

**DISTRIBUTION AND SPAWNING GROUNDS OF CUTTLEFISH
IN THE UPPER GULF OF THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT: A study on the species distribution and spawning grounds of cuttlefish in the upper Gulf of Thailand was conducted in January, April, July and October 2002. Samples were collected from the research vessel Pramong 2 using an otter board trawl operated within 3, 5, 7 and more than 7 nautical miles from the shore. The most abundant cuttlefish species found in the upper Gulf of Thailand was *Sepia aculeata* followed by *S. recurvirostra* and *Sepiella inermis* while *Sepia pharaonis* and *S. brevimana* were rarely caught.

Most *Sepia aculeata* and *Sepiella inermis* were found 3–7 nautical miles offshore and *Sepia recurvirostra* was found more than 7 nautical miles offshore and at stations with bottom depths of 20–40 meters. *Sepiella inermis* tended to be abundant at 3 nautical miles offshore and at stations with bottom depths of 10–15 meters while *Sepia aculeata* was abundant over a wide range from 3–7 nautical miles and at stations with bottom depths of 10–30 meters. The spawning grounds mostly occurred 3–7 nautical miles offshore and at stations with bottom depths of 10–30 meters for *Sepia aculeata*, 5 to more than 7 nautical miles offshore and at stations with bottom depths of 20–40 meters for *S. recurvirostra* and 3 nautical miles offshore and at stations with bottom depths of 10–15 meters for *Sepiella inermis*.