

CEPHALOPOD DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE IN THE NORTHERN
PART OF PHANG-NGA PROVINCE, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Fifty-six night hauls (Mexican trawl net) were made during 5 cruises in the NE and SW monsoons 1992 to 1993. The average catch rate (CPUE) was 2.43 kg cephalopods hr⁻¹. The catch was composed of squid (40.08 %), octopus (30.17 %), cuttle fish (22.31 %), and sepiolid squid (7.44 %). Total biomass of cephalopods was 114.30 tons. Five species of Loliginidae (*Sepioteuthis lessoniana*, *Loligo chinensis*, *L. duvauceli*, *L. singhalensis* and *Loliolus sumatrensis*) five species of Sepioidea (*Sepia pharaonis*, *S. recurvirostra*, *S. aculeata*, *S. brevimana* and *Sepiella inermis*), one species of Sepiolidae (*Euprymna* sp.), and one genus of Octopoda (*Octopus* spp.) were found. *L. singhalensis* and *S. pharaonis* were the biggest of the squids and cuttle fish respectively. The catch rate of cephalopods during the SW monsoon was higher (4.12 kg hr⁻¹) than during the NE monsoon (1.92 kg hr⁻¹). The most productive area appeared at 66-75 m depth at a distance of more than 20 nautical miles from shore.