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RICERCHE BIOLOGICHE SUL LATTERINO,
ATHERINA BOYERI RISSO, NELL'AREA VIAREGGINA

SUMMARY

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCHES ON SAND SMELT, " *ATHERINA BOYERI* " Risso, IN THE VIAREGGIO AREA. - A four years study on some aspects of the biology of sand smelt *Atherina boyeri* Risso, was carried out in the Viareggio area (North Tyrrhenian). Data were collected on 1988 specimens, captured at 14 stations, in three different biotopes. For each specimen, weight and total, fork and standard lengths were recorded. The condition factor (K) was then calculated. The growth was stated using observed length and weight data as well as back-calculated lengths. The maximum age recorded was 4+ winters. The mean growth rate was 39,3 mm at 1st year ; 55.6 mm at 2nd year ; 71,3 mm at 3rd year and 84,0 mm at 4th year (i.e. winters). Stomach contents analysis indicated the trophic habits of the species to be largely dependent on food availability of the three biotopes. Gastric parasites (Plathelminthes), sometimes in high numbers, were found.