

THE SUN PERCH *LEPOMIS GIBBOSUS* (L) AS AN INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE DANUBE LAKES

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For the first time the sun perch was registered in the Danube Delta in 1949. Our investigations were conducted in the Lung Lake in the Danube Basin. This small lake with area about 32 hectares and up to 2 metres depth is the center of the reserve organized in 2001. The sun perch is a possible object of sport fishing. From the other side, it is established that the sun perch damages to fish industry by eating the spawn, larvae and hutchling of valuable fish. At the same time, the eggs of sun perch, which are spawned to nests, are protected by males. This favors to its higher surviving and therefore to its grate influence on other species by means of competition for food and eating of young of other species. Finally, it changes the roles of separate species of fish and invertebrates, and the indexes of biodiversity in ecosystem.

In summer 2004 we've caught and studied 106 samples of sun perch: 24 males, 42 females and 40 juvenile individuals. Zoological length of males varies from 70 to 30 mm, females from 85 to 130 mm and juvenile individuals from 60 to 90 mm. Mass of samples of both sexes is within 6,0-51,0 gram, and those of juvenile within 4,0-13,0 gram.



Ration of sun perch highly coincides with ones of local benthos-feeders. In food lumps of sun perch polychaete worms, izopodes, larvae of chironomid, dragon-flies, beetles and others are found. Conditions of existence of sun perch in the Lung Lake are fully good, fish feed actively, have the high index of filling of intestine - up to 640 .

The sun perch becomes to be an important link in the final part of food chain in lake ecosystem that can significantly change the direction of flow of substance and energy, which has been formed. During underwater observations facts of eating by sun perch of young of crayfish *Astacus leptodactylus* were fixed. This may lead to abrupt decrease of number of crayfish, which is valuable commercial object. The sun perch is numerous in all large Danube Lakes, which is a unique lake complex of Ukraine and all south-western Europe. However, this invasive species remains to be unstudied, and its potential possibilities are undiscovered yet.

СОЛНЕЧНЫЙ ОКУНЬ *LEPOMIS GIBBOSUS* (L) - ВСЕЛЕНЕЦ В ПРИДУНАЙСКИЕ ОЗЕРА

Комарова В.В., Джуртубаев М.М., Заморев В.В.

Изучено питание солнечного окуня *Lepomis gibbosus* (L) в придунайском озере Лунг.