Study on feeding of Common Kilka (*Clupeonella caspia*) in the Caspain Sea, Anzali shore

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Abstract
Common Kilka are distributed along the Caspian Sea, but at the depth less than 50m has more density. The fish is caught in commercial fisheries, but unlike previous decades, it is the main catch in the coasts of Iran. This study was conducted in the Kilka commercial catch area around the Anzali Port. A diet survey was conducted on 320 individuals of Kilka from summer 2011 to spring 2012, seasonally. The weight, length and age showed variation with 5.15-14.29 g (9.30±1.66); 8.3-12.9 cm (11.27±0.75) and 3-7 old years (4.82±0.86). The results showed that 26.87% of common Kilka had empty tract, and Copepods, Balanidae (*Balanus* cypris and larvae), Cladocera, Parasites (Nematoda & Trematoda) and *Azolla* were observed in the gut of fish. The number of prey were 94.5, 3.0, 1.8 percent for Copepods, *Balanus* (larvae) and *Balanus* (cypris), respectively and copepods with 61.6 percent as main food, *Balanus* (cypris) with 48.3 percent as second food item were considered. Also the other types of food were consumed randomly. For common Kilka the relative length of gut 0.73±0.11 and fullness intensive index 115.01±63.01 were estimated. The frequency of prey, fullness intensive index and relative length of gut did not show differences in unlike seasons and ages. In a conclusion, it can be expressed that in comparison with last studies, diversity of food for this fish was more limited, also fullness intensity index was decreased.

Keywords: *Clupeonella caspia*, Biology, Diet, Caspian Sea.