

**Population Parameters of Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*, from the Puerto Rico's Commercial Fishery**

IVAN MATEO RABELO

*Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources*

*P.O. Box 3665*

*Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00681-36555*

Estimates of growth, mortality and yield per recruit patters of spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus*, were investigated using length frequency data from Puerto Rico's Commercial Fishery data. Computer based methods of length frequency analysis (FISAT) were used. For males asymptotic length (L<sub>∞</sub>) was 197, body growth rate (k) was 0.25, and total mortality (Z) was 0.70. Results from the exploitation rates and yield per recruit analyses indicate Puerto Rico's spiny lobster stock is currently heavily fished.

**KEY WORDS:** Spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus*, commercial fishery, Puerto Rico