

Zoning and Determining Ecological Sensitivity of Coastal Zones in Rudsar for Identifying Sensitive Coastal-Marine Areas

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Abstract

ecological zoning of the coastal areas of Rudsar based on criteria developed by Iran's Environmental Protection Organization with the purpose of identifying sensitive coastal marine zones. In this research, the coastal zone was divided into separate habitats based on morphology, and the zoning map of the sensitive coastal areas of Rudsar was drawn by studying suitability criteria in the habitats and through extracting the evaluation table. Based on the obtained results, the coastal zone was divided into 18 habitats. Sandy coasts with 8 habitats occupied most it (79.49 percent of the coastal zone). Habitat number 17 with the score of 84 had the capacity to be considered a protected coastal marine zone, or a coastal marine wildlife refuge. 14 habitats had scores of higher than 50, and were considered sensitive coastal marine zones and 3 habitats with scores lower than 50 as free zones. According to the results most of the coastal area in Rudsar had medium sensitivity, and could be referred to as sensitive coastal marine zones.

Key words: Coastal Zone, Ecological, Sensitive Coastal-Marine Areas, Rudsar County.