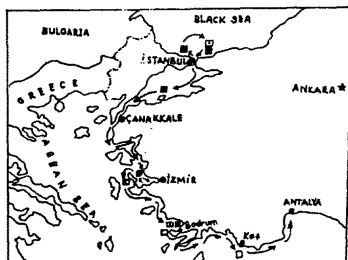


Species of Dolphins that occurs in the Western Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea

Bülent TOPALOĞLU, Bayram ÖZTURK and Adem COLAK
School of Aquatic Products, Beykoz Istanbul University (Turkey)

Abstract :

We observed, photographed and filmed the dolphins that we came across in the waters of Western Black Sea, The Sea of Marmara and The Aegean Sea, in a series of research sails that took place from June 20, 1989 to September 10, 1989. A team of 20 people aboard a 15 mile per hour research vessel was employed in the observation and count of the dolphins. Although the observation and the count were made directly most of the time, we also took advantage of binoculars in order to verify what we had observed with naked eye. We also evaluated the photographs and films of dolphins that we had taken, for the some reason I have just mentioned.



On the map you see the route that our research vessel took besides, the areas where different species of dolphins were spotted.

Of the total number of 63 dolphins observed, 9 *Delphinus delphis* (Linnaeus, 1758); 6 *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821); 8 *Delphinus delphis* and, 26 *Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen, 1833); 6 *Delphinus delphis*, 8 *Tursiops truncatus*, from Odontoceti-Delphinidea were spotted respectively in The Western

Blacksea, The Sea of Marmara and The Aegean Sea. Among the dolphins were observed *Stenella coeruleoalba* (Striped Dolphins) make up the biggest group 26 dolphins, followed by *Delphinus delphis* (Saddleback Dolphins) with 23 dolphins and by *Tursiops truncatus* (Bottlenose Dolphins) with 14 dolphins.

According to our conclusion *Stenella coeruleoalba* was only observed in the Aegean Sea, mainly in the area between Kaş and Antalya. 6 young dolphins were spotted as well during the project.

However, we need more data and time to estimate the abundance and the frequency for the exact distribution of dolphin in Turkish coast.

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