

FISHERY AND SOME ASPECTS OF THE POPULATION OF  
PANULIRUS HOMARUS (LINNAEUS) FROM MUTUWAL, SRI LANKA

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At Mutwal spiny lobsters are caught, for bottom set gillnets operated by 17' - 22' mechanised fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) boats and non-mechanised oru and theppam. The mesh size of these nets varie from 90 mm to 180 mm. The mean catch per unit effort (CPUE) of mechanised boats are higher than those of npn-mechanised crafts. The mean CPUE of F.R.P. boats, oru and theppam has a ratio of 4:2:1. Generally the estimated production is higher during the non-monsoon period.

Growth and mortality parameters were obtained by analysing length frequency data for the year 1985 using ELEFAN computer programs. Growth parameters, when fitted to the von Bertalanffy growth equation has the form:

$$L_t = 28.7 ( 1 - e^{-0.43(t - 0.39)} )$$

The calculated natural and total mortality coefficients were 1.04 and 1.08 respectively giving an exploitation rate of 0.04.