

Estimation of biomass, opening and closing season of *Metapenaeus affinis* in North West Persian Gulf (Khouzestan Province)

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Abstract

Study of shrimp stock was carried out from July 2004 to March 2007 in two sampling areas of Khouzestan coastal waters. In this period, sixteen cruises in Life- Buseif (western coastal area) and six cruises in Bahrekan (eastern coastal area) were carried using shrimp trawl net. In Life- Buseif fishing area, the CPUE of total shrimp was the highest (12.1 kg/ h) in November 2005. In this area, the highest biomass of total shrimps was in November 2005 (290.3 t). This value was 210 t for *M. affinis* in same month.

Maximum mean length of males and females of *M.affinis* were observed in November 2006 (11.9 & 10.9 cm respectively). Maximum and minimum sex ratio (f: m) of this species was 1.9: 1 in November 2005 and 1: 1 in November 2004. Relative frequency of shrimp in total catch was observed in December (37%) in Life- Buseif.

This parameter was 32% in March 2006 in Bahrekan area.

Total shrimp CPUE was highest (13.1 kg/ h) in March 2006, and max. CPUE for *M. affinis* was 5.8 kg/h in same month in Bahrekan fishing area. Maximum biomass of total shrimp and *M. affinis* were 126.6 t and 282.6 t in March 2006.