

Monitoring of shrimp stocks in the coastal waters of the Persian Gulf

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Abstract

Study of shrimp stock was carried out from January 2003 to March 2004 in two sampling areas of Khouzestan coastal waters. In this period, eight 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 (19.18 kg/ h) in November 2002. This parameter estimated 9.42 kg/ h for *M.affinis* in March. In this area, the highest biomass of total shrimps was in November 2002 (410.1 t). This value was 204.2 t for *M. affinis* in same month.

Maximum mean length of males and females of *M.affinis* were observed in December (12.4 & 11.4 cm respectively). Maximum and minimum sex ratio (f: m) of this species was 1.4: 1 in August and 0.89: 1 in December 2002. Relative frequency of shrimp in total catch was observed in December (23%) in Life- Buseif. This parameter was 6.24% in January in Bahrekan area.

In Bahrekan fishing area, total shrimp CPUE was highest (3.7 kg/ h) in January, and max. CPUE for *M. affinis* was 3.2 kg/h in same month. Maximum biomass of total shrimp and *M. affinis* were 72.9 t and 62.9 t in January.

Maximum length of male and female of *M.affinis* were 13.3 and 11.1 cm (in May and March respectively). Maximum and minimum sex ratio (f: m) of *M. affinis* was 2.9: 1 in May and 0.8: 1 in February. According to the results of this study, shrimp catch season was opened in Life- Buseif from 6th Nov until 5th Dec 2003.

Winter shrimp catch season has been closed in Bahrekan since 2001.