



FEEDING HABITS OF PUFFERFISH (*LAGOCEPHALUS SCCELERATUS*) IN THE ANTALYA BAY

Mehmet Aydın

Ordu University, Fatsa Faculty of Marine Sciences, Ordu, TURKEY

Corresponding author: maydin69@hotmail.com

Abstract

This study was carried out to describe the feeding habits of pufferfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*). Fish samples were collected monthly from Antalya Bay between 2008 and 2011. Stomach contents of 657 individuals ranging in size from 12.5 to 68 cm (28.1 ± 12.7 cm; 422 ± 560.7 g) (\pm SE of means) total length were analyzed and 64.2 % (432 ind.) were empty. The index of percentage of relative importance (IRI%) indicated opportunistic feeding on macrobenthic fauna. The fish fed mainly upon Penaeidae (shrimps) (IRI%=54) and Portunidae (crabs) (IRI%=17), but also upon fish, Cephalopods and others. There were differences in diet composition during the years.

Keywords: Feeding habit, pufferfish, *Lagocephalus sceleratus*, Antalya Bay
