Biodiversity Assesment: Preliminary Findings In Köyceğiz-dalyan Sepa

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In Turkey, biodiversity assessments in Coastal-Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) were started with the Datça-Bozburun Special Environmental Protection Area (SEPA) Biodiversity Project by the Authority of Special Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the Oceanos Team of the Istanbul University in 2002. "Köyceğiz-Dalyan SEPA Biodiversity Project" was the fourth one in this field performed in 2010, the "International Year of Biodiversity", with cooperation between the Underwater Research Society and Dokuz Eylül University. The coastal and marine sites of the SEPA, especially İztuzu Beach, are important for nesting and breeding of Caretta caretta. Under the scope of the project, the study was carried out only once in autumn within the 0-50 meter depth zone with both sampling methods and visual observations of marine flora and fauna. The study aimed to define biodiversity of the marine area including seabed habitats and facies formations. A total number of 282 species were listed excluding zooplankton species, 160 of which belongs to fauna and 122 of which belongs to flora. Seven facies formations and six different benthic habitat types were defined during the study. Determinations of 17 species under several categories of IUCN Red List and 10

exotic species were another important findings which should be considered as significance of threat upon the marine ecosystem of the Köyceğiz-Dalyan SEPA.