Investigation on catch trend and caviar *of* (*Huso husoBrandt, 1865*) in the Iranian waters of the Caspian Sea during 2005-2015

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Abstract

Huso huso is one of the 5 important sturgeon species of the Caspian Sea. Sturgeon catch trends shows sever decrease in sturgeon stocks. Also, the catch rate of *Huso huso* declined seriously from 2005 to 2015 such that it was 30.6 tons in 2005 and decreased to 6.7 tons in 2015 which shows 78.1% decrease. In 2005, 18.1% of total catch belonged to *Huso huso* while it was increased to 41% in 2015. The highest catch rate of *Huso huso* occurred in Iranian western coasts of the Caspian Sea at Golestan province which is 58% in 2005 and 60% in 2015. The rate of *Huso huso* caviar production was 1.7ton in 2005 that decreased to 0.8 ton in 2015 with 53% decrease. The caviar produced by *Huso huso* was 9.1% of total caviar in 1384 that has been increased to 45.2% in 2015. Now, the catch is carried out only for aims of propagation, research and stock rehabilitation in the Iranian Waters of the Caspian Sea.

Keyword: *Huso huso*, Caspian Sea, Catch, Sturgeon, Iran.

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