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## Population dynamics of the king mackere (*Scomberomorus cavalla*) of the Campeche Bank, Mexico

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The king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavala*) a migratory pelagic resource which is caught along the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico, where some hypothesis suggest the existence of at least two stocks. In this contribution, the population dynamics of the Campeche Bank stock is analyzed. It is a small scale fishery with limited access to the whole population. Several locations along the coast were sampled around the Peninsula of Yucatan. Size structure of catches indicates a spatial gradient with large fishes found on the northeastern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, and smaller ones on the southern Gulf of Mexico. This behavior is associated with environmental factors; the southern region, with fluvial influence, probably acting as a nursery area; while in the northeastern region the population dynamics is in synchrony with a seasonal upwelling. The average population parameters estimated were as follows: growth parameters of the von Bertalanffy equation: L

Palabras clave: Gulf of Mexico, *Scomberomorus cavalla*, Population dynamics, stock identity

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