

**A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE ATLANTIC LITTLE TUNA
(*EUTHYNNUS ALLETERATUS*, RAFINESQUE 1810) IN TURKISH WATERS**

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SUMMARY

Samples of Atlantic little tuna were collected in the Mediterranean Sea in May, 1994. Length and weight measurements were taken and the first dorsal spines of the first dorsal fins were removed for age determination.

RESUME

Des échantillons de thonine ont été prélevés dans la Méditerranée à partir du mois de mai 1994. La longueur et le poids des échantillons ont été enregistrés, et des épines de la première dorsale ont été prélevées pour les besoins de la détermination de l'âge.

RESUMEN

A partir de mayo de 1994, se recolectaron muestras de bacoreta en el Mar Mediterráneo. Se midieron las tallas y pesos de las muestras, y se recolectaron los primeros radios espinosos de la primera aleta dorsal para determinación de la edad.

INTRODUCTION

Annual catches amounted to 4 to 8 thousand tons in recent years. Fisheries are more or less coastal, using trap nets, beach seines, surrounding gillnets, small purse seines, trolling and pole- and -line (ICCAT, 1990).

In the Turkish waters, several studies have been previously made on the Atlantic Little tuna. Akyüz (1956) and Demir (1961) studied the biology and the fishery of Atlantic Little tuna. Devedjian (1926) and Akşiray (1987) studied the systematics of the Atlantic Little tuna in Turkish waters.

The Atlantic Little tunas are mainly caught in Turkish waters, in the Mediterranean Sea by means of purse-seining. Due to overfishing, they are not caught any more in the Black Sea.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Since May 1994, samples have been collected on the Turkish coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. From May to August 1994, samples were caught by purse-seining. Fork lengths and weights were measured and in some cases dorsal fins were collected.

The methods of extraction, preparation and the cutting of the spine which was described by Cayre & Diouf (1983) and Cort (1990) were used. The reading of spines have not finished yet.

Unfortunately, collected samples during this period aren't enough for evaluating. The investigations will continue for two more years.

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