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Seasonality of Reproduction and Embryonic Growth of Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias* L., 1758) in the Eastern Black Sea

Sefa Ayhan DEMİRHAN¹, Kadir SEYHAN²

¹Mustafa Kemal University, Faculty of Fisheries, 31040 Antakya, Hatay - TURKEY

²Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Marine Sciences, 61530 Trabzon - TURKEY

 [Keywords](#)
 [Authors](#)



zool@tubitak.gov.tr

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Abstract: The seasonality of reproduction and embryonic development of spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) sampled from the Eastern Black Sea were studied. The gestation period of spiny dogfish, starting in August, September and October, takes around 23-24 months. Fertilized females were caught at a depth of 30-45 m in July and August. Females with full-term pups and empty uteri were found at 50-60 m depth, where the temperature was 10 °C. Lengths of pups at birth were around 28-29 cm, whereas their weights ranged from 68 to 78 g. The models of embryonic growth and development of ova were described as $TL_e = 0.8124 \cdot mo + 0.334 \cdot mo^2 - 0.03 \cdot mo^3$ ($r = 0.92$) and $D_o = 0.7364 \cdot mo + 0.1503 \cdot mo^2 - 0.004 \cdot mo^3$ ($r = 0.94$), respectively.

Key Words: Reproduction, embryo, *Squalus acanthias*, Black Sea

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