

Shark Resources in the Iranian Waters of the Persian Gulf

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Abstract : This study was analyzed the annual catch and trawl survey data of sharks in the northern part of the Persian Gulf (26° 30' to 30° 00'N and 49° 00' to 56° 00'E) from 2004 to 2009. Trawl survey was conducted by research vessel Ferdous, equipped with bottom trawl nets in meshes 400mm and 80mm at the body, and cod-end, respectively. Ten stratum were selected in the study area and 199 stations were randomly trawled. The density (CPUA) of shark resources was estimated based on swept area method. The annual total catch was obtained from Iranian fisheries organization (Shilat). The results of catch per unit area showed 250.7 kg/nm² in 2004 to 49.7 kg/nm² in 2009. There was a high degree of variability of CPUA among different areas and the maximum was estimated 1870.8 kg/nm² in Nayband and Mogham. In catch composition data, sharks have a decreasing trend from 4.2% in 2004 to 2.9% in 2009 that shows a decline with an annual average 1.3% during 2004-2009. This results suggesting that the shark resource is overexploited and the current effort is far higher than the effort required harvesting optimum yields.

Keywords : shark resources, Iranian waters, Persian Gulf, Trawl survey

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