

CENTRAL FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (TRABZON): Organization and Research Programs

Temel SAHİN - CFRI, Director



The Trabzon Fisheries Research Institute, established in 1987 under the structure of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), General Directorate of Agricultural Research (GDAR), gave rise in 1998 to the Central Fisheries Research Institute Trabzon (CFRI), which was mandated to carry out scientific research in the Black Sea Region and in all waters of Turkey, and use and disseminate the obtained information.

CFRI is organized into nine divisions that implement its programs and projects in research and extension and carry out its administration functions:

- Breeding and Genetics
- Aquaculture
- Fisheries Biology and Technology
- Ecology
- Fish Diseases
- Program and Project Evaluation
- Training and Publication
- Production and Managing
- Office and Support Services

At present, CFRI has 105 employees: 3 managers, 60 administrative personnel, 4 project staff, and 38 technical personnel. Five have Ph.D. degrees and 9 have M.Sc. degrees.

Facilities at CFRI include a 24 m long research vessel for fisheries investigations, sea cages in Yomra Port for marine fish research,

and a hatchery and a grow-out units for aquaculture research. CFRI also has laboratories for experimental and analytical work in biology, chemistry, fish diseases, and hatchery.

CFRI conducts research in five major areas:

- Aquaculture
- Fish biology and fish ecology
- Population and stock assessment
- Fisheries and catch
- Water pollution and ecology

CFRI has completed 22 projects, and there are ten other continuing and three newly proposed projects (Table 1). One of CFRI's main tasks is to conduct research and develop useful technologies in aquaculture. Trout and salmon aquaculture were the initial focus of CFRI research, including a project was on the aquaculture and ecology of the anadromous Black Sea Trout. After satisfactory results were obtained for these trout and salmon, focus shifted to sea bass and sea bream. Recently, CFRI collaborated with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop turbot aquaculture under the Fish Culture Development Project in the Black Sea. This project ensured technology transfer in that hatchery-bred turbot have been released to the sea and some have been reared in sea cages and land-based tanks.

CFRI has also conducted research on the reproduction periods of Black Sea fish species and on the structure and fauna of Lake Çıldır. CFRI collaborated with METU (Middle-East Technical University) in stock assessment of Black Sea fish species. Another project has been implemented on stock assessment of sea snails. The effect of fishing and water pollution on fish stocks is a major area of study, and data have been obtained on the causes and sources of water pollution in Black Sea, terrestrial sources of heavy metal pollution, and the heavy metal loads of some marine products. Since 1993, studies have been conducted on the heavy metals from the Çayeli Copper Mine Managing Company.