

**EENY, MEENY, MINY, MOE, WHERE DO ALL THE ANCHOVY GO?
A REVIEW OF THE BLACK SEA ANCHOVY**

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Abstract: Anchovy has a by far greater biomass than any other fishes in the Black Sea. According to historical literature its biomass was estimated as some millions of tons. However more recent studies showed that there is no more that many in the Black Sea. Some scientists believe that their abundance was suppressed by an alien Ctenophore which appeared in the last 1980s. Some others claim that it is the climate that regulates its biomass. Pollution in the main spawning and nursery areas of the species is believed to change the nutrient concentration which, in turn, altered the fodder plankton composition. Overfishing, Mediterraneanization of the Black Sea, regime shift, rise of H₂S layer, even earthquakes were found responsible for the fluctuating nature of the anchovy stock. In the talk, the past and present of the Black Sea anchovy will be reviewed and special emphasis will be given to the recent surveys carried out in the Black Sea to understand the ecology of this species.