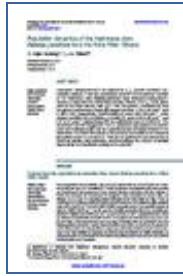


Population dynamics of the freshwater clam



Population parameters such as asymptotic (L_∞), growth coefficient (K), mortality rates (Z,F and M), exploitation level (E) and recruitment pattern of the freshwater clam *Galatea paradoxa* were estimated using length-frequency data from the Volta River estuary, Ghana. The L_∞ for *G. paradoxa* at the Volta estuary was 105.7 mm, the growth coefficient (K) and the growth performance index ($\dot{\phi}$) ranged between 0.14–0.18 year⁻¹ and 3.108–3.192, respectively. Total mortality (Z) was 0.65–0.82 year⁻¹, while natural mortality (M) and fishing mortality (F) were 0.35–0.44 year⁻¹ and 0.21–0.47 year⁻¹, respectively, with an exploitation level of 0.32–0.57. The recruitment pattern suggested that *G. paradoxa* has year-round recruitment with a single pulse over an extended period (October–March) in the Volta River. The Volta River stock of *G. paradoxa* is overfished and requires immediate action to conserve it. This can be achieved by implementing a minimum landing size restriction and intensifying the culture of smaller clams which is a traditional activity at the estuary.

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Obtenir le document : EDP Sciences

Mots clés : recruitment, mortality, growth parameters, Volta River, Bivalvia, recrutement, mortalité, paramètres de croissance, Rivière Volta, Bivalve

Thème (issu du Text Mining) : MILIEU NATUREL, FAUNE

Date : 2012-07-06

Format : text/xml

Source : <https://doi.org/10.1051/kmae/2012017>

Langue : Anglais

Télécharger les documents : <https://www.kmae-journal.org/10.1051/kmae/2012017/pdf>

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