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CONFIGURATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROCESSES REGULATING POTENTIALLY  
SUITABLE PELAGIC FISH  
REPRODUCTIVE HABITATS IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

—Vera N. AGOSTINI<sup>1</sup> and  
Andrew BAKUN<sup>2</sup>—

<sup>1</sup> *School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences,  
University of Washington, Seattle, USA.*

<sup>2</sup> *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement,  
Centre Halieutique Méditerranéen et Tropical,  
Sete, FRANCE.*

A framework of comparative climatology of reproductive habitats of pelagic fishes has been extended in this study to the Mediterranean Sea. Maritime weather reports have been summarised to yield seasonal distributions of wind speed cubed, wind stress, Ekman transport, upwelling/downwelling and sea surface temperature. Seasonal distributions maps of the parameters mentioned above were pro-

duced. These distributions were considered with other known aspects of oceanography and elements of anchovy life history in the region. Configurations of environmental processes affecting transport, water column stability and trophic enrichment ("triad concept") will be outlined. Potential favourable reproductive habitat areas in the Mediterranean will be discussed. This study uses pattern recognition as a conceptual framework for the definition of environmental processes potentially impacting pelagic fish habitats and distribution geographies in the Mediterranean Sea.

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