

STOCK ASSESSMENT OF SCOMBROMORUS COMMERSION (KING FISH) IN THE ARABIAN GULF AND SEA OF OMAN OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Strategic Goal:	Sustainability of Ecosystems
Thematic Area:	Stock Assessment of Scombriformes commerson (King Fish)
Geographic Scope:	Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman
Timeline:	2014 - On Going
Purpose:	Conservation and Management of King Fish Resource in co-operation with the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC)
Project Lead:	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE)

Project Brief

THE NARROW-BARRED SPANISH MACKEREL *Scombriformes commerson* is perhaps the most important of the region's highly migratory species. Greatly prized for human consumption and known locally as the kingfish or by its Arabic name of kanad, it is pursued by both commercial and recreational fishermen. Widespread through the Indo-Pacific region, it is well known in Australia, South Africa and north to the Arabian Gulf. Kingfish are representative of a so-called 'straddling stock' in the Gulf, criss-crossing political boundaries and shared by many nations. The commercial importance of kingfish in the region requires that informed management decisions are implemented to ensure optimal sustainability. For this to occur, valid scientific data on biological requirements and stock structure are needed. Scientific studies are under way to determine just how this fish stock is shared by neighbouring states in the Arabian Gulf. This study aims to provide useful data for a dynamic research on the population parameters of this species in the Arabian Gulf and the Sea of Oman to develop a comprehensive regional management plan for the Kingfish stock in co-operation with the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC).



Figure 1.1
Kingfish (*Scombriformes commerson*) caught in the sea waters of the United Arab Emirates.
(Photo by: Marine Environment Research Department)

Activities and Outcome

- Monthly data collection of the size frequency of Kingfish from landing sites
- Upload the data collected to the website of Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC) for the project
- Collation of data and preparation of report for the population dynamics of Kingfish as one of the shared stocks of GCC for a sustainable management of Kingfish stock

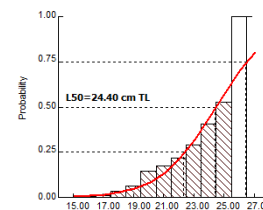


Figure 2.1
Total mortality of commercial species estimated by Pauly, 1983.
(Source: Marine Environment Research Department)

Future Directions

A GCC co-operative comprehensive management plan of the Kingfish population in the waters of Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman for a sustainable Kingfish stock management by regulating the fishing activities and its areas.



Figure 3.1
One of the fish landings in the United Arab Emirates during the conduct of fish survey/assessment.
(Photo by: Marine Environment Research Department)

