

RESEARCH OF HELMINT *BOTHRIOCEPHALUS SCORPII* (MÜLLER, 1776) INFECTION IN TURBOT (*PSETTA MAXIMA* (L.))

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Summary. This study investigated the helminth *Bothriocephalus scorpii* (Müller, 1776) infection of turbot (*Psetta maxima* (L)) caught in the Baltic Sea (Lithuanian economic zone). A total of 635 turbot specimens of varying ages were examined for infection with the tapeworm *B. scorpii*. Turbot age ranged from 0+ to 10 years, fish length from 5.3 to 44.6 cm, and weight from 2 to 1960 g. This survey showed that turbot acquired infections of *B. scorpii* before they were 1 year old. All the adult turbot were infected with *B. scorpii*, often heavily (n=100-178 individuals). Overall 97.5 % of turbot were infected with *B. scorpii*. Intensity of helminths infection ranged from 2 to 178 individuals (mean – 25 individuals). The results obtained demonstrate differences in the lipid and protein content of heavily and lightly infected fishes ($p<0.001$). The condition factor ($p<0.01$) and growth ($p<0.001$) of 1 year old turbot decrease in heavily infected fish too.

Keywords: turbot *Psetta maxima* (L), *Bothriocephalus scorpii*, Baltic Sea.