



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.