

## **Length–weight relationship of thirteen demersal fishes from the tropical Brazilian continental shelf**

Leandro Nole, Lucas Vinícius, Santos Silva, Flávia Lucena, Leandro Eduardo,  
Thierry Frédou, Alex Lira, Lucas Silva, Beatrice Ferreira, Arnaud Bertrand,  
et al.

► **To cite this version:**

Leandro Nole, Lucas Vinícius, Santos Silva, Flávia Lucena, Leandro Eduardo, et al.. Length–weight relationship of thirteen demersal fishes from the tropical Brazilian continental shelf. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, Wiley, 2019, 35 (2), pp.590-593. 10.1111/jai.13831 . ird-02197001

**HAL Id: ird-02197001**

**<https://hal.ird.fr/ird-02197001>**

Submitted on 29 Jul 2019

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# Length–Weight relationship of thirteen demersal fishes from the tropical Brazilian continental shelf

DOI: 10.1111/jai.13831

Leandro Nole Eduardo<sup>1,\*</sup>, Thierry Frédo<sup>1</sup>, Alex Souza Lira<sup>1</sup>, Lucas Vinícius Santos Silva<sup>1</sup>, Beatrice Padovani Ferreira<sup>2</sup>, Arnaud Bertrand<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Frédéric Ménard<sup>4</sup>, Flávia Lucena Frédo<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Pesca e Aquicultura, Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Rua D. Manuel de Medeiros, sn, Dois irmãos, CEP 52171-900, Recife, PE, Brazil.

<sup>2</sup>Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Departamento de Oceanografia, Recife, PE, Brazil.

<sup>3</sup>Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), MARBEC, Univ Montpellier, CNRS, Ifremer, IRD, Sète, France.

<sup>4</sup>IRD, UMR MIO Aix Marseille Univ/Université de Toulon/CNRS/IRD, Marseille, France.

\*Corresponding author: [leandronole@hotmail.com](mailto:leandronole@hotmail.com) - Tel: +55 81 33206015 (Brazil)

## ABSTRACT

This study provides the length-weight relationship (LWR) for 13 demersal fish species belonging to 11 families and 8 orders. Data were collected in the northeast Brazilian continental shelf during two scientific surveys (2015 and 2017) using a bottom trawl net (side length of body mesh: 40 mm, side length of cod-end mesh: 25mm) at 35 stations between 15 and 60 m of depth. We provide novel LWRs for 4 species and expand the size range of 9 relationships previously established.

## INTRODUCTION

Length-weight relationships (LWR) can be very important for stock differentiation, ecological modeling, to infer body condition indices, calculate biomass based on length frequency distributions, and for acoustic surveys (R. Froese, 2006; Martins Vaz-dos-Santos & Lúcia Del Bianco Rossi-Wongtschowski, 2013). However, despite its importance and the fact that these relationships are easily obtained, they are usually missing for several species, especially those that are not commercially important (Freire, Rocha, & Souza, 2009).

Along the Brazilian coast, several studies have estimated fish LWRs parameters. However, these studies mainly focused on the South (e.g. Catelani et al., 2017; Martins Vaz-dos-Santos and Lúcia Del Bianco Rossi-Wongtschowski, 2013; Vianna et al., 2004) and Southeast (e.g. Freire et al., 2009; Macleira and Joyeux, 2009; Passos et al., 2012) regions. In the continental shelf of northeast Brazil, an area of high biodiversity

where many threatened and near-threatened species occur (Eduardo et al., 2018), only a few LWR references are available for estuarine and shallow water (0-30m) species (e.g. Aguiar-Santos, Sampaio, Barroso, Nunes, & Piorski, 2018; Joyeux et al., 2009; Viana et al., 2016). Here new LWR information is provided for 13 species of demersal fishes occurring along the Brazilian northeast continental shelf.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study area comprises the northeast Brazilian continental shelf, between the states of Rio Grande do Norte (5°0'S; 35°0'W) and Alagoas (9°0'S; 35°0'W). Data were collected during a scientific survey, the Acoustics along the BRAzilian COaSt (ABRACOS) expeditions, on board the IRD R/V ANTEA. Sampling was conducted during two cruises, from August 30<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and 9th April – 6th May 2017, using a bottom trawl (side length of body mesh: 40 mm, side length of cod-end mesh: 25mm, entrance dimensions horizontal x vertical: 28 x10 m) at 35 stations. Hauls were performed between 15 and 60 m of depth, for about 5 minutes at 3.2 kt.

Fish individuals were identified, measured (nearest 0.1 cm total length, TL) and weighed (nearest 0.01 g in total weight, TW). The LWR values were estimated using the equation:  $TW = a \times TL^b$ , where TW is the total weight (in g); TL is the total length (in cm);  $a$  is the intercept of the regression curve (intercept of TW when TL is zero or initial growth coefficient) and  $b$  is the regression slope (coefficient indicating isometric or allometric growth) (Rainer Froese, 2006; Rainer Froese, Tsikliras, & Stergiou, 2011). Prior to calculation of the LWR, outliers for each species were graphically identified using TL vs. TW plots (Froese & Binohlan, 2000) and removed. The fit of the model to the data was measured by the coefficient of determination r-squared ( $R^2$ ).

## RESULTS

A total of 13 species belonging to 11 families and 8 orders were analyzed (Table 1). All regressions were highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ), with the coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) ranging from 0.953 to 0.994 (Table 1). The intercept  $a$  varied between 0.00002 (*Aulostomus maculatus*) and 0.0119 (*Haemulon squamipinna*), while the value of  $b$  varied between 2.67 (*Alphestes afer*) and 3.58 in (*Aulostomus maculatus*).

## DISCUSSION

This study provides novel LWRs for four species (*Bothus ocellatus*, *A. afer*, *H. squamipinna* and *Scorpaena bergii*) and expands the size range of nine other relationships (Table 1). For two species, *Hypanus marianae* and *H. squamipinna*, we also present record values of maximum total length. The LWR allometric coefficient ( $b$ ) for all species were within the expected range of 2.5–3.5 (Rainer Froese, 2006), with exception of *A. maculatus* ( $b= 3.58$ ). This positive allometric coefficient was obtained from a species with an unusual and elongated body shape. Further, factors as differences across populations, gonadal maturity, sample size, range of specimens size, and techniques of preservation might also have influenced the LWR parameters presented here (Rainer Froese, 2006).

In conclusion, this study provides new LWRs information for thirteen demersal fish species that may be a useful tool in future studies aimed at monitoring and understanding fish populations.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge the French oceanographic fleet for funding the at-sea survey ABRACOS 1 and 2 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.17600/15005600> / <http://dx.doi.org/10.17600/17004100>) and the officers and crew of the R/V Antea for their contribution to the success of the operations. The present study could not have been done without the work of all participants from the BIOIMPACT Laboratory. Thanks also to Michael Maia Mincarone (NUPEM) for species identification and deposition in the Fish Collection of NUPEM. We thank the CNPq (Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development), which provided student scholarship to Leandro Nolé Eduardo and Alex Souza Lira and research grant for Thierry Frédou, Beatrice Padovani Ferreira and Flávia Lucena Frédou. This work is a contribution to the LMI TAPIOCA, program CAPES/COFECUB (88881.142689/2017-01), and PADDLE project, which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 73427.

## REFERENCES

- Aguiar-Santos, J., Sampaio, A. S., Barroso, T. L., Nunes, J. L. S., & Piorski, N. M. (2018). Length-weight relationships of six fish species from São Marcos Bay, Northeastern Brazil. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, (January), 1–3. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.13722>
- Catelani, P. A., Bauer, A. B., & Petry, A. C. (2017). Length–weight relationships of fishes from the estuary of the Macaé River, Southeastern Brazil. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 33(6), 1251–1253. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jai.13443>
- Eduardo, L. N., Frédou, T., Lira, A. S., Ferreira, B. P., Bertrand, A., Ménard, F., & Frédou, F. L. (2018). Identifying key habitat and spatial patterns of fish biodiversity in the tropical Brazilian continental shelf. *Continental Shelf Research*, (July), 0–1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2018.07.002>
- Freire, K. M. F., Rocha, G. R. A., & Souza, I. L. (2009). Length-weight relationships for fishes caught by shrimp trawl in southern Bahia, Brazil. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 25(3), 356–357. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0426.2009.01220.x>
- Froese, R. (2006). Cube law, condition factor and weight-length relationships: history, meta-analysis and recommendations. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 22(4), 241–253. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0426.2006.00805.x>
- Froese, R. (2006). Cube law, condition factor and weight-length relationships: History, meta-analysis and recommendations. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 22(4), 241–253. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0426.2006.00805.x>
- Froese, R., & Binohlan, C. (2000). Empirical relationships to estimate asymptotic length, length at first maturity and length at maximum yield per recruit in fishes, with a simple method to evaluate length frequency data. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 56(4), 758–773. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jfbi.1999.1194>
- Froese, R., Tsikliras, A. C., & Stergiou, K. I. (2011). Editorial note on weight-length relations of fishes. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 41(4), 261–263. <https://doi.org/10.3750/AIP2011.41.4.01>
- Joyeux, J. C., Giarrizzo, T., Macleira, R. M., Spach, H. L., & Vaske, T. (2009). Length-weight relationships for Brazilian estuarine fishes along a latitudinal gradient. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 25(3), 350–355. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0426.2008.01062.x>
- Macleira, R. M., & Joyeux, J. C. (2009). Length-weight relationships for rockpool fishes in Brazil. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 25(3), 358–359. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0426.2008.01118.x>
- Martins Vaz-dos-Santos, A., & Lúcia Del Bianco Rossi-Wongtschowski, C. (2013). Length-weight relationships of the ichthyofauna associated with the Brazilian sardine, *Sardinella brasiliensis*, on the Southeastern Brazilian Bight (22°S-29°S) between 2008 and 2010. *Biota Neotropica*, 13(2), 326–330. Retrieved from

<http://www.biotaneotropica.org.br>

- Passos, A. C., Schwarz, R., Cartagena, B. F. C., Garcia, A. S., & Spach, H. L. (2012). Weight-length relationship of 63 demersal fishes on the shallow coast of Parana, Brazil. *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 28(5), 845–847. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0426.2012.01973.x>
- Viana, A. P., Lucena-Frédou, F., Ménard, F., Frédou, T., Ferreira, V., Lira, A. S., & Le Loc'h, F. (2016). Length-weight relations of 70 fish species (Actinopterygii) from tropical coastal region of Pernambuco, Northeast Brazil. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 46(3), 271–277. <https://doi.org/10.3750/AIP2016.46.3.12>
- Vianna, M., Costa, F. E. D. S., & Ferreira, C. N. (2004). Length-Weight Relationship of Fish Caught As By-Catch By Shrimp Fishery in the Southeastern Coast of Brazil. *Boletim Do Instituto de Pesca*, 30(1), 81–85.

	Family	Species	N	Total length (cm)		Weight (g)		Regression parameters		
				Min	Max	Min	Max	a (95% CI)	b (95% CI)	R <sup>2</sup>
Myliobatiformes	Dasyatidae	<i>Hypanus marianae</i> Gomes, Rosa & Gadig, 2000	52	16.5	65	1	1930	0.0048 (0.0032-0.0064)	3.08(2.98-3.28)	0.9532
Pleuronectiformes	Paralichthyidae	<i>Syacium micrurum</i> Ranzani, 1842	70	6.5	25	2.4	163.2	0.0065 (0.0055-0.0075)	3.15(3.09-3.20)	0.9942
	Bothidae	<i>Bothus ocellatus</i> (Agassiz, 1831) ††	154	5.2	16	1.9	55.3	0.0108 (0.0085-0.0136)	3.03(2.93-3.12)	0.9633
Syngnathiformes	Aulostomidae	<i>Aulostomus maculatus</i> Valenciennes, 1841	37	15.3	31.5	3.6	57	0.0002(0.0001-0.0005)	3.58(3.34-3.82)	0.9673
Labriformes	Scaridae	<i>Cryptotomus roseus</i> Cope, 1871	25	5.6	10.7	1.8	16.4	0.0051 (0.0039-0.0063)	3.41(3.31-3.504)	0.9857
		<i>Sparisoma radians</i> (Valenciennes, 1840)	50	5.1	20	1.38	132.4	0.0095 (0.0084-0.0108)	3.21(3.16-3.26)	0.9962
Perciformes	Gerreidae	<i>Ulaema lefroyi</i> (Goode, 1874)	44	9.5	19.5	7.8	87	0.0037 (0.0019-0.0055)	3.4(3.23-3.567)	0.9832
	Serranidae	<i>Alphestes afer</i> (Bloch, 1793) ††	38	13.5	21.4	32.5	136	0.0045 (0.0023-0.0089)	2.67(2.55-2.79)	0.9569
	Haemulidae	<i>Haemulon squamipinna</i> Rocha & Rosa, 1999 ††	100	11.1	19.5	18.3	110.9	0.0119 (0.0083-0.0170)	3.05(2.92-3.18)	0.9724
Scorpaeniformes	Scorpaenidae	<i>Scorpaena bergii</i> Evermann & Marsh, 1900 ††	11	5	8.5	2	8.2	0.0085 (0.0069-0.0101)	3.41(3.21-3.619)	0.9898
Spariformes	Sparidae	<i>Calamus calamus</i> (Valenciennes, 1830)	25	6.5	27.5	5.3	391.4	0.0306(0.0203-0.0460)	2.81(2.68-2.95)	0.9877
Tetraodontiformes	Monacanthidae	<i>Cantherhines macrocerus</i> (Hollard, 1853)	15	6	38.6	2.7	1042.4	0.0156(0.0064-0.0725)	3.20(3.03-3.337)	0.9924
		<i>Stephanolepis hispidus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	73	7.1	36.9	5.6	364.2	0.0292(0.0199-0.0430)	2.75(2.59-2.91)	0.9862

0 Table 1- Descriptive statistics and parameters of LWRs for 13 demersal fish species from the northeast Brazilian continental shelf. (††) Novel  
1 length-weight relationships.

2