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Checklist of the marine fishes of Turkey

MURAT BILECENOGLU, ERTAN TASKAVAK, SAVAS MATER & MURAT KAYA



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Abstract

A checklist of the marine fish fauna of Turkey is presented for the first time. Examination of the previous studies revealed the presence of 448 species in 133 families. A total of 45 species, that has a doubtful presence at Turkish seas, was briefly discussed. The ichthyofaunal similarities of seas surrounding Turkey were compared, and the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara were found to be 55.6% similar, whereas, the proportion computed for the Aegean and the Mediterranean Sea was 83.2%.

Key words: marine fishes, checklist, Turkey, Black Sea, Sea of Marmara, Aegean Sea, Mediterranean Sea.

Introduction

As far as fishes are concerned, the Mediterranean fauna is a relatively rich and varied one. Quignard & Tomasini (2000) expresses the Mediterranean fish community as recent, and still evolving even today, primarily due to undergoing drastic and rapid changes in the biota. Enrichment of the relevant fauna in the last few decades by invasive fish species, mainly as a result of natural expansion of species via Suez Canal (=Lessepsian migration) - and Gibraltar strait to a lesser extent, attracted much attention of scientists and resulted with the increase in inventory studies. According to the most comprehensive account, a total of 664 fish species, consisting 575 Osteichthyes, 86 Chondrichthyes and 3 Cyclostomes, was documented from the Mediterranean (see Whitehead *et al.*, 1984-1986; Quignard & Tomasini, 2000). Although the populations in certain areas have been well studied, there is scarcity of knowledge concerning the fish biodiversity of some areas of the Mediterranean.

Turkey, located at the easternmost section of the Mediterranean, is surrounded by four large water masses, i.e. Black Sea, Sea of Marmara, Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea,