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Growth and Reproduction of Por's Goatfish (*Upeneus pori* Ben-Tuvia & Golani, 1989) in İskenderun Bay, the Eastern Mediterranean

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Abstract: The age composition, growth parameters, spawning season, sex ratio, length at first sexual maturity and fecundity of por's goatfish (*Upeneus pori*) caught from the Bay of İskenderun in the eastern Mediterranean Sea were investigated. Females and males made up 52.6% and 47.4%, respectively, of the particular population of the species. The total length of females ranged from 7.0 cm to 17.0 cm, and of males from 6.6 cm to 15.1 cm. The length (L) - weight (W) relationships for males and females were estimated as $W = 0.0108 * L^{2.99}$ and $W = 0.0097 * L^{3.03}$, respectively. The age data derived from otolith readings were used to estimate the growth parameters of the von Bertalanffy equation. The estimated parameters were: $L_{\infty} = 19.1$ cm, $K = 0.360$ and $t_0 = -0.812$. The maximum age was 5 for females and 4 for males. The 2-year age group was dominant in both females and males. Males and females matured at a total length of 10 cm. The monthly values of the gonadosomatic index indicated that spawning occurred mainly between May and July. The fecundity (F) - length relationship was $\log F = 0.733 + 3.46 \log L$ ($r = 0.81$).

Key Words: İskenderun Bay, Eastern Mediterranean, por's goatfish, growth, reproduction

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