

Seasonal Distribution of Macroalgae along the Southern Coasts of the Caspian Sea, between Astara and Khajeh nafas.

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Abstract

The present study was carried out to compare the seasonal distribution and biomass of macroalgae along the southern coasts of the Caspian Sea. The macroalgal samples were collected seasonally from 8 rocky stations (Astara, Anzali port, Chamkhaleh, Ramsar, Sisangan, Amir-abad port and Khajeh-nafas) along the Iranian coasts, from spring to winter 2014. As a result of this study, a total of 2 species of green algae, *Cladophora glomerata* and *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and one red alga *Laurencia caspica* were recorded in the study area. *C. glomerata* was identified as the dominant species in all seasons and stations, except in Khajeh-nafas. Its highest biomass was observed in Amir abad in summer season (241.69 ± 77.69 g dw.m⁻²). The highest biomass of *E. intestinalis* were recorded in Anzali port in summer (214.15 ± 70.33 g dw.m⁻²). The highest and the lowest biomass of *L. caspica* that was found in the central parts of the southern coasts of the Caspian Sea was recorded in Ramsar station in autumn (77.43 ± 13.18 g dw.m⁻²) and spring (13.92 ± 9.58 g dw.m⁻²), respectively. Significant differences were observed between macroalgae biomass at different stations and in different seasons ($p < 0.05$).

Keywords

Macroalgae. Distribution. Biomass. Caspian Sea.