

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

**Mahmoud Tavakoli<sup>1\*</sup>**

**Mohammad Reza Behrouz Khoshghalb<sup>2</sup>**

1. Associate Professor  
International Sturgeon Research  
Institute, Agricultural Research,  
Education and Extension  
Organization (AREEO), Rasht,  
Iran

2. Department of International  
Sturgeon Research Institute,  
Agricultural Research, Education  
and Extension Organization  
(AREEO), Rasht, Iran

**\*Corresponding author:**

m\_tavakoli\_e@yahoo.com

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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.