

## **Monitoring of *Metapenaeus affinis* biomass in Khouzestan waters (North West Persian Gulf)**

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### **Abstract**

Study of *M. affinis* was carried out from June 2001 to December 2002 in two sampling areas of Khouzestan coastal waters. In this period, 18 cruises in Life- Buseif (western coastal area) and 13 cruises in Bahrekan (eastern coastal area) were carried by using shrimp trawl net. In Life- Buseif fishing area, the CPUE of total shrimp was the highest (27.8 kg/ h) in September 2001. This parameter estimated 17.4 kg/ h for *M.affinis* in March. In this area, the highest biomass of total shrimps was in April 2002 (533.3 t). This value was 380.7t for *M. affinis* in March. Maximum mean length of males and females of *M.affinis* were observed in January (13.4 & 11.5 cm respectively). Maximum and minimum sex ratio (f: m) of this species was 2.25: 1 in July and 0.86: 1 in October 2002. Relative frequency of shrimp in total catch was observed in March (52.5%) in Life- Buseif. This parameter was 27.3% in February in Bahrekan area. In Bahrekan fishing area, total shrimp CPUE was highest (7.5 kg/ h) in March, and max. CPUE for *M. affinis* was 6.9 kg/h in same month. Maximum biomass of total shrimp and *M. affinis* were 1800.4 t and 165 t in March.

Maximum length of male and female of *M.affinis* were 12.4 and 11.3 cm in March. Maximum and minimum sex ratio (f: m) of *M. affinis* was 3.5: 1 in May and 0.9: 1 in January, March and August 2002 respectively. According to the results of this study, shrimp catch season was opened in Life- Buseif from 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov until 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2001 and from 6<sup>th</sup> Nov until 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2002. Winter shrimp catch season has been closed in Bahrekan since 2001.