

Spring and summer coastal fish assemblages in Zakynthos Island (Ionian Sea)

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The species composition of coastal fisheries catches provide important information on the presence and exploitation of marine fishes and are particularly useful in monitoring programs. The present work was conducted within the framework of the ichthyofauna monitoring in the National Marine Park of Zakynthos and adjacent fishing grounds, aiming to record the coastal fisheries catches and to identify fish assemblages in the coasts of Zakynthos (Zante) Island (Ionian Sea).

Samples were collected onboard a small-scale coastal fisheries vessel, using trammel nets (22/110 mm inner/outer mesh size, 4000 m in length; set for 9 hours), between April and July 2015. Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) was measured as biomass per haul given that the vessel, crew, fishing gear, soaking time and fishing area remained unchanged.

Overall, 59 species were recorded (54 fishes, of which 49 actinopterygians and 5 elasmobranchs; 2 crustaceans; 3 cephalopods) belonging to 4 classes, 16 orders and 32 families. Among them, 2 actinopterygians (parrotfish *Sparisoma cretense*, pearly razorfish *Xyrichthys novacula*) are listed as protected, while the dusky spinefoot *Siganus luridus* and blunthead puffer *Sphoeroides pachygaster* are listed among the 100 worst invasive species in the Mediterranean. Most species were caught in May (n=42). Although Sparidae was the most represented family with 13 species, the species with the highest average and total biomass and the highest abundance were the parrotfish (Scaridae) and surmullet *Mullus surmuletus* (Mullidae). CPUE ranged between 23 (April) and 30 (July) kg/haul. The research is ongoing and will be concluded by November 2015.

Keywords: fish fauna, trammel nets, coastal fisheries, CPUE, MPA