

MALIAF
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Managing Alien Species for Sustainable
Development of Aquaculture
and Fisheries

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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MALIAF

**MANAGING ALIEN SPECIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES**

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Reproductive success of alien *Liza haematocheilus* (Temmick & Schlegel, 1845) in northern Aegean Sea (Greece)George MINOS¹ & Panos S. ECONOMIDIS²¹ATEI Thessalonikis, Department of Aquaculture & Fisheries Technology, P.O. Box 157, GR-63200, N. Moudania, Greece, gminos@otenet.gr²Karakasi 79, GR-54453, Thessaloniki, Greece, PSEcon@bio.auth.gr

Redlip mullet *Liza haematocheilus* (Temminck & Schlegel, 1845) is a euryhaline species, inhabiting both freshwater and marine environments. It has been introduced from the Far Eastern seas as suitable for aquaculture into the Azov and the Black seas from 1972 to 1984 until it established a self-reproducing population. Some escaping or free releasing individuals crossing Bosphorus, Marmora Sea and Dardanelles appeared in the Mediterranean since 1998 (gulf of Smyrne, Thracian sea). During the last years, the species has progressively expanded its range and individuals have been recorded in several other localities in the northern Aegean Sea. Based on 28 individuals (43-74 cm) collected from 2003 to 2008 in the northern Aegean Sea, a study of the reproductive success of the species in the area is underway. Preliminary results show that females ranged between 47 to 74.4 cm of total length (TL), while males from 43 to 74 cm TL, the largest size being closest to the longest ever recorded. All the individuals were at the beginning of sexual maturity and the gonadosomatic index (GSI) being usually <1. In July 2006, however, two ripe individuals (male and female) showed a GSI of 11.2 and 15.5, respectively; this strongly indicates that reproduction takes place during this month, since these GSI values reach the highest scores observed during reproductive periods. As the majority of other mullet species in the Mediterranean, the reproduction of this species in the Aegean Sea seems to take place in the summer. During the fall, individuals are moving into inland waters (records were obtained from Lake Vistonis) to over-winter. During this period, the species seems to store fat in its gut, making thus possible a rapid maturation in spring. However, since fry and juveniles of the species have not yet been collected across the Aegean Sea, there is no clear evidence so far that it has established a self-sustaining population.

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