

PRODUCTION, CATCH STRUCTURE AND CPUE IN SHKODRA LAKE

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed the evaluation of catch structure, catch effort and population structure of the most abundant fish species of the Shkodra Lake. Evaluation of catch, gear used, effort, number of boats and fishermen were based on data provided from Fishery Management Organization of Shkodra Lake. The census was performed for the year 2014. Fishing activity was performed with 5m length motor boats equipped with gill nets and purse seines (length 500-600m, mesh size respectively 15-30 cm and 50-70 cm) and long lines with about 100 hooks. Only a restricted number of fish species dominates in fish production and therefore in total catch. The main fish species caught in the Lake are: carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), bleak (*Alburnus scoranza*), prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*), roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), striped mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), common rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), european eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). The total production of Shkodra Lake for 2014 was about 530 ton fish and 5 ton fish (stripped mullet and European eel) were caught by wire traps of Buna River. The catches of roach made 32.3% of total catches followed with carp, prussian carp and bleak with respectively 31.05%, 15.9% and 15.6%.

Keywords: Shkodra Lake, catch structure.