

Survey on Natural Feeding of Commercial Juvenile *Otolithes Ruber* Fishes (Sciaenidae) in Khozestan Coastal Waters (Persian Gulf)

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Abstract

This survey was conducted to study diets and some feeding indices of dominant and commercial Juvenile fishes in Khuzestan coastal waters. A number of juvenile fish (*Otolithes ruber*) was captured in main fishing areas of Khuzestan province namely, the western side (Buseif-Lifeh) and eastern side (Bahrekan), north of the Persian Gulf. The individuals were sampled randomly using shrimp trawl net every month. From March 2006 to December 2007. The stomach contents of 82 individuals were analyzed out of which 23.2% were empty and 76.8% had food items. The results showed that Fish, Crustacane, Shrimp and Brachyuran are the main food sources for Juvenile *Otolithes ruber*. Ontogenetic differences were found in the diet composition and feeding activity.

Keywords: Juvenile otolithes ruber fish, Feeding, Khozestan Coastal Waters
