

COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON HYDROMETEOROLOGY OF THE CASPIAN SEA (CASPCOM)

Information bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level
No.18
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In accordance with the data received from the National Hydrometeorological Organizations of the Caspian littoral states the mean level of the Caspian Sea in 2018 (-27.99 m abs) decreased as compared to 2017 and measured -28.03 m abs¹ (Fig 1).

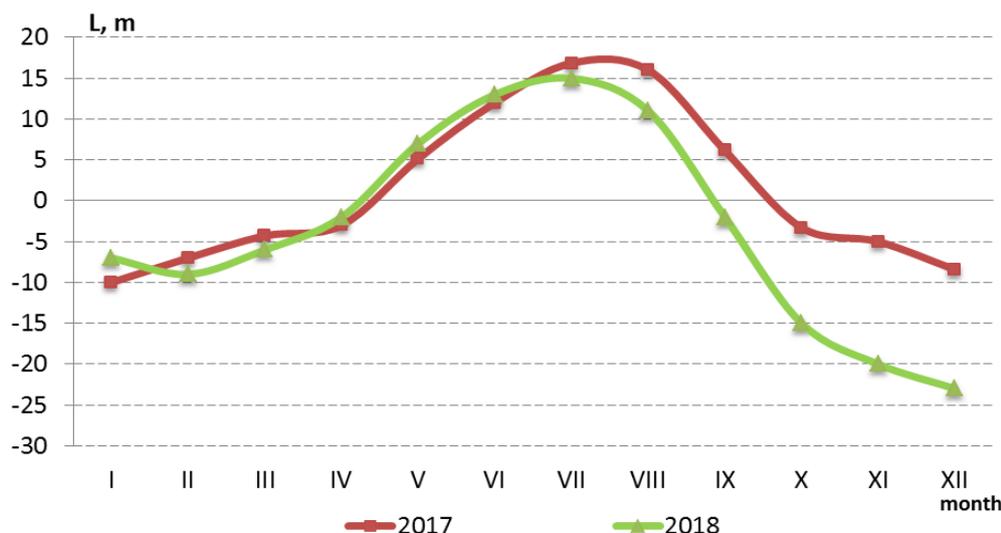


Fig. 1. Seasonal run of the mean Caspian Sea level in 2017 and 2018

According to the forecast of the Hydrometeorological Centre of Russia published in the Bulletin No. 36 of 24 April 2019, the mean level of the Caspian Sea was expected to be by 15-20 cm lower in 2019 than in the previous year as the Volga River inflow was predicted smaller. Seasonal increase in the mean level from January to June this year was projected to be 21 cm. Actually, it was 18 cm. In August 2019, this discrepancy between projected and measured mean level was even more than 5 cm that shows more sharp decrease in the sea level than it was predicted.

2017 and 2018 were high-water years; the Volga discharge at its delta top measured 272 and 268 cub. km accordingly and were higher than the mean value for 1938-2018. The Volga discharge for the first half of 2019 consisted of 114 cub. km that is much less than the mean value for 1938-2018 (146 cub. km). The flooding period in the Volga River basin was shorter in 2019, than in the previous two years (Fig. 2).

¹ To calculate the mean value of the sea level for the whole sea water area we have used observations data at "century" posts: Baku, Neft Dashlary (Oil Rocks), Makhachkala, Fort-Shevchenko, Guvlymayak (Kuuli-Mayak), Turkmenbashi (Krasnovodsk), Garabogaz (Kara-Bogaz-Gol).

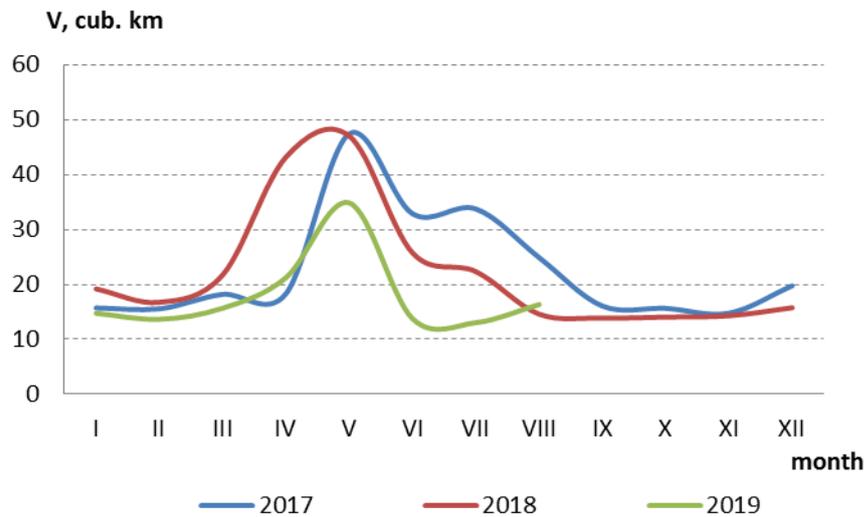


Fig. 2. Mean monthly discharge of the Volga River in 2016-2018

By the forecast of the Hydrometeorological Centre of Russia, the mean Caspian Sea level in the first four months of 2020 might be dropping even lower than in 2019 (Fig. 3).

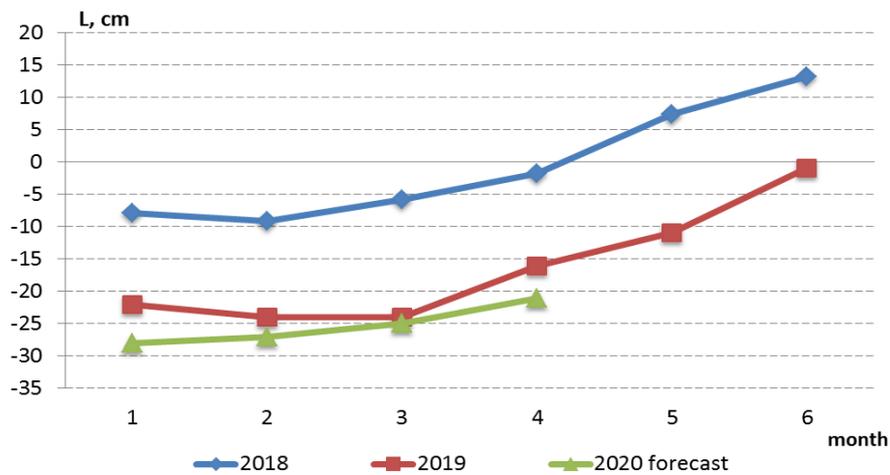


Fig. 3. Mean level of the Caspian Sea in the first halves of 2017, 2018 and 2019

This bulletin is intended for the authorities, enterprises and organizations and coastal communities as well as for all whose activities are connected with the Caspian Sea. Its preparation became possible exclusively due to the cooperation of hydrometeorological organizations of the Caspian littoral states. The data of the General Catalogue of the Caspian Sea level elaborated under CASPCOM umbrella were used to compile the bulletin