

TEMPORAL VARIATION OF FISH LARVAE AT MAHESHKHALI PARA, COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

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A thesis submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Fisheries Resource Management

Department of Fisheries Resource Management

Faculty of Fisheries

Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

Chattogram-4225, Bangladesh

August 2022

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The Author

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This is to certify that we have examined the above Master's thesis and have found that is complete and satisfactory in all respects, and that all revisions required by the thesis examination committee have been made

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Definition	
M	Meter	
μm	Micro meter	
Mm	Millimeter	
m^3	Cubic meter	
Jan	January	
Feb	February	
Mar	March	
Apr	April	
May	May	
Jun	June	
Jul	July	
Aug	August	
Sep	September	
Oct	October	
Nov	November	
Dec	December	
S	Summer	
W	Winter	
M	Monsoon	
SD	Standard deviation	

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ABSTRACT

The temporal abundance and composition of fish larval families and their spawning season in the Maheshkhali para of Cox's Bazar coast were studied from March 2020 to February 2021 on monthly basis. Sampling was performed by a bongo net with two mouth openings. In total 1223 individuals, representing 14 larval families, with a mean abundance of 101.92 individuals per 1000m³, were collected and identified under stereo microscope during sampling period. Larvae that were found in this area were: Clupeidae, Engraulidae, Terapontidae, Gobiidae, Tetradontidae, Scombridae, Sparidae, Siganidae, Pomacentridae, Mugilidae, Hemiramphidae, Serranidae, Ambassidae, Carangidae. Among them, Clupeidae, Engraulidae and Gobiidae contributed 52.82%, 19.22%, and 12.59% of the total catch. The month of July was found as the most diversified month, which had 356 individuals/ 1000m³. In contrast, March had the highest number of larvae families (07). Based on the constancy of occurrence, Clupeidae was termed as "constant" as their larvae were found in six months of that year. The highest value of the Shannon-Wiener index was 1.91, observed in March. Both Margalef's and Pieulo's index were the highest in March, with 2.60 and 0.98 respectively. This study will establish the groundwork for sustainable fisheries resource management strategies in the Cox's Bazar region.

Keywords: Fish larvae, Maheshkhali para, abundance, diversity indices, spawning season.