

**Age determination of archer fishes (*Toxotes jaculatrix* and *Toxotes chatareus*)
inhabiting Malaysian estuaries**

ABSTRACT

In this study the most common bony structure (scales) and method was investigated for age determination of archer fishes. A total of 85 specimens of archer fishes (*Toxotes chatareus* and *Toxotes jaculatrix*) from the estuaries of South Johore, Malaysia were examined for age. Scale length is linearly proportion ($r = 0.816$) to standard length (SL). Relationship between scale length (L) and scale weight (W) can be expressed by the formula $W = 0.0155L^{2.917}$. Daily growth rings and annulus of scales count up demonstrated that the ages of the samples for both species were mostly 1-2 years and a handful samples of *T. jaculatrix* were above 2 years.

Keyword: Archer fish; *Toxotes chatareus*; *Toxotes jaculatrix*; Daily growth rings; Scale