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REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF SKIPJACK TUNA *(KATSUWONUS PELAMIS)* FROM THE SOUTHERN COASTAL WATERS OF SRI LANKA

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Skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis) is the dominant species in the local tun fisheries, making up over 40% of all tuna landed in the country as well a from the study area. The reproductive biology of the species was studie for a two year period, August 1984 to July 1986 and a total of 1426 fis examined. There was a slight preponderance of males over females among larg size groups and the overall sex ratio of males to females is 1 : 0.85. Matur of the gonads was studied using a six stage maturity cycle and gonad indices An extended spawning season with two spawning peaks per year is indicated Males were found to mature at a slightly lower length (42.0 cm) than th females (43.3 cm), but both mature on reaching the age of one year. Fecundit (Batch fecundity) varies from 245, 695 for a fish of 45 cm length to 2.: million for a fish of length 64 cm.

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