Abstract

This study was performed to assess stocks of demersal and benthic resources in 10 to 50 m. depth layer of Hormozgan marine waters during Nov.-Dec. 2003. The study was based on swept-area method and included 105 sampling stations.

A total of 100 species or species groups were identified and their CPUA and biomass were estimated. Batoid fishes, Carangidae (unidentified species), *Arius thalassinus, Saurida tumbil, Arius tenuispinis, Pomadasys kaakan* and *Nemipterus japonicus* were dominant groups with 15.8%, 11.2%, 6.99%, 6.1%, 5.1%, 4.9% and 4.8% of total estimated biomass respectively.

Mean CPUA of all marine animals, all bottom-dwelling, commercial and non-commercial bottom-dwelling groups were obtained 8.4, 7.9, 5.1 and 2.8 ton/nm^2 respectinely. The highest CPUAs of bottom-dwelling animals were obtained 15.9 and 13 ton/nm^2 from K (Sirik to Jask) and L (Jask to Maydani) strata respectively; their lowest CPUA values were 4 ton/nm^2 from H (Bandar Lengeh) stratum; The maximum and minimum values of CPUA for commercial bottom-dwelling species were 10 and 2.8 ton/nm^2 and related to K (Sirik to Jask) and H (Bandar Lengeh) strata respectively.

Total biomass was estimated 41,900 mt. with 61% commercial and 33% non-commercial bottom-dwelling animals. Total, bottom-dwelling, commercial and non-commercial bottom-dwelling biomass showed 25%, 22%, 25% and 16% decrease respectively, relative to two years ago. Fisheries statistics also show a decrease in daily catch of artisanal vessels.

CPUA and biomass of all observed species or species groups in studied depth layers and coastal strata were tabulated. Local trend of 2-year cpua and biomass for bottom-dwelling animals (total, commercial and non-commercial) and some important species were compared diagrammatically.

Length frequency distribution charts for 12 demersal fishes were introduced.

KEY WORDS: CPUA, biomass, swept-area, demersal, Hormozgan, Persian gulf.