International Symposium on Pufferfish
13-14 October 2017, Bodrum, Turkey
Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honor and pleasure host all you in the International Symposium on Pufferfish from 13 to 14 October 2017 in Bodrum, Turkey.

Pufferfishes are represented with 11 species (Ephippion guttiferum, Lagocephalus lagocephalus, L. sceleratus, L. spadiceus, L. suzansis, L. guentheri, Sphoeroides marmoratus S. pachyaster, S. spengleri, Torquigener flavimaculosus, Tylerius spinosissimus) belonging to Tetraodontidae family in the Mediterranean. Especially, L. sceleratus is one of the most damaging, aggressive predatory invasive species, economically and ecologically. It was first recorded in Gokova Bay in Turkey in 2003 and started to create problems after few years. There have been major complaints about the damage of this species given to the fishers through the fishing gears and catch entangled to fishing gears since 2006. On the other hand, it has not exactly known how this species effect to ecosystem in Mediterranean marine waters. From the socio-economic point of view there are only two studies indicating numerical results, economic loss caused by this species.

The symposium focus on the themes belonging to the Tetraodontidae species and include invited talks, oral and poster presentations. Moreover, the sessions will also concentrate upon the most recent scientific findings about Tetraodontidae species and regarding topics.

The symposium will bring together leading scientists in the domain of interest from around the world. Around hundred participants from 15 different countries presented oral and poster presentations. It will be a great honor for us to host you in Bodrum, Turkey. The accepted abstracts presented in the International Symposium on Pufferfish will be published as a Supplement in the Natural and Engineering Sciences (NESciences). If required full text of the presentation can be published in the Natural and Engineering Sciences after reviewing process. We would like to thank all participants for their attendance to the symposium program and for their contributions, cooperation. This abstract book, which has unique source for the researchers, administrative, NGOs, fishers whoever interested in pufferfish, contains the written versions of the presentations (both oral and poster) delivered during the symposium.

We express our kind thanks to the Iskenderun Technical University, Ege University, UNESCO, Bodrum Municipality, Turkish Underwater Sports Federation, Natural and Engineering Sciences, Nature and Science Society, TUDAV and Mediterranean Conservation Society for their kind support. Many thanks as well to the scientific and organizing committee and students-team worked voluntarily.

Yours sincerely,

Cemal Turan and Vahdet Ünal

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CONTENTS

Session 1: Abstracts for Oral Presentations

RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL FOR INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: EXAMPLE OF PLOTOSUS LINEATUS .......................................................... 9

THE STATE OF THE ART OF THE ADRIATIC SEA FISH BIODIVERSITY .............. 10

THE PUFFERFISH TOXIN- TURNING A THREAT INTO AN OPPORTUNITY .......... 11

PUFFERFISH IN TURKISH MARINE WATERS ........................................... 12

EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON NUTRITIVE VALUE AND VIBRIO ALGINLYTICUS OF PUDDLEP畎ISH (LAGOCHEPHALUS SCElerATUS) FILLETS ........................................ 13

TETRODOTOXIN (TTX) LEVELS OF TORQUIGENER FLAVIMACULOSUS (HARDY & RANDALL, 1983) CAUGHT IN THE NORTHEASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA .... 14

DETERMINATION OF TETRODOTOXIN (TTX) LEVELS IN VARIOUS TISSUES OF THE SILVER CHEEKED PUDDLEFISH (LAGOCHEPHALUS SCElerATUS (GMELIN, 1789)) IN NORTHERN CYPRUS SEA ........................................... 15

METAL LEVELS IN THREE PUDDLEFISH SPECIES CAUGHT FROM MERSIN BAY .... 16

MATURATION AND GONAD DEVELOPMENT OF YELLOWSPOTTED PUDDLE TORQUIGENER FLAVIMACULOSUS (OSTEICHTHYES: TETRAODONTIDAE) FROM ISKENDERUN BAY, NORTH-EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ...................................... 17

DETERMINATION OF HEAVY METAL CONCENTRATIONS IN LESSEPSIAN SUEZ PUDDLE (LAGOCHEPHALUS SUEZENSIS CLARK AND GOHAR, 1953) FROM NORTH-EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ........................................... 18

EMBRYONIC STAGES OF SPOTTED GREEN PUDDLEFISH (TETRAODON NIGROVIRIDIS) AS AN EXPERIMENTAL MODEL ORGANISM ........................................... 19

BIOACCUMULATION OF SOME HEAVY METALS IN SILVER-CHEEKED TOADFISH (LAGOCHEPHALUS SCElerATUS) FROM ANTALYA BAY, TURKEY .................. 20

STOCK ASSESSMENT OF THE LESSEPSIAN MIGRANT PUDDLEFISH LAGOCHEPHALUS SCElerATUS FROM THE GULF OF SUEZ AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA .................................................. 21

GENETICS OF ALIEN PUDDLEFISH POPULATIONS ALONG THE TURKISH LEVANTINE COAST .......................................................... 22

ASSESSING DNA BARCODES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF PUDDLEFISH SPECIES (TETRAODONTIDAE) IN TURKISH MARINE WATERS ......................................... 23

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION OF HYBRID PUDDLEFISH BETWEEN TAKIFUGU RUBRIPES AND TAKIFUGU PORPHYREUS ........................................ 24

NEW RECORD OF DIAMONDBACK PUDDLE LAGOCHEPHALUS GUENTHERI MIRANDA RIBEIRO, 1915 FROM THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, TURKEY .......................... 25

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND SPREADING OF PUDDLEFISH SPECIES ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN WATERS .................................................. 26

SPATIO-TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF PUDDLEFISH SPECIES IN THE ANTALYA BAY, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN .......................................................... 27

THE FACTORS INCREASING OF INVASIVENESS POTENTIAL OF PUDDLEFISHES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN .................................................. 28
PARAMETER SELECTION IN CENTROID-CONTOUR DISTANCE METHOD FOR CLASSIFICATION OF PUFFERFISH SPECIES

PROXIMATE COMPOSITION AND FATTY ACID PROFILE OF PUFFERFISH (LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS) CAUGHT FROM MERSIN BAY

AGE AND GROWTH OF THE SILVER-CHEEKED TOADFISH LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS INHABITING MERSIN BAY, TURKEY, NORTHEASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

LENGTH - WEIGHT RELATIONSHIPS OF FOUR PUFFERFISH SPECIES IN ANTALYA BAY

SOME POPULATION PARAMETERS OF THE PUFFERFISH LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS (GMELIN, 1789) FROM THE FINIKE BAY, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

THE CATCH CHARACTERISTICS OF PUFFERFISH SPECIES IN DIFFERENT FISHING GEARS IN THE AEGEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN COASTS OF TURKEY

PROPOSALS ON THE SUEZ PUFFERFISH CAUGHT BY RECREATIONAL FISHING METHOD: MOST USED KIRBED AND STRAIGHT HOOKS EXPERIMENT

PUFFERFISH SPECIES AS DISCARDS IN BOTTOM TRAWL FISHERIES OF GULF OF ANTALYA AND FINIKE BAY, TURKEY

PUFFERFISH HARMFUL EFFECTS ON LONGLINE FISHERY IN ISKENDERUN BAY

DETECTION OF MEMBERS OF TETRAODONTIDAE AND OSTRACIIDAE FAMILY IN THE GULF OF ANTALYA

6
Session 2: Abstracts for Poster Presentations

AGEING WITH ALCIAN BLUE STAINING TECHNIQUE FOR LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS IN MERSIN BAY, TURKEY, NORTHEASTERN MEDITERRANEAN............ 40

AN OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS OF SPECIES OF THE GENUS LAGOCEPHALUS IN THE ADRIATIC SEA................................................................. 41

CAN PUFFERFISH BE AS AN ECONOMIC INPUT FOR ISKENDERUN BAY?......................... 42

CATCH RATES OF TWO PUFFERFISH SPECIES IN ANGLING IN GÖKÖVA BAY, TURKEY........................................................................................................ 43

CHARACTERISTICS OF FISHING GEARS AND METHODS PROPOSED FOR COMBATTING SILVER-CHEEKED TOADFISH LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS (GMELIN, 1789)............ 44

ECONOMIC LOSSES OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERS DUE TO THE SILVER-CHEEKED TOADFISH (LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS): CAN IT BE QUANTIFIED FOR MANAGEMENT PURPOSES?.............................................................. 45

ELECTROPHORETIC PATTERNS OF LIVER AND MUSCLE PROTEINS OF YELLOWSPOTTED PUFFER, TORQUIGENER FLAVIMACULOSUS HARDY & RANDALL, 1983................................................................. 46

FEEDING HABITS OF PUFFERFISH (LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS) IN THE ANTALYA BAY............................................................................................... 47

LENGTH-WEIGHT RELATIONSHIPS OF LESSEPSIAN PUFFERFISH SPECIES FROM MUĞLA COASTS OF TURKEY............................................................ 48

LENGTH-WEIGHT RELATIONSHIPS OF THE 3 TETRAODONTIDAE (LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS, LAGOCEPHALUS SPADICEUS, LAGOCEPHALUS SUEZENSIS) IN THE ANTALYA BAY....................................................... 49

LONG JOURNEY OF LAGOCEPHALUS SCELERATUS (GMELIN, 1789) THROUGHOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA............................................................. 50

MALTESE FISHERMEN AND PUFFERFISH, WHO WILL PUFF THE MOST?..................... 51

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF PUFFERFISH ON THE RECREATIONAL FISHERY IN ISKENDERUN BAY..................................................................................... 52

PUFFERFISH PROCESSING......................................................................................... 53

PUFFERFISH: TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT?.................................................................... 54

PUFFERFISH-TETRADOTOXIN AND FARMACOLOGY............................................... 55

SAXITOXIN AND TETRODOTOXINS PUFFERFISH TOXINS................................. 56

SOME POPULATION DYNAMICAL PARAMETERS OF SUEZ PUFFERFISH (LAGOCEPHALUS SUEZENSIS CLARK AND GOHAR, 1953) STOCK FROM THE ISKENDERUN BAY............................................................... 57

SUGGESTED PROCESSING METHODS FOR LOWERING THE RISK OF INTOXICATION BY TETRADOTOXIN (TTX) IN PUFFERFISHES.................................. 58

TETRODOTOXIN BINDING PROTEIN IN THE MARINE PUFFERFISHES.................... 59

TETRODOTOXIN POISONING IN MARINE BIOTA...................................................... 60