

RECRUITMENT AND MIGRATORY BEHAVIOUR OF YELLOWFIN TUNA
(*THUNNUS ALBACARES*) FROM THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN
COASTS OF SRI LANKA

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Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) made up 23 to 28% of the tuna catches in the local tuna fisheries in recent years, with an annual production of 6000 to 9000 MT. Bulk of this production came from the gill net fishery, conducted year round with the level of effort varying seasonally.

This paper analyses the catch per unit effort (CPUE) and length data obtained from the gill net fishery during a three year period (July 1983 to June 1986) to determine the recruitment and migratory behaviour of the species along the western and southern coastal waters of Sri Lanka

The data on CPUE show increased relative abundance of Yellowfin resources from South to North-West coast, with two peak fishing seasons indicative of two recruitments per year. A gradual increase in the size of fish sampled from South to North also indicate a migratory movement of the species northwards along the Western coast, supporting a previously published hypothesis¹.

Reference

1. Sivasubramanian, K. (1971) Apparent abundance of Yellowfin and Big-eye Tuna in the Inshore, Offshore and Near Oceanic Ranges around Ceylon. Bull.Fish.Res.Str., Ceylon 22 (142)