

QUALITATIVE COMPOSITION OF PELAGIC FISH IN THE GULF OF TRIESTE

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Abstract.

From observations effected in the Gulf of Trieste, it was possible to ascertain that the pelagic stock is mainly composed of three species: Sardina pilchardus 74,5%, Engraulis encrasicolus 18,7%, Sprattus sprattus 5,2%. The appearance of other species in the composition of the shoals is of no economic importance.

Resumé.

La composition qualitative de la pêche pelagique dans le Golfe de Trieste est celle qui interesse davantage la faune existante concernant les poissons. Elle est capturée pendant les mois qui vont d'avril à octobre, avec des filets du genre "saccaleva", et ceux à charge (remarque) du genre "Larsen". Les bancs des espèces principales: Sardina pilchardus 74,5%, Engraulis encrasicolus 18,7%, Sprattus sprattus 5,2%, ont été suivis par deux avions pendant leurs déplacements, tandis que la composition qualitative mélangée aux Clupeidi est variée mais peu abondante et entièrement occasionnelle.

Introduction. In relation to the systematic observations carried out in the Gulf of Trieste for a rational exploitation of the marine resources, we started out by localizing the summer distribution of Clupeidi and proceeded with establishing the qualitative composition of the shoals.

Methods employed: Through aerial observations with two Cessna aircraft (I-ALAP and I-ALAV) we followed the movements of the C. shoals throughout the summer period. Later with fishing boats we captured specimens for examination with trawl nets and seine nets. The two fishing methods produced more

or less the same results which are as follows: Sardina pilchardus 74,5%, Engraulis encrasicolus 18,7%, Sprattus sorattus 5.2%. The remaining 1,6% is mainly composed of pelagic species not resident in the Gulf of Trieste which usually aggregate to the Clupeidi shoals for trophic factors.

Amongst the selachians we observed: Alopias vulpinus, Mustelus, Prionace glauca, Squalus acanthias.

Amongst Osteichtyes: Sardinella aurita, Alosa fallax nilotica, Salmo gairdneri, Argentina sphyraena, Belone belone acus, Odontogadus merlangus euxinus, Trisopterus minutus capelanus, Luvarus imperialis, Zeus faber, Polyprion americanus, Pagellus erythrinus, Boops boops, Sarpa salpa, Scicara maena, Trachurus trachurus, Trachurus mediterraneus, Seriola dumerli, Naucrates ductor, Lichia amia, Centrolophus niger, Stromateus fiatola, Ranzania laevis, Mola mola.

Conclusions. During the pelagic fishing carried out in the Gulf of Trieste three species of Clupeidi in dominant compositiones were observed, while other untypical species in the Gulf appear sporadically and have no economic or commercial value.

