

Studies on Age and Growth of *Epinephelus Chlorostigma* and *Epinephelus Areolatus* From The Arabian Gulf

By

HMOUD FARES ALKAHEM, ZUBAIR AHMAD and AMIR A. A.ALDHAHI

From

Department of Zoology, College of Science, King Saud University, P. O. Box 2455,
Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia

Abstract

Annual gain in the weight and length of fish, *Epinephelus chlorostigma* and *Epinephelus areolatus*, in the water of Arabian Gulf was computed from the relationship between the total length of fish and radii lengths of the annual growth marks (annuli) formed on the scales at different times. It was found that the formation of annual growth marks on the scale of fish occurred in May in both the species of fish. A marked difference in growth rates between the two species of fish were recorded. The *chlorostigma* acquired more growth in weight and length when compared with the gain by the *areolatus* of the same age groups. Although the growth rates were different but the pattern of the growth in both the species was identical.