

Opercular girth, maximum girth and total length relationships for eight fish species from the Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)

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<https://doi.org/10.69721/TPS.J.2021.13.2.03>

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to uncover the relationship between opercular girth (G_{ope}), maximum girth (G_{max}) and total length (TL) for eight fish species [(*Sardina pilchardus* (Walbaum, 1792), *Sardinella aurita* (Valenciennes, 1847), *Serranus cabrilla* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Serranus scriba* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Symphodus mediterraneus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Symphodus tinca* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Trachurus mediterraneus* (Steindachner, 1868), and *Trachurus trachurus* (Linnaeus, 1758)] from four families (Carangidae, Clupeidae, Labridae, and Serranidae) sampled between August 2016 and December 2017 in Saros Bay (Northern Aegean Sea, Turkey). G_{ope} and G_{max} were found to increase linearly with the total length for all the species. All r^2 values were statistically significant ($r^2 > 0.83$, $P < 0.001$). The values about length-girth relationships (LGRs) of *S. mediterraneus* were estimated for the first time worldwide. This information will contribute to the development of ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Keywords: biometric relationship, fisheries management, fish morphology

INTRODUCTION

Fisheries management often requires the use of biometric parameters in order to transform data collected in the field into appropriate indices (Ecoutin and Albaret 2003). Biometric parameters are of utmost importance not only to fill up the gap of our present-day academic knowledge but also to increasing the technological efficiencies of the fishery entrepreneurs for evolving judicious pisciculture management (Swain and Foote 1999). Fish morphology is inseparably related to the study of the mode of life. The analysis of size and shape variations becomes fundamental to highlights variability in living organisms (Turan et al. 2004). In this connection, the morphometric measurements have been used to identify fish stocks and remain the simplest and most direct way among methods of species identification (Turan et al.

2004). In addition, the studies on differences and variability in morphometric relationships of fish stocks are significant in phylogenetics as they provide information for subsequent studies on the genetic improvement of stocks (Umaru et al. 2015). The morphometric relationships between length and girth could be quite useful (Mendes et al. 2006). Length-girth relationships (LGRs) are an important component for (a) biological (e.g. condition and swimming capability) (Wootton 1998); (b) ecological (e.g. predator-prey relationships, trophic level estimation) (Stergiou and Karpouzi 2003); and (c) fisheries assessments (e.g. quantifying the catching efficiency of fishing gear) (Kyritsi et al. 2018). Moreover, the species-specific LGRs allow the computation of girth from length measurements, the latter of which is easier and less expensive to be obtained (Moutopoulos et al. 2017).

The published data on LGRs for fish species are scarce (Mendes et al. 2006) and studies on LGRs of fish species in the Aegean Sea have only been carried out in southern (Stergiou and Karpouzi 2003; Aydın and Düzgüneş 2007) and central (Beğburs et al. 2020) regions, up to the present. In this context, the present study provided preliminary information on LGRs of eight fish species for the Northern Aegean Sea. The following species were studied: *Sardina pilchardus* (Walbaum, 1792), *Sardinella aurita* (Valenciennes, 1847), *Serranus cabrilla* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Serranus scriba* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Symphodus mediterraneus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Symphodus tinca* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Trachurus mediterraneus* (Steindachner, 1868), and *Trachurus trachurus* (Linnaeus, 1758). At present, there are no available data on LGRs estimates for *S. mediterraneus* worldwide. Hence, the reported results will be useful for developing ecosystem-based fisheries management.

METHODS

The northern Aegean areas are characterized by an extended continental shelf, smooth muddy/sandy bottoms and higher nutrient concentrations (Maravelias and Papaconstantinou 2006). The area is known for having higher phytoplankton and zooplankton abundance compared with the southern Aegean Sea (Theocharis et al. 1999). The northern Aegean coasts of Turkey are divided into sub-regions as the Saros Bay, the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Gökçeada and Bozcaada Islands and the Edremit Bay (Cengiz and Paruğ 2020) (Figure 1). The length of Saros Bay is about 61 km and the width at the opening to the Aegean Sea is about 36 km (Eronat and Sayın 2014). As the bay had been closed to bottom trawl fishing since 2000 (Cengiz et al. 2014) and no industrial activity was prevalent in the area (Sarı and Çağatay 2001), it can be considered as a pristine environment (Cengiz et al. 2015). Therefore, Saros Bay and its coastal area were declared as Special Environmental Protection Area (SEPA) due to its landscape, geomorphological, ecological, floristic biogenetic and touristic properties (Güçlüsoy 2015).

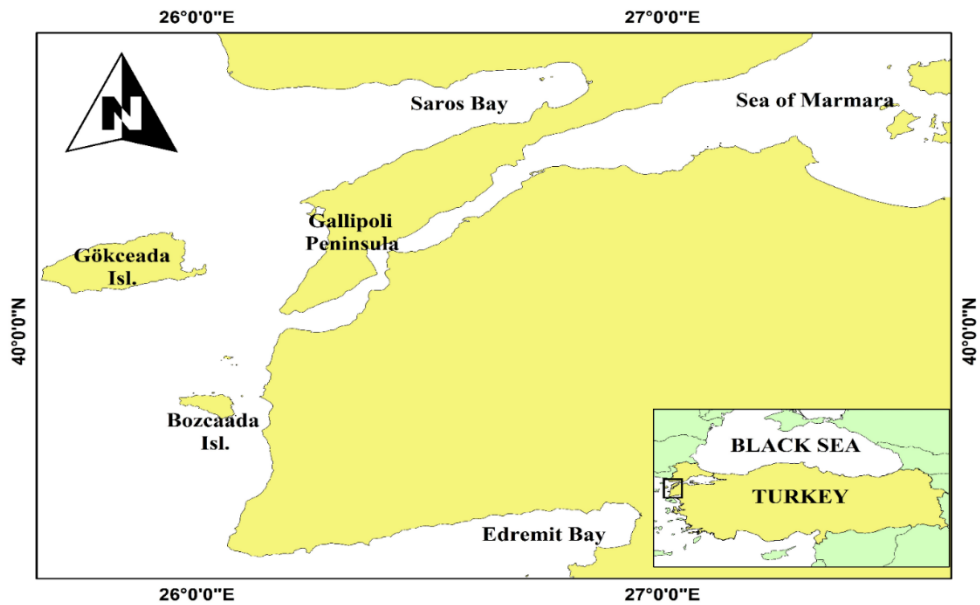


Figure 1. Saros Bay and the northern Aegean coasts of Turkey.

Samples were obtained, monthly, between August 2016 and December 2017 in stratified random sampling, from catches of commercial fisheries around Saros Bay. Most of these were stationary set and drive in fishing methods with gillnets which have 20, 22, 23, 25 mm mesh sizes, net height of 105 meshes and 210d/3 twine thickness. The total length and the body girth measurements were taken to the nearest centimeter using a tape measure: (1) behind the gill-cover (G_{ope}) and (2) in front of the first dorsal fin (G_{max}). Relationships between fish total length (TL) and opercular or maximum girth (y) were estimated by linear regression analysis: $y = a + bTL$, where the intercept (a) and slope (b) were found by least-squares estimation (Neter et al. 1988). The correlation coefficient (r^2) was used to evaluate the strength of this linear relationship.

RESULTS

Overall, 786 individuals were sampled, belonging to the eight fish species (*Sardina pilchardus*, *Sardinella aurita*, *Serranus cabrilla*, *Serranus scriba*, *Symphodus mediterraneus*, *Symphodus tinca*, *Trachurus mediterraneus*, and *Trachurus trachurus*) from four families (Carangidae, Clupeidae, Labridae, and Serranidae). The relationships of G_{ope} and G_{max} with TL for the eight fish species are summarised in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively. For all species, both opercular and maximum girth were generally linearly related to body length. For the relationship between

opercular girth and the total length, the slope (b) is lowest for *Trachurus mediterraneus* and highest for *Symphodus tinca* representing a greater increase in girth with the length for the latter species. The correlation coefficient (r^2) shows a range of 0.85-0.95, with the lowest value obtained for *Sardina pilchardus* and the highest for *Sardinella aurita* and *Serranus cabrilla*. For the relationship between maximum girth and total length, the slope (b), is lowest for *Trachurus trachurus* and highest for *Serranus scriba*, representing a greater increase in girth with the length for the latter species. The correlation coefficient (r^2) indicates a range of 0.83-0.95 with the lowest value obtained for *Sardina pilchardus* and the highest value for *Serranus cabrilla*. All linear regressions were statistically significant ($P < 0.001$). These relationships pointed out that opercular and maximum girth increased faster with the length for all species.

DISCUSSION

The length-girth relationships for the eight fish species have been estimated for the first time in the Northern Aegean Sea. In addition, no LGRs estimates existed for *S. mediterraneus* worldwide with the exception of the present study. Both the opercular girth-total length and maximum girth-total length relationships reported herein were found to be linear. Due to the size-selective characteristics of the fishing gear used (e.g. Mendes et al. 2006; Santos et al. 2006; Jawad et al. 2009), the samples were based on a restrictive range of lengths. Small-sized individuals and immature stages of these species were absent from the samples. Thus, the use of these relationships should be strictly limited to the size ranges used in the estimation of the linear regression parameters. Table 3 and Table 4 reveal the findings of the opercular girth-total length and maximum girth-total length relationships of these fish species between the present study and other studies, respectively. The differences in LGRs may be attributed to biological (e.g. sex, food availability) and/or abiotic (e.g. water temperature) factors (Wootton 1998) together with different variations in the size range. Concordantly, the spawning/reproduction frequency and gonad activity/development could give rise to cause seasonal variations in the LGRs (Santos et al. 2006; Kyritsi et al. 2018). The possible reasons for differences in the results involved between other studies and the present study may be related to one or more factors given above. Fish body girth could be estimated by way of three procedures: (1) body perimeter around the eye (G_{eye}), (2) behind the gill-cover (G_{ope}) and (3) in front of the

Table 1. Relationship between opercular girth and total length for eight fish species from Northern Aegean Sea (Turkey). *N*: sample size, min: minimum, max: maximum, *TL*: total length (cm), *G_{ops}*: opercular girth (cm), *G_{ops}*: opercular girth (cm), *r²* = the coefficient of determination, *SE* = standard error, *a* = intercept, *b* = slope.

Family/Species	N	Mean TL ± SE (min-max)	Mean <i>G_{ops}</i> ± SE (min-max)	Length - Opercular Girth equation	<i>r²</i>	SE of <i>a</i>	SE of <i>b</i>
Carangidae							
<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>	296	15.1 ± 0.14 (13.0 - 27.1)	6.6 ± 0.07 (5.4 - 12.6)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = -0.3053 + 0.462TL	0.93	0.2040	0.0302
<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	64	14.5 ± 0.17 (13.0 - 19.0)	6.8 ± 0.09 (5.8 - 8.6)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = -0.0372 + 0.4674TL	0.88	0.6041	0.0890
Clupeidae							
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	146	13.0 ± 0.08 (11.0 - 16.1)	4.8 ± 0.05 (3.5 - 6.5)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = -2.2056 + 0.539TL	0.85	0.2676	0.0556
<i>Sardinella aurita</i>	126	20.2 ± 0.52 (16.4 - 24.6)	7.9 ± 0.29 (6.1 - 10.4)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = -3.1133 + 0.5455TL	0.95	0.6610	0.0824
Labridae							
<i>Symphodus mediterraneus</i>	31	12.1 ± 0.26 (9.9 - 13.8)	7.0 ± 0.16 (5.8 - 8.3)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = 0.0928 + 0.5696TL	0.85	1.0191	0.1454
<i>Symphodus tinca</i>	32	13.3 ± 0.58 (10.9 - 17.1)	8.1 ± 0.48 (5.8 - 10.6)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = -2.4288 + 0.787TL	0.94	0.8113	0.0988
Serranidae							
<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>	49	14.6 ± 0.51 (11.9 - 23.5)	7.8 ± 0.32 (6.2 - 13.5)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = -1.245 + 0.6177TL	0.95	0.5296	0.0665
<i>Serranus scriba</i>	42	15.7 ± 0.42 (12.1 - 22.6)	9.2 ± 0.27 (7.1 - 14.1)	<i>G_{ops}</i> = -0.6448 + 0.625TL	0.92	0.7305	0.0784

Table 2. Relationship between maximum girth and total length for eight fish species from Northern Aegean Sea (Turkey). N: sample size, min: minimum, max: maximum, TL: total length (cm), G_{max}: maximum girth (cm), r² = the coefficient of determination, SE = standard error, a = intercept, b = slope.

Family/Species	N	Mean TL ± SE (min-max)	Mean G _{max} ± SE (min-max)	Length - Maximum Girth equation	r ²	SE of a	SE of b
Carangidae							
<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>	296	15.1 ± 0.14 (13.0 - 27.1)	7.3 ± 0.08 (5.7 - 13.5)	G _{max} = -0.701 + 0.5312TL	0.92	0.2110	0.0284
<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	64	14.5 ± 0.17 (13.0 - 19.0)	7.3 ± 0.09 (6.4 - 9.2)	G _{max} = 0.0008 + 0.5025TL	0.90	0.5537	0.0755
Clupeidae							
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	146	13.0 ± 0.08 (11.0 - 16.1)	5.9 ± 0.05 (4.7 - 7.6)	G _{max} = -1.2212 + 0.5492TL	0.83	0.3722	0.0628
<i>Sardinella aurita</i>	126	20.2 ± 0.52 (16.4 - 24.6)	9.3 ± 0.38 (7.1 - 12.9)	G _{max} = -4.8748 + 0.7036TL	0.90	0.8118	0.0853
Labridae							
<i>Symphodus mediterraneus</i>	31	12.1 ± 0.26 (9.9 - 13.8)	8.4 ± 0.16 (7.6 - 9.6)	G _{max} = 1.3316 + 0.5849TL	0.86	1.1558	0.1371
<i>Symphodus tinca</i>	32	13.3 ± 0.58 (10.9 - 17.1)	9.6 ± 0.38 (7.7 - 11.9)	G _{max} = 1.3559 + 0.6185TL	0.89	1.5457	0.1596
Serranidae							
<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>	49	14.6 ± 0.51 (11.9 - 23.5)	8.7 ± 0.38 (7.0 - 16.3)	G _{max} = -1.8132 + 0.7222TL	0.95	0.5460	0.0609
<i>Serranus scriba</i>	42	15.7 ± 0.42 (12.1 - 22.6)	10.4 ± 0.33 (8.0 - 16.8)	G _{max} = -1.6634 + 0.764TL	0.92	0.6740	0.0640

first dorsal fin (G_{\max}). In this study, there was a linear relationship between the increasing opercular girth (G_{ope}), maximum girth (G_{\max}) and total length (TL), which is in agreement with the results of Stergiou and Karpouzi (2003), Mendes et al. (2006), Jawad et al. (2009, 2015), Daliri et al. (2012), and Moutopoulos et al. (2017).

In general, fish retention by fishing gear is primarily related to girth rather than to length (Jawad et al. 2009). The different girth types calculate the probability of different ways of capture by fishing gear, assessed by G_{eye} when fish are tangled (i.e. held in the gear by teeth, maxillaries, or other projections), by G_{ope} when fish are gilled (i.e. being prevented from backing out of the gear by a mesh caught behind the gill-cover), and by G_{\max} when fish are wedged (i.e. being held tightly by a mesh around the body) (Reis and Pawson 1999). Concerning this, the maximum girth is generally used to describe cod-end mesh retention, whereas in gillnets, opercular and maximum girths are the two parameters related to the methods of the capture of gilled and wedged fish, respectively (McCombie and Berst 1969). Baranov (1948) has made the first study that the fish morphology strongly influences the retention by fishing gear. The probability of a fish being retained by a given mesh is primarily determined by the relationship between the body shape and the mesh opening. Thereby, the girth has been considered as a significant parameter in understanding the gear selection process (Reis and Pawson 1999). In addition to this information, the data on girth have been used to define selection patterns during indirect selectivity experiments with gillnets (Kurkilahti et al. 2002). Similarly, length-girth relationships have been one of the critical parameters in cod-end selectivity studies to understand the selection pattern of species that differ in behavioural and morphological characteristics (Tokai and Omoto 1994). As stated above, the gillnet selectivity could be calculated by using the girth than length. This approach has been uncovered so as to predict selectivity curves of gillnet by Sechin (1969) and Kawamura (1972). Both selectivity models estimates the probabilities of fish retention as a function of morphometric features of the body between the operculum (G_{ope}) and the maximum girth of the fish (G_{\max}).

In conclusion, the given length-girth values in the present study and previous ones could be used in the experimental design for selectivity surveys, particularly for gillnets where decisions on the suitable mesh size ranges need to be taken. In addition, these values are of great significance, owing to the fact that they determine fish growth patterns, which in turn are necessary for the development of ecosystem-based fisheries management. Because, the ecosystem-based fisheries management is a holistic method of managing fisheries and entire marine resources by keeping in view all ecosystem of the species being managed. Herewith, these data will help fisheries management authorities worldwide.

Table 3. Comparison of opercular girth-total length relationships of eight fish species between the present study and other studies. N: sample size, min: minimum, max: maximum, TL: total length (cm), FL: fork length (cm), G_{ope} : opercular girth (cm), r^2 = the coefficient of determination, SE = standard error, a = intercept, b =slope, * FL: fork length. ¹ first TL- G_{ope} relationship reference for Northern Aegean Sea. ² first TL- G_{ope} relationship reference for the species worldwide.

Fish species	References	Location	N	TL _{min} - TL _{max}	Length - Opercular Girth equation	r ²	SE of a	SE of b
<i>Serranus cabrilla</i> ¹	Mendes et al. (2006)	from Póvoa do Varzim to Santo Andre (western Portuguese coast)	49	16.3 – 25.5	$G_{ope} = -2.126 + 0.653TL$	0.89	-	0.0320
	Santos et al. (2006)	Algarve coast (southern Portugal)	68	18.4 – 24.8	$G_{ope} = -1.3469 + 0.5664TL$	0.95	0.3411	0.0164
	Aydin & Düzgüneş (2007)	Bodrum Peninsula (southern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	263	13.4 – 19.8	$G_{ope} = 1.2393 + 0.3982TL$	0.83	-	-
<i>Serranus scriba</i> ¹	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	49	11.9 – 23.5	$G_{ope} = -1.245 + 0.6177TL$	0.95	0.5296	0.0665
	Stergiou & Karpouzi (2003)	Cyclades (southern Aegean Sea, Greece)	105	13.0 – 24.1	$G_{ope} = -0.945 + 0.608TL$	0.71	-	0.0380
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	42	12.1 – 22.6	$G_{ope} = -0.6448 + 0.625TL$	0.92	0.7305	0.0784
<i>Symphodus mediterraneus</i> ²	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	31	9.9 – 13.8	$G_{ope} = 0.0928 + 0.5696TL$	0.85	1.0191	0.1454
	Stergiou & Karpouzi (2003)	Cyclades (southern Aegean Sea, Greece)	231	13.2 – 25.0	$G_{ope} = -2.557 + 0.708TL$	0.83	-	0.0210
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	32	10.9 – 17.1	$G_{ope} = -2.4288 + 0.787TL$	0.94	0.8143	0.0988
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> ¹	Mendes et al. (2006)	from Póvoa do Varzim to Santo Andre (western Portuguese coast)	60	17.2 – 23.7	$G_{ope} = -2.351 + 0.595TL$	0.82	-	0.0310
	Beğburs et al. (2020)	Izmir Bay (central Aegean Sea, Turkey)	81	10.5 – 17.0	$G_{ope} = -0.495 + 0.411TL$	0.83	-	-
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	146	11.0 – 16.1	$G_{ope} = -2.2056 + 0.539TL$	0.85	0.2676	0.0556
<i>Sardinella aurita</i> ¹	Aydin & Düzgüneş (2007) ¹	Bodrum Peninsula (southern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	253	15.4 – 24.0	$G_{ope} = -1.5595 + 0.508FL$	0.90	-	-
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	126	16.4 – 24.6	$G_{ope} = -3.1133 + 0.5455TL$	0.95	0.6610	0.0824
	Stergiou & Karpouzi (2003)	Cyclades (southern Aegean Sea, Greece)	234	18.3 – 33.7	$G_{ope} = -1.743 + 0.487TL$	0.73	-	0.0190
<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i> ¹	Beğburs et al. (2020)	Izmir Bay (central Aegean Sea, Turkey)	75	27.0 – 33.5	$G_{ope} = -4.462 + 0.622TL$	0.97	-	-
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	296	13.0 – 27.1	$G_{ope} = -0.3053 + 0.462TL$	0.93	0.2040	0.0302
	Mendes et al. (2006)	from Póvoa do Varzim to Santo Andre (western Portuguese coast)	233	15.8 – 39.8	$G_{ope} = 1.321 + 0.400TL$	0.93	-	0.0070
<i>Trachurus trachurus</i> ¹	Santos et al. (2006)	Algarve coast (southern Portugal)	596	12.9 – 44.2	$G_{ope} = 0.1611 + 0.4322TL$	0.97	0.0727	0.0029
	Beğburs et al. (2020)	Izmir Bay (central Aegean Sea, Turkey)	134	13.5 – 30.8	$G_{ope} = -0.784 + 0.475TL$	0.97	-	-
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	64	13.0 – 19.0	$G_{ope} = -0.0372 + 0.4674TL$	0.88	0.6041	0.0890

Table 4. Comparison of maximum girth-total length relationships of eight fish species between the present study and other studies. N: sample size, min: minimum, max: maximum, TL: total length (cm), FL: fork length (cm), G_{max} : maximum girth (cm), r^2 = the coefficient of determination, SE = standard error, α = intercept, b = slope, * FL: fork length. ¹ first TL- G_{max} relationship reference for Northern Aegean Sea. ² first TL- G_{max} relationship reference for the species worldwide.

Fish species	References	Location	N	TL _{min} - TL _{max}	Length - Maximum Girth equation	r^2	SE of α	SE of b
<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>	Mendes et al. (2006)	from Póvoa do Varzim to Santo Andre (western Portuguese coast)	46	16.3 - 25.6	$G_{max} = -0.902 + 0.627TL$	0.89	-	0.0320
	Santos et al. (2006)	Algarve coast (southern Portugal)	68	18.4 - 24.8	$G_{max} = -3.0089 + 0.7467TL$	0.94	0.4688	0.0225
	Aydın & Düzgüneş (2007)	Bodrum Peninsula (southern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	263	13.4 - 19.8	$G_{max} = 0.2834 + 0.5473TL$	0.84	-	-
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	49	11.9 - 23.5	$G_{max} = -1.8132 + 0.7222TL$	0.95	0.5460	0.0609
<i>Serranus scriba</i> ¹	Stergiou & Karpouzi (2003)	Cyclades (southern Aegean Sea, Greece)	74	14.3 - 23.9	$\log(G_{max}) = -0.298 + 1.075 \log(TL)$	0.78	-	0.0680
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	42	12.1 - 22.6	$G_{max} = -1.6634 + 0.764TL$	0.92	0.6740	0.0640
<i>Symphodus mediterraneus</i> ²	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	31	9.9 - 13.8	$G_{max} = 1.3316 + 0.5849TL$	0.86	1.4558	0.1371
	Stergiou & Karpouzi (2003)	Cyclades (southern Aegean Sea, Greece)	169	13.2 - 25.0	$G_{max} = -2.486 + 0.744TL$	0.83	-	0.0270
<i>Symphodus tinca</i> ¹	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	32	10.9 - 17.1	$G_{max} = 1.3559 + 0.6185TL$	0.89	1.5457	0.1596
	Mendes et al. (2006)	from Póvoa do Varzim to Santo Andre (western Portuguese coast)	60	17.2 - 23.7	$G_{max} = -1.508 + 0.531TL$	0.81	-	0.0330
<i>Sardina pilchardus</i> ¹	Begburs et al. (2020)	Izmir Bay (central Aegean Sea, Turkey)	81	10.5 - 17.0	$G_{max} = -1.688 + 0.557TL$	0.72	-	-
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	146	11.0 - 16.1	$G_{max} = -1.2212 + 0.5492TL$	0.83	0.3722	0.0628
<i>Sardinella aurita</i>	Aydın & Düzgüneş (2007)*	Bodrum Peninsula (southern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	253	15.4 - 24.0	$G_{max} = -5.973 + 0.822FL$	0.94	-	-
	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	126	16.4 - 24.6	$G_{max} = -4.8748 + 0.7036TL$	0.90	0.8118	0.0853
	Stergiou & Karpouzi (2003)	Cyclades (southern Aegean Sea, Greece)	192	18.3 - 33.7	$G_{max} = -3.265 + 0.580TL$	0.69	-	0.0280
	Begburs et al. (2020)	Izmir Bay (central Aegean Sea, Turkey)	75	27.0 - 33.5	$G_{max} = -7.793 + 0.763TL$	0.96	-	-
<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i> ¹	This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	296	13.0 - 27.1	$G_{max} = -0.701 + 0.5312TL$	0.92	0.2110	0.0284
	Mendes et al. (2006)	from Póvoa do Varzim to Santo Andre (western Portuguese coast)	230	15.8 - 39.8	$G_{max} = 1.916 + 0.402TL$	0.92	-	0.0070
<i>Trachurus trachurus</i> ¹	Santos et al. (2006)	Algarve coast (southern Portugal)	598	12.9 - 44.2	$G_{max} = 0.441 + 0.4972TL$	0.97	0.0889	0.0036
	Begburs et al. (2020)	Izmir Bay (central Aegean Sea, Turkey)	134	13.5 - 30.8	$G_{max} = -0.797 + 0.497TL$	0.97	-	-
This study	Saros Bay (northern Aegean Sea, Turkey)	64	13.0 - 19.0	$G_{max} = 0.0008 + 0.5025TL$	0.90	0.5537	0.0755	

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to thank the commercial fishermen and the two anonymous reviewers for their assistance.

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ARTICLE INFO

Received: 19 April 2021

Revised: 29 July 2021

Accepted: 04 August 2021

Available online: 24 August 2021