

and/or trawl net, small organisms with sizes less than 25 cm in mantle length are captured, due to the small mesh gap used in the headland of these nets, where the target catch is collected.

The mantle length frequency distribution fluctuated between 13 and 50 cm ML for females and males and presents two groups of size class with modes at 23 cm ML and 40 cm ML, respectively. The first group congregated 56% of the organisms with lengths between 13 and 33 cm ML, coming mostly from directed fishing, whose sizes were below the length of the first maturity mantle (35.54 cm ML50%), while the second group gathered 44% of organisms with lengths between 34 and 50 cm ML, whose sizes have mostly reached first maturity and come mainly from bycatch.

In this range of sizes (13 and 50 cm LM), females were more frequent and more numerous than males, registering a state of gonadal maturity in stages I (26.7%) and II (71.8%), which would reveal that the maturity stages recorded in the fishing areas do not correspond to spawning periods in the Gulf of Guayaquil, concluding that the spawning of giant squid does not occur near the coast, it possibly occurs in oceanic waters.

5. REFERENCES

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