

THE STUDY OF SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF ICHTHYIC POPULATIONS WITH COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN THE LAKE OF OHRID

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Abstract

The object of this study is the ecosystem of the Lake of Ohrid, a special basin that is populated by numerous species, some of which endemic. The study that we are presenting is a modest contribution that aims to assess the species composition of ichthyofauna of the Lake of Ohrid and the analysis of the frequency-lengths for the species with economic and fauna values.

For fishing has been used a plastic trap equipped with lights (eel trap). The device is installed at the end of the basin, in the horizon of the depths 2 - 6 m. Fishing time has been 12 hours. Some fish samples for the species study are stored in glass containers being canned in formalin 5%. For the populations of the species that form the basis of catching we have determined the frequency-lengths.

The greatest percentage of the number of individuals belongs to *Alburnus alburnus alborella*. Comparison of our data with the professional fisheries data shows that even in the case of hunting with gillnets and trawl *Alburnus alburnus alborella* constitutes the main mass of the caught fish, throughout the year. In the catches of *Salmo letnica*, the individual fishes with a length smaller than 16 cm constitutes about 29.3%.

As conclusions the individuals with the interval of lengths from 17 up to 31 cm make up to 65.5% of the catches. In reality these are the allowable measures for this type of fishing. In the case of *Alburnus alburnus alborella* fishing, ensuring of rational fishing would be achieved through the catching quotation, application of seasonality in fishing and the control of effort elements. The low frequency in fishing and group lengths smaller than 14 cm, for *Leuciscuscephalus*, is determined by the selectivity of the fishing tools and by the position of deployment or their dumping in the lake.

Key words: Lake of Ohrid, Species composition, Fishing, Catches.