



Biometric Characteristics of Giant River-Catfish *Aorichthys seenghala* (Sykes, 1839) from Harike Wetland – A Ramsar site

Abhijeet Singh, Surjya Narayan Datta* and Ajeet Singh¹

Department of Fisheries Resource Management, ¹Department of Harvest and Post-Harvest Technology
College of Fisheries, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana-141 004, India
*E-mail: surjya30740@gmail.com

Abstract: The study was carried out to evaluate the morphometric characteristics and biology of Giant river-catfish *Aorichthys seenghala* from Harike wetland – a Ramsar site from September 2016 - February 2017. Among different morphometric characteristics of *A. seenghala* average weight of fish, total length, standard length, fork length was 1197 g, 59.93 g, 47.57 cm, 51.01 cm, anal fin rays, caudal fin rays ranged from 8-9, 19-21 whereas, dorsal fin rays, ventral fin rays, pectoral fin rays was 7, 5, 9, respectively. *A. Seenghala* established negative allometric growth with respect to length weight relationship, thus species became slender as it increased in length. Highest Gonado Somatic Index (%) in male and female was in September (0.996 and 3.127) and lowest in November whereas, Hepato Somatic Index (%) of male and female fish recorded highest in November (1.158 and 2.208) and lowest in September. Hepato Somatic Index varied seasonally and inversely correlated with Gastro Somatic Index. Highest Gastro Somatic Index (%) in male and female was in September (1.277 and 2.278) and lowest in January. Relative Length of Gut value recorded < 1 indicating fish is carnivore in feeding habit. The fish is predominantly a carnivore fish and preferably lives in the bottom (as significantly detritus material found in the stomach). The Harike wetland is still supporting a good numbers of matured giant river catfish *A. seenghala* despite of different natural and anthropogenic disturbances which is required to be conserved.

Keywords: Harike wetland, *Aorichthys seenghala*, Gonadosomatic index, Gut content analysis, Cat fish
