

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324164022>

Why Herbivorous Green Turtle Entangles On Fishing Lines Along Turkish Coasts

Conference Paper · February 2018

CITATIONS

0

READS

41

5 authors, including:



Eyup Başkale

Pamukkale University

161 PUBLICATIONS 469 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Doğan Sözbilen

Pamukkale University

69 PUBLICATIONS 206 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Ayfer Şirin

Pamukkale University

10 PUBLICATIONS 3 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Yusuf Katılmış

Pamukkale University

155 PUBLICATIONS 516 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

This book is tentative Proceedings of the 38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation

38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation Presentation Abstracts



18-23 February 2018
Kobe International Conference Center, Kobe, Japan
Main Theme: Beyond Protection of Sea Turtle

WHY HERBIVOROUS GREEN TURTLE ENTANGLES ON FISHING LINES ALONG TURKISH COASTS**Eyup Başkale | Doğan Sözbilen | Ayfer Şirin | Yusuf Katılmış | Yakup Kaska**

Pamukkale University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, Denizli, Turkey | Pamukkale University, Acıpayam Vocational High School, Department of Veterinary, Laborant & Veterinary Health Program, Acıpayam, Denizli, Turkey | Pamukkale University, Sea Turtle Research Centre (DEKAMER), Denizli, Turkey | Pamukkale University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, Denizli, Turkey | Pamukkale University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, Denizli, Turkey

The all sea turtle species have been reported entangled in marine debris globally. Each year hundreds of thousands of adult and immature sea turtles are accidentally captured in fisheries ranging from highly mechanized operations to small-scale fishermen around the world. Incidental capture in fishing gear (also known as bycatch) is likely the greatest threat to sea turtles. The behavior of sea turtles makes them particularly vulnerable to entanglement. Adult and juvenile green turtles are unique among sea turtles in that they are herbivorous. In this case, there is no data about green turtle entanglement in Turkish coasts of Mediterranean. With this respect, we collected stranding data along the Turkish coasts of Mediterranean and we obtained a total 26 dead green turtles during 2016 nesting season. These dead green turtles consist of eight females, nine males, two subadults and seven undermined adult turtles. The mean Curved Carapace Lengths (CCL) is measured as 64.42 cm (range: 27.6-96 cm). We could not investigate nine dead green turtles because of decomposition. The causes of death were determined through necropsy in the rest of them. Marine debris, fishing line and hooks and other materials were removed carefully from mouth, esophagus, stomach and intestine and stored in a specific plastic bag labelled with the necropsy data. In the digestive system of 12 of 17 dead green turtles (70%), we found plastics, fishing line and hooks. Pieces of plastics and fishing line was found in five individuals. Fishing hooks was found only two individuals with fishing line which were lodged on esophagus. Fishing lines were observed almost in the digestive system starting from mouth to cloak and also front flippers of two individuals entangled with fishing line. The other reasons of dying are boat crash (2 individuals: 12%) and infections (3 individuals: 18%). According to the results of necropsy, the presence of fishing line and hooks in the digestive system was thought to be the major cause of these deaths and, while not directly marine debris, it could expose these animals to discarded fishing line and hooks.

Keywords: Marine debris, Fishing line, Green turtle, Turkey