length ( $L_\infty$ ), and d) natural mortality and catabolic index ( $k$ ).

Davao Gulf, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	28.60	1.900	3.191	1.58	1.900	Lavapie-Gonzales <i>et al.</i> (1997)
Camotes Sea, Central Visayas, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	28.80	0.860	2.853	3.48	0.860	Lavapie-Gonzales <i>et al.</i> (1997)
Davao Gulf, Philippines	TL (length frequency)	26.50	0.850	2.776	3.52	0.850	Armada (2004)
Gulf of Salamanca, Colombian Caribe	SL (length frequency)	31.10	0.260	2.400	11.52	0.260	García & Duarte (2006)
Bangaa faru, Male' atoll, Maldives, South India	FL (length frequency)	26.50	0.930	2.815	3.22	0.930	Adeeb <i>et al.</i> (2014)
Taiwan Strait and adjacent waters	TL (length frequency)	32.90	0.240	2.415	12.48	0.240	Hu <i>et al.</i> (2015)
West Bengal, India	TL (length frequency)	31.00	1.400	3.130	2.10	1.427	Panda <i>et al.</i> (2015)
Central Mexican Pacific, Mexico	TL (otoliths)	24.60	0.662	2.603	4.53	0.662	present study

**Table 5. Parameters of *Selar crumenophthalmus* from different geographic locations\*.**

Author	Dalzell & Peñaflo (1989)	Armada (2004)	Adeeb et al. (2014)	Panda et al. (2015)	Present study
Study area	Philippines waters	Davao Gulf, Philippines	Maldive waters	Mumbai, NW coast, India	Colima, Mexico
b				3.370	3.232
$L_{\infty}$ (cm)	27.0-31.6	26.5	26.54 FL	31	24.60
k (year <sup>-1</sup> )	1.7-2.05	0.85	0.93	1.4	0.662
$t_0$ (year)	0.228			-0.06	-0.247
Longevity (years)	1.689-1.990	3.524	3.221	2.080	4.500
phi	3.16-3.25	2.776	2.82	3.13	2.603
Z (year <sup>-1</sup> )	5.97-10.01	4.10	4.01	4.62	1.630
M (year <sup>-1</sup> )	2.51-2.91	1.66	1.78	2.21	0.700
F (year <sup>-1</sup> )	3.21-7.44	2.44	2.223	2.41	0.930
E	0.530-0.740	0.60	0.560	0.520	0.570
Lr (cm)				12.80	18.20
Lc (cm)	13.2-23.7	14.80	16.70	24.00	20.00

**Discussion**

The highest average capture in Colima occur from October to March (except February), that is, during autumn and winter, and diminish during the months of April to September. The low capture during these months might be because the fixed trap-net is taken out to be cleaned and repaired (during the hurricane months).

First capture length of  $L_c = 20.0$  cm (20.1 cm in females and males) correspond to an age of 2.3 years and coincides with the length of first reproduction  $L_{50} = 20.8$  cm in males and 20.55 cm in females (Gallardo-Cabello *et al.*, 2017). This means that the captured organisms might not have reproduced at least once, which would reduce the recruitment of the young and would expose the population to overexploitation. It is possible that this phenomenon takes place in the fishing on big eye scad with the fixed trap-net and the hand line with five small hooks, because in the more selective nets as the gill net, length of first capture could be higher to the average length of sexual maturity.

Total mortality of the big eye scad in Colima shows that 81% of the organisms die and 29% survives. For every 100 organisms that die, 59 die by fishing mortality and 43 of natural causes, which is predation, sickness senescence.

In relation to the proportion of catches of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in the Mexican Central-South Pacific, figure 8 shows differences in each State; Guerrero has a higher register of the species (60%), followed by Oaxaca (22%), Colima (13%) and Jalisco (5%). The states of Michoacán and Chiapas do not register this product. We think it is important to note that this species is mainly used as bait for the fishing of big pelagic species in some states, as the sailfish *Istiophorus platypterus*, sword fish *Xiphias gladius*, marlins of the Istiophoridae family, and dorado mahi-mahi *Coryphaena hippurus*. But other states the use of this species is also appreciated for human consumption, as in Guerrero, Oaxaca, Colima and in a less proportion Jalisco. When this species is used as bait it does not appear in the fishing logs, which means that even with a great abundance it does not appear in the fishing statistics, as is the case of Michoacán and Chiapas States (Fig. 8). The state of Guerrero is characterized by consuming this fish in direct form prepared fried or roasted, because it has a great acceptance for its flavor and low price, reaching a high popular consumption by low income social classes. This phenomenon also occurs in Oaxaca and Colima although in lower amount.

Table 4 shows the values of the von Bertalanffy growth parameters  $L_{\infty}$  and k, phi index, longevity, natural mortality of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in different geographic localities. In all cases it is observed that as the longevity increases, the natural mortality

decreases (Fig. 9a). This coincides with that set forth by Taylor (1958, 1960). In this case the natural mortality is related to the senescence of the organisms and does not consider other causes as predation of sickness, impossible to quantify in population dynamic analysis. Values of the k index fall in a range of phi' results, also consistent with data presented by the species (Fig. 9b). In this way, as the catabolic index k increases, the slope of the von Bertalanffy growth curve will be higher and the asymptotic length  $L_{\infty}$  will be reached faster, being the longevity lower and the natural mortality higher (Fig. 9c and d). These phenomena are observed in the studied organisms in different areas of Philippines (Dalzell & Peñaflo, 1989) in longevities from 1.4 to 1.8 years with natural mortality values from 2.07 to 1.70. A similar situation is presented by Ingles & Pauly (1984), Sadhotomo & Atmadja (1985), Philbrick (1988) and Panda *et al.* (2015).

On the other hand, high values of longevity translate into low natural mortalities, as occurs with organisms studied by Hu *et al.* (2015) in Taiwan, whose longevity is of 12.5 years and a natural mortality  $M = 0.24$ ; or specimens studied by García & Duarte (2006), who report a longevity of 11.5 years and a natural mortality  $M = 0.26$  in the Salamanca Gulf, Colombia. In our study *Selar crumenophthalmus* occupies and intermediate position in terms of longevity of 4.5 years, that translates into a natural mortality of  $M = 0.662$ . Nearby data were obtained by Ralston & Williams (1988) in the Philippines, with a longevity of 4.9 years and a natural mortality of  $M = 0.61$ , Sousa (1992) with a longevity of 4.0 years and a  $M = 0.75$  in Mozambique, or Dayaratne & Sivacumaran (1994) who found a longevity of 6 years and  $M = 0.500$  in Sri Lanka.

According with this, *Selar crumenophthalmus* can be considered as a short life species by some authors of longer life cycle by other analysts.

Table 5 shows the von Bertalanffy's growth parameters, longevity, total, natural and fishing mortality values, recruitment length and first capture length, also the allometric index of the weight-length relationship and the phi' values of *Selar crumenophthalmus*.

Total mortality values obtained for this species in the Gulf of Davao, Philippines by Armada (2004) was  $Z = 4.10$ , as that reported in Maldives waters by Adeeb *et al.* (2014) of  $Z = 4.01$  and that obtained by Panda *et al.* (2015) in Mumbai, India of  $Z = 4.62$ , although similar between them, are higher than the one obtained in this study:  $Z = 1.63$ . Similarly, Dalzell & Peñaflo (1989) reported for eight localities in Philippines, values of total mortality even higher, between 5.97 and 10.01.

Likewise, it has been observed that the fishing mortality, although similar between them, are much higher than in our study,  $F = 0.93$ .

Armada (2004) reported  $F=2.44$ , Adeeb *et al.* (2014) published  $F=2.223$  and Panda *et al.* (2015)  $F=2.41$ . Also Dalzell & Peñaflores (1989) published values of  $F$  oscillating between 3.21 and 7.44, being the highest values found for this species. All these values show that this species is much more fished in the mentioned localities in Asia, for direct human consumption than happens in Manzanillo, Colima, México, where this species is used mainly as bait and is not recorded in the fishing statistics.

The first capture length were found to be lower in the Gulf of Davao, Philippines of  $L_c = 14.80$  cm (Armada, 2004), and in the Maldives of  $L_c = 16.70$  cm (Adeeb *et al.*, 2014), than that found in our study:  $L_c = 20.00$ . However, Panda *et al.* (2015) obtained a higher value of  $L_c = 24.00$  cm. Dalzell & Peñaflores (1989) obtained for eight localities in Philippines values of  $L_c$  between 13.20 cm and 23.70 cm. Difference in these first capture lengths is related to the size of the mesh of nets used to fish these pelagic fish.

Finally, the exploitation rate values show a high similitude in the suited cases, being  $E=0.60$  that of Armada (2004) and  $E=0.57$  in the present study;  $E=0.56$  (Adeeb *et al.*, 2014), and  $E=0.52$  by Panda *et al.* (2015). The optimum values are those closest to  $E=0.50$ , according to Gulland (1964). Values higher than this exploitation rate can indicate overexploitation of the resource, as could be in some localities in Philippines, where the value reaches  $E=0.74$  in a few localities.

### Conclusions

- The highest average captures of *Selar crumenophthalmus* in Colima, México, occurs from October to March (except February), that is, during autumn and winter, and diminishes in April and September, spring and summer.
- The recruitment length was  $L_r = 18.20$  cm. Length of first capture was  $L_c = 20.00$  cm. Differences between sexes were  $L_r = 19.50$  cm for females and  $L_r = 19.20$  for males,  $L_c = 20.10$  for both sexes.
- Total mortality for ages 2 to 4 years was  $Z = 1.630$  and the survival rate was  $S = 0.196$ .
- Natural mortality rate was  $M = 0.700$ . Fishing mortality was  $F = 0.930$ .
- The exploitation rate was  $E = 0.570$ .
- Increasing fishing mortality from  $F = 0.930$  to  $F = 2.000$  will increment the yield per recruit from 45.9 g to 67.0 grams.
- The actual age of first capture is 2.3 years, and is the one that produce the best yields.

### Recommendations

Instead of using this species mainly as bait in the capture of bill fishes and dolphin fish, fishing could be increased to well be used as direct consumption food for humans, that is, that the benefits include coastal populations as in many Asian countries like Philippines, India and others. This increase in the fishing mortality would improve the fishery yield and would provide higher protein consumption for the low income social class resources, due to their low cost.

Also, it is important to continue with the study of the population dynamics of this species and analyze the selectivity effects of the fishing gears, in relation to the recruitment patterns and other aspects that will improve the management of this fishery.

We also recommend and emphasize in the importance of preventing any damage to the mangroves, reducing spawning and nursery areas for many species; also pollution, both thermal and solid and chemical wastes should be avoided in lakes and coastal lagoons which diminish the quality of life of the species that inhabit them.

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