



Distribution Pattern and Batch Fecundity of the Brown Comber (*Serranus hepatus* L., 1758) Along the Turkish Coasts of the North Aegean Sea

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Abstract

This study focuses on spatio-temporal distribution and batch fecundity of the brown comber (*Serranus hepatus* L., 1758) along the Turkish Coasts of the North Aegean Sea. The fish samples were collected during various bottom trawl surveys conducted with R/V K. Piri Reis between the years of 1991 and 1996. The percentage of contributions of the brown comber to the total catch were varied between 0.41% and 4.35% at depths up to 100 meters by the season. The brown comber individuals were also caught in deeper than 100 meters (up to 120-130 m), but at lower percentages. A total of 346 brown comber randomly sampled during reproductive period (summer-time) and their total lengths ranged from 7 to 15 cm. Maximum batch fecundity is around 3000 eggs per female with a of mean 500-600 eggs by using the “hydrated oocyte method”. The results of the regression analyses showed that batch fecundity increased with total length, and larger brown combers have a significantly higher relative fecundity than younger ones.

Keywords:

Brown Comber, *Serranus hepatus*, Turkish Coasts of the North Aegean Sea
