

Record of the largest longtail tuna, *Thunnus tonggol* (Bleeker 1851) from off shore Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman

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Abstract

Capture of a great Longtail tuna, *Thunnus tonggol* from off Shore of the city of Salalah, Arabian Sea, Sultanate of Oman in January 2013 is described in this paper. Its morphometric and meristic characters are discussed.

Keywords: Longtail tuna, *Thunnus tonggol*, Sultanate of Oman, Dohfar, Arabian Sea

INTRODUCTION

Longtail tuna, *Thunnus tonggol* (Bleeker 1851) is an epipelagic migratory tuna species and cosmopolitan. It is widely distributed in tropical to temperate provinces of the Indo-Pacific between 47°N and 33°S (Froese and Pauly 2009). Its diffusion is exclusive compared with those of other species in the genus *Thunnus* that commonly variety through open oceans, in that longtail tuna almost completely inhabit neritic areas close to landmasses, and are hardly found offshore (Yesaki 1994). Longtail tuna is the second smallest of eight species of the genus *Thunnus* and grows to a maximum size of 142 cm in total length and 35.9 kg in weight (IGFA 2008). Due to their coastal distribution, longtail tuna are greatly exploited by small-scale artisanal and commercial fisheries in at least 17 countries throughout Indo-Pacific (Yesaki 1994). They are commonly targeted by purse-seine, gillnet, and trolling (Yesaki 1994). Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Iran contribute greatest to stated annual landings, which touched 248 000 ton in 2007 (FAO 2009).

METHODOLOGY

On the 6th of January 2013 a great specimen of *Thunnus tonggol* was captured along the coast of the Arabian Sea, city of Salalah by a local fisherman using longline. Specimen was kept on ice and taken to the laboratory. Fish was weighed nearest kg, measured for fork and total length in cm, and sexed by visual examination of the gonads. Morphometrics and meristics were characters measured by following Marr and Schaefer (1949).

RESULTS

The fish was 145.2 cm in total length (TL) and 27.418 kg in body weight (Figure 1). Morphometrics and meristics were presented in Table 1.

Unusual caught of large longtail tuna in Arabian Sea, city of Salalah could indicate the suitable environment in this area. However the Arabian Sea is rich in various nutrients that make the most of the areas suitable for the abundance and diversity of fish breeding. More research is needed and important for the study of fish stocks and diversity in the Arabian Sea.



Figure 1: *Thunnus tonggol*, 145.2 cm total length, captured by long line from the coast of Salalah City in the Arabian Sea

In addition, Arabian Sea is open to Indian Ocean, where a continuous migration of fish in the region and it is expected the presence of new species of fishes has not yet been recorded.

Table 1: Morphometric measure and meristic characters of *Thunnus tonggol* along the coast of the Arabian Sea, city of Salalah, Sultanate of Oman

| Morphometric characters | Length (cm) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Length (TL) | 145.2 |
| Fork Length (FL) | 135 |
| % in TL | 93 |
| Head Length (HL) | 31 |
| Pre orbital Length | 10.5 |
| % in HL | 33.9 |
| Postorbital Length | 17.3 |
| % in HL | 55.8 |
| Pre dorsal fin length 1 | 36.6 |
| % in TL | 25.2 |
| Post dorsal fin length 1 | 63.1 |
| % in TL | 43.5 |
| Pre dorsal fin length 2 | 66.1 |
| % in TL | 45.5 |
| Post dorsal fin length 2 | 77 |
| % in TL | 53 |
| Pre pectoral fin length | 32.5 |
| % in TL | 22.4 |
| Pectoral fin length | 20.2 |
| % in TL | 13.9 |
| Pre pelvic Length | 34.4 |
| % in TL | 23.7 |
| Pelvic Length | 14 |
| % in TL | 9.6 |
| Pre anus length | 71 |
| % in TL | 48.9 |
| Pre anal fin length | 73.3 |
| % in TL | 50.5 |
| Post anal fin length | 85.1 |
| % in TL | 58.6 |
| Maximum body depth | 27.4 |
| % in TL | 18.9 |
| Caudal peduncle length | 3.6 |
| % in TL | 2.5 |
| Meristic characters | |
| Number of Dorsal fin | 13 |
| Number of upper- adipose | 9 |
| Number of lower- adipose | 8 |

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