PUFFERFISH IN TURKISH MARINE WATERS

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Abstract

In the last 40 years, the number of pufferfish species (Tetraodontidae) recorded for the Mediterranean waters has been increased from 3 to 11 with inclusion of Lessepsian or tropical-Atlantic origin. Puffer species is represented in the Turkish marine waters including the Mediterranean, Aegean and Marmara Seas by four genera and 8 species: Lagocephalus lagocephalus, Lagocephalus spadiceus, Lagocephalus suezensis, Lagocephalus sceleratus, Lagocephalus gunteri, Sphoeroides pachygaster, Torquigener filavimaculosus, and Tylerius spinosissimus. The video and picture presentations of ecology, fishery, behaviour, threats, problems and utilizations of puffer species distributed in the Turkish marine waters are documented under the TAGEM project (16/ARGE/21).

Keywords: Pufferfish, Turkish Marine waters, ecology, fishery, problems and utilizations.