LENGTH–WEIGHT RELATIONSHIPS OF THE ALIEN JINGA SHRIMP, *METAPENAEUS AFFINIS* (H. MILNE EDWARDS, 1837) (DECAPODA, PENAEIDAE) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Guilnur Metin 1*, Iker Aydin 1 and Bella s. Galil 2
1 Ege University Faculty of Fisheries - guilnur.metin@ege.edu.tr
2 National Institute of Oceanography, 8030, Haifa 31080, Israel

Abstract
Seasonal length–weight relationships (LWR) of the recently introduced Jinga Shrimp, *Metapenaeus affinis*, population inthe Izmir Bay are presented. A total of 1795 specimens were collected, and LWR for females, males and combined sexes, were calculated as $W=0.0046L^{3.19}$, $W=0.0076L^{2.96}$ and $W=0.0041L^{3.23}$ respectively. Whereas females showed positive allometry, males showed negative allometry.

Keywords: Alien species, Crustacea, Aegean Sea

Introduction
*Metapenaeus affinis* occurs in the Indo-West Pacific Ocean, from the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, to Indonesia, China, Philippines and New Guinea [1]. The species is commercially of major importance in the Persian Gulf, where it is commonly captured on shallow muddy bottoms. It is raised commercially in the Philippines. It was first noted in the Mediterranean in April 2008, when 64 specimens were caught by trammel net set on muddy bottom, at depth of 8-12 m, at the inner part of Izmir Bay, on the Aegean coast of Turkey [2]. We monitored this population ever since.

Material and Method
A total of 1795 specimens were collected at the inner part of the bay by shrimp trammel net at monthly intervals between November 2008 – October 2009. Sexually mature male and female specimens were collected between May and October. LWR measurements of the newly established population were taken and compared to data from the species native range, and to serve as baseline for possible future studies of possible adaptation to the local environment. The relationship between length and weight was established as $W=aL^b$, where $W$ is total body weight (g), $L$ is total length (cm), and $a$ and $b$ are coefficients [3]. The parameters $a$ and $b$ of length–weight relationships were estimated by linear regression analysis on log transformed data. The association degree between variables was calculated by the determination coefficient ($R^2$). The growth type was identified by Student’s $t$-test.

Results and Discussion
Total length varied between 8-17.5 (±1.34) cm and weights were 3.2-38.9 (±4.87) gr. The smallest individual was a male collected in May, the largest a female collected in September. The maximum length for males was 14.6 (±1.12) cm as compared with 22.2 cm in its native range [4]. The population shows a normal distribution with sex ratio 1:1.2. Generally females are larger and heavier than males. According to calculations, growth for female and combined sex individuals showed positive allometry, but males showed negative allometry. In addition the slope ($b$) values revealed differences between the seasons ($p<0.05$).

References