Identification and Ecological Study of Juvenile Fishes of Khuzestan (North West Persian Gulf)

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Abstract

Khuzestan coastal waters in the north west of the Persian Gulf were examined between 2006 to 2007 to investigate the juvenile fish fauna. Samples were caught using a 360 hp research vessel towing and a 24 mm mesh size bottom trawl. 64 species categorized in 40 families were recorded. The most frequent species were *Thryssa vitriostris; Leiognathus bindus; Ilisha compressa; Penahia macrophthalmus; Johnius belangerii* comprised 80% of total juvenile fish frequency. 41 species was caught during July (highest species total number). Increasing trend in total number of fishes was observed during April to July. Highest diversity index and lowest dominance index was found in July. Correlation analysis indicated that water salinity is most important environmental factor corresponds with total number of species fluctuations. Results of this study in accordance with previous researches confirmed the role of coastal waters as nursery grounds for juvenile fishes.

Keywords: *Shrimp, Effluent, Aquaculture, Creek*