

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF JELLYFISH ON THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COAST
OF TURKEY

by

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Abstract

Jellyfish occurrence east of the Göksu river delta (Cilician Basin) is summarized as total catches from the monthly cruises to different stations.

During a series of quantitative fishery studies extending from May 1980 to November 1982 the occurrence of jellyfish in different fishing grounds (figure I) were recorded and the results are summarized in the table and figure II.

The trawl net used during the investigation had a stretched mesh size of 22 mm in the cod end and was suitable for soft grounds. The cod end cover had a stretched mesh size of 60 mm. The vertical mouth opening of the net measured about 60-80 cm.

The data collected indicate that most of the jellyfish during the study period were caught in May-June-July in the inshore region of the Gulf of Mersin in depths ranging between 8-15 m. (figures I and II). This area is located in the delta region of the Tarsus and Seyhan rivers. These rivers carry run-off from regions in which considerable agricultural and industrial activity (agrochemical, petrochemical, textile and food industries) take place. Most of the industries in the province of Adana discharge their wastes into these two rivers. It is, therefore, not surprising to find most of the jellyfish within the area of influence of these two rivers. A similar situation is expected to exist off the Ceyhan river delta in the Gulf of Iskenderun. Unfortunately the data from this region are not conclusive.

In the Göksu river delta no jellyfish were caught during the investigation period. This was expected because the Göksu river flows through a relatively non-industrialized and agriculturally underdeveloped region.

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Dates of cruises and jellyfish occurrences at different
stations between May 1981 and November 1982

Name of station	Month of the year	Date of the cruise	Number of hauls	Number of jellyfish caught
Tirtar	May 1980	09/05/1980	4	1 200
Göksu	" "	15/05/1980	4	-
Seyhan	" "	21/05/1980	2	4 448
	" "	29/05/1980	2	2 053
Tirtar	June 1980	09/06/1980	4	-
Göksu	" "	10/06/1980	5	-
Seyhan	" "	12/06/1980	4	54 500
Tirtar	July 1980	02/07/1980	4	1 500
Seyhan	" "	04/07/1980	4	750
Göksu	" "	08/07/1980	4	-
Seyhan	February 1980	03/02/1981	4	5 200
Göksu	" "	04/02/1981	4	-
Tirtar	" "	09/02/1981	4	-
Seyhan	April 1981	09/04/1981	4	89 000
Tirtar	" "	10/04/1981	4	-
Göksu	" "	13/04/1981	4	720

Notes

1. In September and November 1981 only two stations (Tirtar and Göksu) were visited.
2. In October 1981 and January-February 1982 there were no cruises. Last data collection was in November 1982.
3. There was no catch of jellyfish in the months not indicated.

Dates of cruises and jellyfish occurrences (cont'd)

Seyhan	May 1981	11/05/1981	4	93 615
Göksu	" "	12/05/1981	4	-
Tirtar	" "	13/05/1981	4	-
Göksu	June 1981	05/06/1981	4	-
Tirtar	" "	06/06/1981	4	-
Seyhan	" "	07/06/1981	4	30 400
Tuzla	" "	07/06/1981	4	-
Karatas	" "	08/06/1981	4	188 000
Yumurtalik	" "	08/06/198	4	460
Botas	" "	09/06/1981	4	-
Seyhan	March 1982	04/03/1982	4	-
Göksu	" "	09/03/1982	2	-
Tirtar	" "	09/03/1982	4	-
Tuzla	" "	20/03/1982	4	-
Karatas	" "	21/03/1982	3	-
Yumurtalik	" "	21/03/1982	4	11 700
Botas	" "	22/03/1982	4	-
Göksu	April 1982	21/04/1982	4	-
Tirtar	" "	26/04/1982	4	-
Seyhan	" "	27/04/1982	3	1 180
Tuzla	" "	27/04/1982	2	-
Karatas	" "	28/04/1982	4	-
Yumurtalik	May 1982	01/05/1982	4	-
Botas	" "	01/05/1982	4	-
Seyhan	May 1982	11/05/1982	3	-
Tuzla	" "	11/05/1982	4	-
Botas	" "	13/05/1982	3	-
Yumurtalik	" "	14/05/1982	3	-

Dates of cruises and jellyfish occurrences (cont'd)

Karatas	May 1982	14/05/1982	3	660
Tirtar	" "	18/05/1982	4	-
Göksu	" "	21/05/1982	4	-
Seyhan	June 1982	07/06/1982	3	-
Tuzla	" "	07/06/1982	2	-
Karatas	" "	08/06/1982	4	33 700
Yumurtalik	" "	08/06/1982	4	-
Botas	" "	09/06/1982	3	-
Göksu	" "	11/06/1982	4	-
Tirtar	" "	17/06/1982	4	-
Seyhan	July 1982	05/07/1982	4	4 700
Karatas	" "	07/07/1982	3	-
Yumurtalik	" "	07/07/1982	4	-
Botas	" "	08/07/1982	4	-
Tirtar	" "	12/07/1982	4	-
Göksu	" "	13/07/1982	4	-
Tirtar	August 1982	20/08/1982	3	-
Seyhan	" "	24/08/1982	4	33 200
Karatas	" "	27/08/1982	3	-
Yumurtalik	" "	27/08/1982	3	-
Botas	" "	28/08/1982	4	-
Göksu	October 1982	05/10/1982	3	-
Tirtar	" "	06/10/1982	4	-
Seyhan	" "	12/10/1982	4	260
Karatas	" "	13/10/1982	3	-
Yumurtalik	" "	13/10/1982	1	-
Botas	" "	15/10/1982	4	-

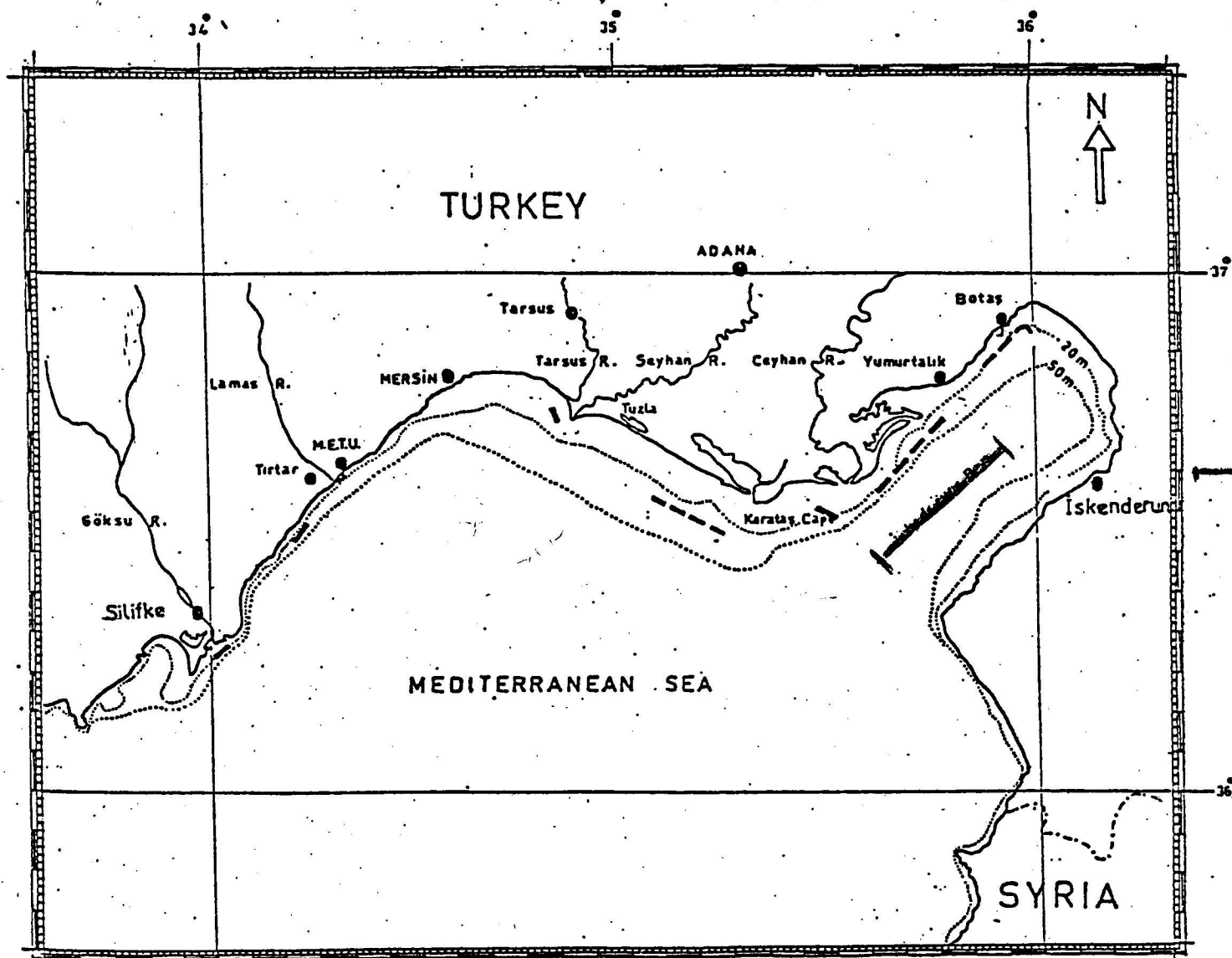


Figure I. Stations of quantitative fishery east of Göksu river delta

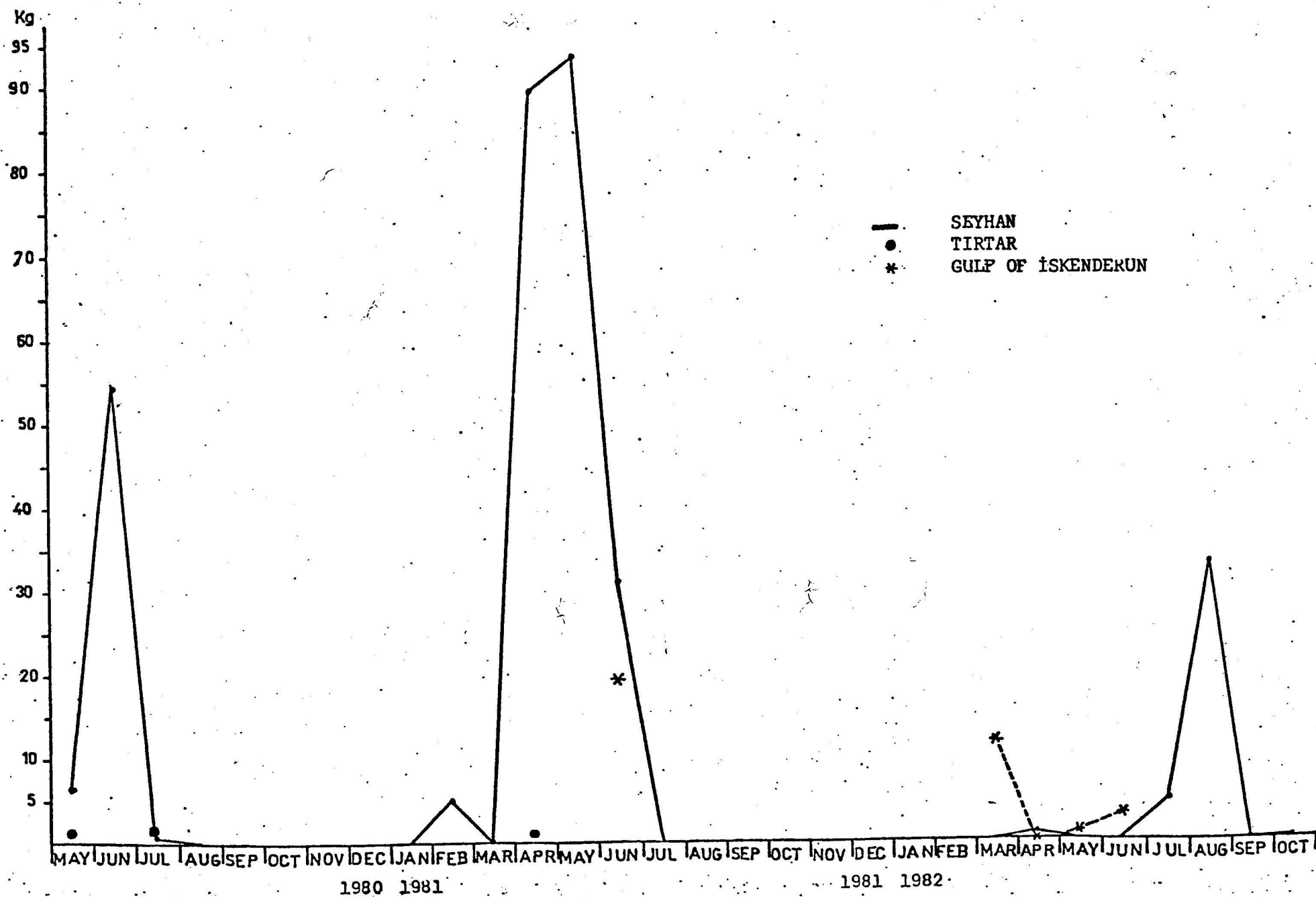


Figure II. Time series of the monthly total catches of jellyfish at different stations during the sampling period