

STOCK ASSESSMENT OF SEA SNAIL (*Rapana thomasiana* Gross,1861) IN THE EASTERN BLACK SEA

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In this study, determination of sea snail (*Rapana thomasiana* Gross,1861) stocks, and their growing and maturation, reproduction seasons as locally in the Black Sea, and by the consideration of these knowledge; the possibilities to have suitable catching activities and reliable decisions were been aimed.

This project was carried out by Black Sea Technical University, Sürmene Marine Sciences Faculty cooperation with Trabzon Fisheries Research Institute by support of Turkiye Scientific and Technical Research Council and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Project Applying and Development General Directorate in 1991-1992. Research in sea done by using Intitute's research vessel (SÜRAT-1), samples were observed in every two foundation's laboratories and results were evaluated at the faculty.

Stock amount in research area, were calculated with scanned field and field density methods. Studies were proposed on 6 stations

in Trabzon city limits; (Sürmene, Araklı, Yomra, Havaalanı, Ormanokulu and Salacık). For this purpose, 5-30 m deep coastal water dredge pulling were applied. In every stations by aplying 2-3 miles (approximately 0.8 sea mile) of vessels minimum velocity and 20 minute standard dredge pulling, snail stocks amount was calculated in unit area (km²).

At the end of the study; mean length as 62.15 mm, width as 45.44 mm and weight as 47.22 g. Population size was estimated as 3500 tons. It's main distribution area is the coasts of Airport, Sürmene and Yomra at the depths between 8-15 m. Length - weight relationship is $W=0.0004696 L^{2.7716}$. Samples from the stations of Ormanokulu, Havaalanı, Araklı and Yomra have shown the better growth performance. Reproduction has reached the peak during June-August. Mean shell weight rate is 62.27 %, and meat rate 17.21 %. Meat contains 70 % water, 16 % protein, 2 % fat and 2 % ash.

