



## PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF İSKENDERUN BAY

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Spatio-temporal variations in physical (temperature and salinity) and chemical (NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>, TP, PO<sub>4</sub>, and Si) in water column were studied at different sites of Iskenderun Bay. For this purpose, 21 stations were visited 8 times between November 2005 and September 2007. According to results, Iskenderun Bay was highly affected by the Ceyhan River, especially in rainy winter and spring seasons when the snow in Taurus mountains continue to melt till early summer. Salinity and temperature varied between 37.8 - 39.6 and 16.51 - 29.15 °C, respectively in the study area. Nutrient concentrations reached the peak values (3.67 µM for NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.59 µM for TP, 0.06 µM for PO<sub>4</sub> and 7.3 for Si) µM in the less saline waters near Ceyhan River discharge area in winter-spring (wet) period due to increased river discharge and concentrations decreased in summer-autumn seasons. Moreover, low concentrations were generally measured in northeast corner of bay where higher salinity was measured and southwestern part influenced by Asia Minor Current.

**Keywords:** Temperature, Nutrients, nitrogen, phosphate, Iskenderun Bay