

## **Fecundity of Blue Swimming Crab, *Portunus segnis* (Forskal, 1775)' in Yumurtalık Cove, Iskenderun Bay, Northeastern Mediterranean, Adana, Turkey**

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**Abstract :** Blue swimming crab, *Portunus segnis* (Forskal, 1775) entered to the Mediterranean with Suez Canal. It is economically important species and consumed as food in Turkey. At this study, fecundity of *P. segnis* was investigated in Yumurtalık Cove, Turkey. Samples were collected monthly from July 2014 to June 2015 (except February), using bottom trawl into three different depth strata; 0-10 m, 10-20 m and 20-50 m. Sand crab samples were caught all studied months. 110 Males, 70 juvenile and 140 female; 44 of them ovigerous, totally 320 samples were collected during the study period. The size of all samples varied from 38.1 to 163.17 mm carapace width and from 3.46 to 324.36 g weight. All the ovigerous crabs were caught at 0-10 m depth between July to November and in April and May, the highest number of them was observed in August and September. Mean carapace width and weight of ovigerous crabs were calculated respectively,  $130.36 \pm 12.82$  mm (101.39-154.03),  $191.02 \pm 59.00$  g (88.26-324.36). Mean fecundity determined  $1.186.185 \pm 819.510$  (1.393.79-4.513.034) eggs. More fecundity and reproduction biology studies are necessary for monitoring the *P. segnis* population structure in Northeastern Mediterranean of Turkey.

**Keywords :** blue swimming crab, fecundity, *portunus segnis*, Turkey

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