

**LIFE CYCLE OF CULTURED BIG FIN SQUID,
SEPIOTEUTHIS LESSONIANA LESSON**

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ABSTRACT

The life cycle of big fin squid, *Sepioteuthis lessoniana*, was studied in small-scale culture. Egg capsules with 2-11 embryos each were attached together in clusters; total numbers of embryos were about 1,000 per female. The incubation period was 20.3 days at 28 °C. Hatchlings were planktonic. Mantle length was 0.54 cm, the weight 0.04 g. Hatchlings fed on mysids and post larvae of penaeid shrimps. Schooling was observed from 10 days of age as squids entered the juvenile stage. Big fin squids were sexually mature after 60 days, and mating was observed after 90 days. Feed conversion efficiency was 35.81 % which enabled a fast growth of 0.16 cm, or 3.47 % length gain/day, and 3.82 g, or 17.22 % weight gain/day. Spawning occurred at an average age of 112 days. The life span was 137 days due to mortality after spawning. Average final size of the squid was 21.35 cm length and 496.88 g wet weight.