

Distribution of Different Groups of Zooplankton in Different Depths in the Southern Caspian Sea

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Abstract

This study was carried out on the community variations of zooplankton in different depths (5-100m) at 8 stations in 2008. Samples were collected through a zooplankton net (100 µm mesh) by R/V Gilan vessel. The most abundant zooplankton and its biomass were in depth of 5m in all seasons, but abundance decreased from coastal area towards deeper area as 74% (Spring and Summer), 57% (Autumn) and 70% (Winter) of zooplankton community were in depths of 5 and 10m. The Copepoda constituted the main community in different depths and seasons during the year. This group was distributed with the abundance of 164 ind/m³ in depth of 100m in spring to 11289 ind/m³ in depth of 5m in summer during the year. The Rotatoria community increased in winter and it formed 48% of zooplankton abundance and 74% of its biomass. Its abundance decreased in spring and summer, but it increased during fall again.

Keywords: Zooplankton, Abundance, Biomass, Caspian Sea.
