

THE OCCURRENCE, DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF LARVAL STAGES
OF TUNAS IN RAGAY GULF, BURIAS PASS, TICAPO PASS
AND WATERS NORTH OF SAMAR SEA

ZENAIDA V. ABUSO

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ABSTRACT

A total of 146 tuna larvae representing a 0.004% share in the total fish larvae catch was collected from Ragay Gulf, Burias Pass, Ticao Pass and waters north of Samar Sea during the sampling period from November 1981 to December 1982.

Seven species of tunas were identified and described to species level.

Euthynnus affinis and Thunnus obesus comprised a highest relative abundance of 24.05% in the larval tuna collection. Auxis thazard and A. rochei were secondly abundant with 16.0% and 14.0% share, respectively. Thunnus albacares, Thunnus alalunga and Katsuwonus pelamis were relatively rare with only 5, 4 and 2.0% share, respectively.

The highest abundance of the larvae were observed mainly in Ragay Gulf in May where warmer temperatures ranging from 26.56°C to 28.91°C and salinity values from 33.97‰ to 34.42‰ prevailed.