

A Survey on Coral Reefs of Farur Island, Northeast of the Persian Gulf, Iran*

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ABSTRACT

This survey was conducted in November 2000, aimed to determine health status, distribution pattern and species diversity of reef building corals around Farur Island located in northeast of the Persian Gulf, Iran. The distribution pattern and health status were determined using Manta Tow method. Thereafter, the collected coral specimens were identified to the species level.

This survey highlighted the following factors:

- There were 4 distinct zones parallel to the shoreline including sandy belt and coral rubble zone, compact live coral zone, dead coral zone and offshore sandy zone.
- The best living hard coral cover was found at the depths between 5 to 15 meters and *Porites* corals were the dominant hard corals around the island.
- The living *Acropora* corals were more abundant at the depths between 10 to 15 meters.
- The old dead coral zone was started at 15 m and extends to a depth of 25 meters and mainly is made up of dead coral formations (*Porites* blocks).
- There were atleast 13 species of Scleractinian corals belonging to 5 genus, comprising mainly of *Acropora* with 4 species, *Porites* and *Favia* each with 3 species, *Siderastrea* with 2 and *Agaricia* with 1 species.

Fishes especially of ornamental species were frequent in the waters surrounding this island. Grouper fish was of the most commercial value, while angelfish and parrotfish were the most frequent ones around the island. The ornamental fishes were more abundant at the depths between 5 to 15 meters.

Keyword:

Coral Reefs, Farur Island, Species diversity, Health Status, Persian Gulf, Iran.

*See complete version in Persian issue