Project Update: December 2016

We started the project with the "Local Ecological Knowledge" working package and made significant progress. Firstly, we adopted an interview standard for our area. Then, we organised meetings with professional fishermen in fishery ports. We completed more than 60 interviews about the grouper fishery in Iskenderun Bay. According to information from local fishermen, four species of groupers are present in Iskenderun Bay, *Epinephelus marginatus*, *Epinephelus aeneus*, *Mycteroperca rubra* and *Epinephelus costae*. Also, the fishermen reported *Epinephelus haifensis* has been caught in deep waters as a rare species. Moreover, the critically endangered *Epinephelus marginatus*, near threatened *Epinephelus aeneus* and *Mycteroperca rubra* (LC) are reported as frequent. As part of the "diving observation" working package, we validated this information especially for *Epinephelus marginatus* and *Mycteroperca rubra*. The juveniles of the both species were quite abundant in shallow (2-4 m) rocky habitats.



The aim of this project is also to highlight the importance of groupers for ecosystem and to tell local people why we necessarily take measures to conserve these species. Therefore, we set up our website and social media account in Turkish. Here we introduce our project, and explain our research questions and purposes as well as give some basic information on the biology and ecology of groupers. Our website is available from the following link; http://orangerproject.wixsite.com/grouper We also prepared, published and handout more than 2000 flyers and posters informing about grouper species. On these published material, our slogan was "To Future of Seas, Give a chance to Groupers".





To publicise our project, we organized a meeting in Cukurova University Faculty of Fisheries with the contribution of more than 50 people from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Coast Guard, Universities and fishery cooperatives. The presentation is freely available in our website with the following link:

http://orangerproject.wixsite.com/grouper/sunum





Doğu Akdeniz Orfozlarını Araştırma Grubu

Eastern Mediterranean Grouper Research Team

