

STUDIES REGARDING THE MIGRATION BEHAVIOR OF ANCHOVY (*Engraulis encrasicolus*, Linnaeus 1758) FROM THE ROMANIAN BLACK SEA COAST

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Abstract. The study of the behavior of fish species (migration, feeding, reproduction) is important for understanding the impact on populations and finding sustainable solutions to manage these problems. Anchovy is a pelagic, gregarious species and plays a key role in the general circulation of organic matter in the Black Sea. As the main consumer of plankton, anchovy is, in its turn, food for other species such as mackerel, whiting, dolphins. In recent years, the anchovy stock in the Black Sea has suffered greatly, especially as a result of overexploitation.

The preference for certain areas of distribution, food and reproduction was determined by analyzing samples collected by passive fishing (seines from the Romanian Black Sea coast). Temperature, salinity and food supply are the main determinants of the migration phenomenon of anchovy, thereby the preferred grounds for feeding and breeding are coastal areas.

Key words: Anchovy, migration, the Black Sea, abundance.

INTRODUCTION

The anchovy *Engraulis encrasicolus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is one of the main commercial fish species in the Black Sea, whose stock has undergone a significant decline during past decades (Fig. 1).

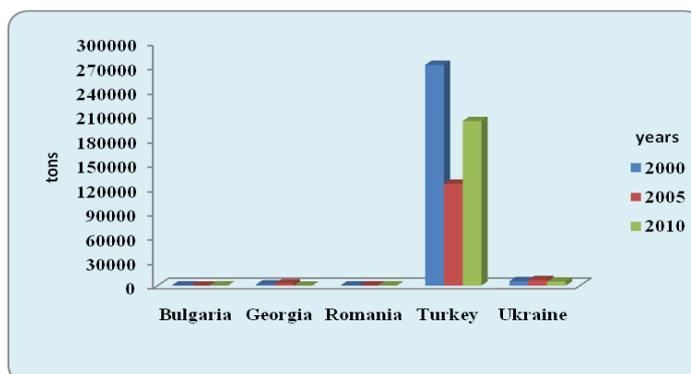


Figure 1. Anchovy biomass (tons) caught in the Black Sea (STECF data, 2014)