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A hypothesis for the migratory pattern of albacore, *Thunnus alalunga*, in the Mediterranean Sea

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Fishery and biological studies for albacore have been performed from 1986 to 1995 in the Aegean and Ionian Seas.

The information obtained from tagging experiments in relation with other biological and fishery data (geographical and seasonal occurrence, size distribution, age structure and gonad maturity) lead to the hypothesis that the migratory pattern of albacore in the eastern Mediterranean is characterized by seasonal migration between the northern and southern areas of the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The main factor that drives albacore to leave the gulf of Taranto and the north Aegean Sea for the southern areas during the winter is the low temperature of the waters whereas their return during the end of the summer is to attribute to feeding reasons.