

WEIGHT-LENGTH RELATIONSHIP OF DEMERSAL FISH OF BAIA SUL, FLORIANÓPOLIS, SANTA CATARINA STATE, BRAZIL

Relação peso-comprimento dos peixes da Baía Sul,
Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brasil

**Ana Carolina dos Passos¹, Beatriz Fernanda Chinchilla Cartagena²,
Mauricio Hostim-Silva³, Matheus Oliveira Freitas⁴, Henry Louis Spach⁵**

¹ Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Oceanografia Ambiental, Departamento de Oceanografia. CEP 29075910, Vitória, ES, Brasil. Email: anapassosoc@gmail.com

² Universidade Federal do Pará, Pós Graduação em Biologia Ambiental, Instituto de Estudos Costeiros. CEP 68600000, Bragança, PA, Brasil. E-mail: bfccartagena@gmail.com

³ Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo - CEUNES - DCBA - Rodovia BR 101 Norte, Km. 60 - CEP 29932-540 - São Mateus/ES - Brasil. E-mail: mhostim@gmail.com

⁴ Programa de Pós Graduação em Ecologia e Conservação. Setor de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal do Paraná. Caixa Postal 19031, CEP 81531-980, Curitiba, PR. E-mail: serranidae@gmail.com

⁵ Universidade Federal do Paraná - Setor de Ciências da Terra - Centro de Estudos do Mar. Av. Beira Mar, s/n - Pontal do Sul - CEP 83255-000 - Pontal do Paraná/PR - Brasil. E-mail: henry@ufpr.br

ABSTRACT

This work presents the weight-length relationship of 35 species of fish belonging to 27 families. The samples were carried out bimonthly from 2001 to 2003 using seines in Saco dos Limões, Baía Sul, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina state, Brazil. The total weight (TW) and total length (TL) data of the species with $n \geq 30$ were log-transformed and plotted graphically to identify and remove outliers. The regression analysis was performed to define parameters a and b , from which the weight-length relationship of each species was verified. Growth type determination were classified according to three types: isometric (19 species), positive allometric (12) and negative allometric (4). The weight-length relationship estimate of two species is presented for the first time in Brazil, bringing new information on the life history of species, as well as important results for the evaluation of regional fishery.

Key-words: demersal fish, LWR, South Brazil.

RESUMO

Este trabalho apresenta a relação peso-comprimento de 35 espécies pertencentes a 27 famílias. As coletas foram realizadas mensalmente entre 2001 e 2003 com redes de arrasto no Saco dos Limões, Baía Sul, Florianópolis (SC), Brasil. O peso total e o comprimento total das espécies com $n \geq 30$ sofreram transformação logarítmica e foram plotados graficamente

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para identificação e remoção de outliers. Uma análise de regressão foi realizada para definir os parâmetros a e b , a partir dos quais a relação peso-comprimento de cada espécie foi estimada. A determinação do crescimento foi classificada em: isométrica (19 espécies), alométrica-positiva (12 espécies) e alométrica-negativa (4 espécies). A relação peso-comprimento para duas espécies encontradas neste estudo é inédita no Brasil, trazendo novas informações sobre a história de vida das espécies, além de resultados importantes para a avaliação da pesca regional.

Palavras-chave: ictiofauna, relação peso-comprimento, sul do Brasil.

INTRODUCTION

Weight-length relationships are important in ecological studies (Vallisneri *et al.*, 2010) because they furnish information about the life history of species, contribute to regional fishery evaluation (Nieto-Navarro *et al.*, 2009) and permit the calculation of the production and biomass of fish populations (Giacalone *et al.*, 2010). Parameters a and b were obtained through linear regression, and in biological terms, represent the condition factor (Mortuzza *et al.*, 2006) and the growth type of the fish, respectively. When near 3, the allometric coefficient (b) indicates isometric growth (Froese, 2006).

As regards fish caught off the coast of Brazil using bottom trawling, weight-length relationships are described in the north-northeastern coast (Cordovil & Camargo, 2007; Romero *et al.*, 2008; Freire *et al.*, 2009; Joyeux *et al.*, 2009) and in the south-southeastern coast (Giannini & PaivaFilho, 1990; Bernardes & Rossi, 2000; Haimovici & Velasco, 2000; Muto *et al.*, 2000; Araújo & Vicentini, 2001; Almeida & Branco, 2002; Santos, 2004; Vianna *et al.*, 2004; Souza-Conceição *et al.*, 2005; Frehse, 2009; Joyeux *et al.*, 2009; Freitas *et al.*, 2010; Haluch *et al.*, 2011). This study furnishes the weight-length relationships of 44 fish species collected in Baía Sul, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina state, with weight-length relationship estimate of two species for the first time in Brazil.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study was carried out in Saco dos Limões, Baía Sul, Florianópolis, on the central coast of Santa Catarina state (27°37'31.07"S; 48°32'12.80"W). Bimonthly samples were carried out from February 2001 to December 2003 during the day and at night at six sampling sites, for a total of 216 samples distributed equally between day and night (bottom trawling – meshes: 12 and 14 mm; length: 4.5 m; mouth width: 7.5 and 9 m in the upper and lower parts, respectively).

The specimens were preserved in ice and transported to the laboratory of Environmental Science of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI), where they were identified using the dichotomic keys of Figueiredo & Menezes (1978; 1980; 1985; 2000) and Fischer (1978). Weighing was carried out using a digital scale (precision 0.01 g) and total length (TL) measured (in cm) using an ichthyometer. The adopted growth model was log-transformed ($\log W = \log a + b^* \log TL$), where W is the weight in grams and TL the total length in centimeters; a is the constant and b the allometric coefficient (King, 1995; Froese, 2006). These last two were estimated using a linear regression analysis of the log-transformed data (Giacalone, 2010) (Excel 2007). In order to verify if b was different

from the isometric value ($b = 3$), a t-test was applied with a confidence interval of $\pm 95\%$ ($\alpha = 0.05$) (Sokal & Rohlf, 1987).

RESULTS

A total of 35.303 fish, belonging to 35 species and 27 families, was evaluated. The number of individuals varied from 37 (*Mycteroperca microlepis*) to 10.970 (*Genidens genidens*). As regards two species (*Catathyridium garmani* and *Oligoplites saliens*), as far as could be determined, this is the first work to publish length-weight relationship data and for two species (*Archosargus rhomboidalis* and *Mycteroperca microlepis*) this relationship is presented for the first time in Brazil (Table 1).

The smallest lengths found for *Diplectrum radiale* (7.5 cm) in Viana *et al.* (2004), *Genidens genidens* (8.3 cm) in Joyeux *et al.* (2009), *Orthopristes ruber* (5.5 cm) in Santos *et al.* (2004) were larger than the ones found for these species in Baía Sul (6.3 cm, 4.2 cm and 6.0 cm, respectively). Whereas larger lengths recorded in the literature for *Cetengraulis edentulus* (17.1 cm) in Joyeux *et al.* (2009), *Citharichthys spilopterus* (19.0 cm) in Muto *et al.* (2000), *Isopisthus parvipinnis* (22.8 cm) in Romero *et al.* (2008), *Sphoeroides testudineus* (26.4 cm) in Joyeux *et al.* (2009), *Sphoeroides greeleyi* (16.1 cm) in Joyeux *et al.* (2009) and *Symphurus tessellatus* (16.7 cm) in Joyeux *et al.* (2009) were smaller than the ones recorded in this study (17.2 cm, 19.9 cm, 25.2 cm, 26.0 cm, 28.0 cm, 26.6 cm and 26.1 cm, respectively). It is important to consider that in both cases, works carried out on the Brazilian coast with the same method of capture, but with different mesh sizes. The species *Gobionellus oceanicus*, *Sphoeroides spengleri* and *Stephanolepis hispidus* were compared to a single reference Joyeux *et al.*, (2009) for the two formers ones and Muto *et al.* (2000), for the other, with minimum and maximum lengths always smaller in Baía Sul for *G. oceanicus* and larger for *S. spengleri* and *S. hispidus* (Table 1).

The coefficient of determination (r^2) showed a strong relationship between weight and length for the fish from Baía Sul - more than 0.950 for 28 species, between 0.950 and 0.900 for six species and less than 0.900 for one species (*Gobionellus oceanicus*) (Table 1). The allometric coefficient (b) presented a mean value of 2.059 in *Gobionellus oceanicus* to 3.333 in *Diapterus rhombeus* (Table 1) and the t-test showed isometric (19 species), positive allometric (12) and negative allometric (4) growth (Table 1).

Table 1 - Length-weight relationship of the species collected in Saco dos Limões, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina state, Brazil) listed in phylogenetic order according to Nelson (2006)

Family Species	N	TL (mm)		a (95% CL)	b (95% CL)	r ²	t	grow
		mín	max					
Engraulidae								
<i>Cetengraulis edentulus</i> (Cuvier, 1829)	1082	91	172	-5.743 (-5.819/-5.666)	3.321 (3.285/3.357)	0.968	7.991	A+
Ariidae								
<i>Genidens barbatus</i> (Lacepède, 1803)	1884	48	256	-5.382 (-5.475/-5.290)	3.120 (3.075/3.166)	0.939	1.432	Iso
<i>Genidens genidens</i> (Cuvier, 1829)	9090	11	1043	-5.249 (-5.275/-5.222)	3.060 (3.047/3.073)	0.952	0.695	Iso
Synodontidae								
<i>Synodus foetens</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	165	100	279	-5.523 (-5.737/-5.309)	3.111 (3.018/3.205)	0.964	2.103	A+

(continuation table 1)

Family Species	N	TL (mm)		a (95% CL)	b (95% CL)	r ²	t	grow
		mín	max					
Mugilidae								
<i>Mugil curema</i> Valenciennes, 1836	183	116	340	-4.852 (-4.987/- 4.716)	2.934 (2.875/2.993)	0.981	-1.556	Iso
Triglidae								
<i>Prionotus punctatus</i> (Bloch, 1793)	664	33	222	-5.243 (-5.370/- 5.116)	3.145 (3.081/3.208)	0.934	1.174	Iso
Centropomidae								
Serranidae								
<i>Diplectrum radiale</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)	183	63	206	-5.58 (-5.734/- 5.427)	3.320 (3.248/3.391)	0.979	6.160	A+
<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i> (Goode & Bean, 1879)*	37	70	261	-4.961 (-5.190/- 4.732)	3.032 (2.925/3.139)	0.989	0.624	Iso
Pomatomidae								
<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	60	86	253	-5.700 (-6.082/- 5.318)	3.308 (3.129/3.488)	0.958	4.930	A+
Carangidae								
<i>Chloroscombrus chrysurus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	1587	30	200	2.794 (-4.609/- 4.502)	2.765 (2.736/2.794)	0.957	-3.140	A-
<i>Oligoplites saurus</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)	194	78	204	-4.763 (-4.945/- 4.58)	2.797 (2.709/2.885)	0.953	-4.271	A-
<i>Oligoplites saliens</i> (Bloch, 1793)*	305	61	182	-5.028 (-5.198/- 4.859)	2.938 (2.849/3.027)	0.933	-1.261	Iso
<i>Selene setapinnis</i> (Mitchill, 1815)	113	50	162	-4.721 (-4.874/- 4.568)	2.909 (2.833/2.985)	0.981	-1.915	A-
<i>Selene vomer</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	265	32	218	-4.661 (-4.773/- 4.548)	2.911 (2.854/2.967)	0.975	-0.914	Iso
Sparidae								
<i>Archosargus rhomboidalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)*	992	68	279	-4.807 (-4.867/- 4.748)	3.022 (2.994/3.051)	0.978	0.457	Iso
Gerreidae								
<i>Diapterus rhombeus</i> (Cuvier, 1829)	2316	35	191	-5.555 (-5.609/- 5.502)	3.333 (3.306/3.360)	0.962	4.440	A+
<i>Eucinostomus argenteus</i> Baird & Girard, 1855	2739	34	166	-4.915 (-4.968/- 4.863)	2.988 (2.961/3.016)	0.944	-0.191	Iso
<i>Eucinostomus gula</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)	4618	45	252	-4.997 (-5.050/- 4.945)	3.049 (3.023/3.076)	0.918	0.815	Iso
<i>Eucinostomus melanopterus</i> (Bleeker, 1863)	73	108	207	-5.072 (-5.399/- 4.744)	3.047 (2.898/3.197)	0.958	1.127	Iso
Haemulidae								
<i>Orthopristis ruber</i> (Cuvier, 1830)	75	55	269	-4.912 (-5.049/- 4.775)	3.031 (2.967/3.096)	0.992	0.667	Iso
Sciaenidae								
<i>Micropogonias furnieri</i> (Demarest, 1823)	1650	36	284	-5.362 (-5.494/- 5.299)	3.159 (3.129/3.189)	0.963	2.007	A+
<i>Cynoscion leiarchus</i> (Cuvier, 1830)	161	53	237	-5.206 (-5.307/- 5.105)	3.096 (3.047/3.154)	0.99	1.857	A+
<i>Isopisthus parvipinnis</i> (Cuvier, 1830)	93	40	260	-5.228 (-5.332/- 5.124)	3.112 (3.061/3.163)	0.994	2.366	A+
Gobiidae								
<i>Gobionellus oceanicus</i> (Pallas, 1770)	43	153	253	-3.215 (-4.162/- 2.269)	2.059 (1.644/2.473)	0.703	-12.357	A-
Ephippidae								
<i>Chaetodipterus faber</i> (Broussonet, 1782)	184	49	150	-4.48 (-4.605/- 4.355)	3.025 (2.961/3.088)	0.98	0.691	Iso

(continuation table 1)

Family Species	N	TL (mm)		a (95% CL)	b (95% CL)	r ²	t	grow
		min	max					
Trichiuridae								
<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	73	261	637	-6.96 (-7.348/- 6.571)	3.248 (3.098/3.397)	0.963	3.649	A+
Paralichthyidae								
<i>Citharichthys spilopterus</i> Gunther, 1862	2674	35	199	-5.628 (-5.674/- 5.582)	3.265 (3.241/3.288)	0.965	3.165	A+
<i>Etropus crossotus</i> Jordan & Gilbert, 1882	242	41	142	-5.392 (-5.525/- 5.258)	3.184 (3.113/3.254)	0.971	3.123	A+
Achiridae								
<i>Catathyridium garmani</i> (Jordan, 1889)*	86	44	125	-5.306 (-5.678/- 4.934)	3.305 (3.115/3.496)	0.933	3.398	A+
Cynoglossidae								
<i>Symphurus tessellatus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)	281	43	261	-5.177 (-5.340/- 5.014)	3.000 (2.924 / 3.077)	0.955	0.000	Iso
Monacanthidae								
<i>Stephanolepis hispidus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	47	50	192	-4.588 (-4.821/- 4.355)	2.935 (2.187/3.052)	0.982	-1.218	Iso
Tetraodontidae								
<i>Lagocephalus laevigatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	246	47	317	-4.765 (-4.871/- 4.660)	3.005 (2.951/3.058)	0.98	0.069	Iso
<i>Sphoeroides spengleri</i> (Bloch, 1785)	83	50	196	-4.571 (-4.871/- 4.391)	2.936 (2.842/3.029)	0.979	-1.088	Iso
<i>Sphoeroides testudineus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	691	33	280	-4.664 (-4.734/4.593)	2.995 (2.961/3.028)	0.978	-0.059	Iso
<i>Sphoeroides greeleyi</i> (Gilbert, 1900)	224	33	266	-4.556 (-4.659/- 4.454)	2.931 (2.876/2.986)	0.98	-1.084	Iso

N: number of individuals; TL: total length; min.: minimum total length; max.: maximum total length; a: constant (95% confidence limit); b: allometric coefficient (95% confidence limit); r²: coefficient of determination; t: t-test; grow: type of growth (Iso=isometric, A+: positive allometric, A-: negative allometric); (*): species with the length-weight relationship recorded for the first time.

DISCUSSION

In the determination of the length-weight relationships, factors related to sampling (fishing gear used, number of samples, sampling site, etc.) and development phase of the fish can interfere in the results (Froese, 2006). In this way, larger samples, obtained over a long period and which comprise a larger number of size classes, make more consistent estimates of the parameters of this relationship possible. Thus, the results obtained for the Baía Sul species can be considered representative and reliable, as they were estimated based on an adequate number of individuals (n ≥ 30), which presented sizes within the ranges of variation cited for most of the species. In addition, the collections were carried out in both periods (day and night) for three years, which probably incorporated the seasonal variations of the study area.

The comparison of the coefficients of determination (r²) of this and other studies that used the same method of capture (with different mesh sizes) and were carried out, mainly, on the north-northeastern coasts of Brazil (Cordovil & Camargo, 2007; Romero *et al.*, 2008; Freire *et al.*, 2009; Joyeux *et al.*, 2009) and south-southeastern (Giannini & Paiva-Filho, 1990; Bernardes & Rossi, 2000; Haimovici & Velasco, 2000; Muto *et al.*, 2000; Araújo & Vicentini, 2001; Almeida & Branco, 2002; Santos *et al.*, 2004; Viana *et al.*, 2004; Souza-Conceição *et al.*,

2005; Frehse, 2009; Joyeux *et al.*, 2009; Freitas *et al.*, 2010; Haluch *et al.*, 2011) verified the lowest values of this coefficient for eleven species (although the lowest value was 0.955), which may reflect local conditions, since there was no clear differentiation of the coefficients of determination (r^2) between the north-northeast (maximum of 0.993 in Joyeux *et al.*, 2009) and south-southeast coasts (0.996 in Muto *et al.*, 2000) and probably these differences were not significant.

Among the families, some species presented higher coefficients of determination, while others presented lower coefficients in relation to the references previously cited, so that the length-weight relationship in a certain family cannot be considered more consistent than in another. Similarly, the larger or smaller lengths recorded for the species that occurred in Baía Sul were not related to the families, and may have occurred as a response of each species to the local conditions or sample effort.

Giarrizzo *et al.* (2006) found similarity in the type of growth of the species of the families Carangidae, Mugilidae and Tetraodontidae, which, in the present study, was verified for Tetraodontidae, Sciaenidae, Ariidae, Paralichthyidae and Achiridae.

Although isometric growth has predominated in sampling (followed by positive and negative allometric growth), Froese (2006) warns that the discussion of the coefficient (b) of a single length-weight relationship, reflects the difference of the condition of the fish from only the area and moment of collection. This same author states that consistent patterns of allometric growth are rare, and should be supplemented by an analysis of the phases of growth and discussions of the potential evolutionary benefits associated with the ontogenetic changes in the body proportions.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This work presents the weight-length relationship of 35 species of fish belonging to 27 families. Growth type determination were classified according to three types: isometric (19 species), positive allometric (12) and negative allometric (4). As regards two species (*Catathyridium garmani* and *Oligoplites saliens*), as far as could be determined, this is the first work to publish length-weight relationship data and for two species (*Archosargus rhomboidalis* and *Mycteroperca microlepis*) this relationship is presented for the first time in Brazil, bringing new information on the life history of species, as well as important results for the evaluation of regional fishery.

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