



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

Nuri Başusta^{1*}, Asiye Başusta¹, Ebru İfakat Özcan², Hülya Girgin¹

¹ Fisheries Faculty, Fırat University, 23119 Elazığ, TURKEY

² Fisheries Faculty, Munzur University, Tunceli, TURKEY

*Corresponding author: nbasusta@hotmail.com

Abstract

In this study, age and growth estimates were determined in Silver-cheeked toadfish *Lagocephalus sceleratus* from the northeastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. A total of 86 (34 females and 52 males) *L. sceleratus* samples were captured by commercial purse seine nets at depth of 24 and 50 m from Mersin Bay. The total length ranged from 8.9-72.8 cm and 8.34-3828 g in weight for *L. sceleratus*. The percentage of females and males in all samples was 40% and 60 % respectively. Age determinations were carried out using whole vertebrae. The total length-weight relationship was estimated as $W=0.0221 \times TL^{2.79}$ for combined sexes. The estimated von Bertalanffy growth parameters were $L_{\infty} = 114.52$ cm, $k = 0.11$ year⁻¹, $t_0 = -0.664$ year for all individuals. The maximum age was found 8 years old.

Keywords: *Lagocephalus sceleratus*, Silver-cheeked toadfish, length-weight relationships, growth, northeastern Mediterranean Sea.