.A Survey on Foraminifera under fish cages in Qeshm Island (Hormozgan province)

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Abstract

Today, with increasing population growth and efforts to provide food and source of protein, human desire to use seafood has increased because of its great benefits. Since fishing is not the answer to the growing population, the use of aquaculture activities has become increasingly important. On the other hand, decreasing water quality in farmlands and the wide range of environmental changes has increased the attention to aquaculture in the sea and natural environments, especially cages. Therefore, along with these activities, the study of the effects of these activities on the aquatic habitats is essential. This study was conducted to determine the frequency of Foraminifera at the site of construction of fish cages in Qeshm Island. Sampling of this study was done monthly in 1396 during a fish breeding season in Qeshm coastal waters. For this purpose, 3 stations were considered at the place of construction of cages. From each station, three sediment samples were taken for the separation and identification of Foraminifera with a Van veen grab with a cross section of 0.04 m^2. In the study of sediments of the study area *Ammonia* sp. and *Spiroloculina* sp. of the Foraminifera, the dominant genera were the Macrobenthos community.

Keywords: Aquaculture, macrobenthos, foraminifera, Qeshm, Hormozgan