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Age and Growth of Big Fin Squid, *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* (Lesson, 1830) from Mandapam Coastal Waters (Palk bay), Southeast Coast of India

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Age and growth of *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* (Lesson, 1830) in the trawl fishery of Mandapam, southeast coast of India were estimated. Growth and mortality parameters, exploitation rate were also evaluated for this species. The estimated L_{∞} and K , (growth parameters) through the run of appropriate routine of the FiSAT software were 309 mm and 0.91 yr^{-1} respectively while the estimated Z , M and F (Mortality parameters) through the length frequency catch curve methods and formulae were 3.71, 1.08 and 2.63 respectively. The exploitation ratio (E) of *S. lessoniana* from Mandapam waters was computed as 0.71, and the exploitation rate (U) 0.68. The exploitation rate and the exploitation ratio indicate that the stock of *S. lessoniana* was under high fishing pressure during the period of this study as the E was higher than E_{opt} i.e. $E_{opt} = 0.50$ (Pauly 1980). It is suggested that the effort has to be reduced for sustaining this resource for long term exploitation.

