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S3_P19. ASSESSMENT OF THE ECTOPARASITE INFESTATION EXTENT OF THE MAIN MARINE FISHES ON THE ROMANIAN BLACK SEA COAST

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Parasites are a significant limiting factor in fish growth and, even if parasitoses do not always cause fatalities, they infer deep morphological and physiological changes, mainly by decreasing the resilience of fish organisms to various environmental factors, by delayed growth or drop in prolificity. As a follow-up of analyses performed within NIMRD 2012- 2014, ectoparasites (including species affecting the exterior of the fish body, especially the tegumentary substrate, fins, eyes and gills) were quite scarce. Of the five species identified, *Trichodinina domerguei* affected both the outer fish body

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gills and gills, *Cryptocaryon irritans* and *Cystoopsis acipenseris* the skin, while *Axine beloni* and *Mazocraes alose* the gills.

The most frequently reported ectoparasite was *Trichodina domerguei*, affecting horse mackerel, red mullet and sea sole, up to 50-60%, the number of parasites reaching up to 26 individuals/microscope view range (very frequently).

The monogene worm *Mazocraes alose* was reported in sprat and Azov shad, with a maximum number of 4-10 parasites/host.

The other three species identified, *Cystoopsis acipenseris*, *Axine beloni* and *Cryptocaryon irritans*, have affected fish sporadically, at low intensities, the number of parasites not exceeding 5-6/host.

Overall, ectoparasites have been identified sporadically in fish samples analyzed, not affecting the general health of fish.

Key- Words: parasitoses, ectoparasites, fish, host, tegument, gills

