

**COORDINATION COMMITTEE
ON HYDROMETEOROLOGY OF THE CASPIAN SEA (CASPCOM)**

**Information bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level
No. 22
16 November 2021**

The Bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level is issued twice a year in accordance with the recommendations of CASPCOM and is a joint product of hydrometeorological services of the five Caspian littoral states.

The Caspian Sea level at its seasonal peak in July 2021 was more than 20 cm below the level of July of the previous year (-28.26 and -28.02 m abs¹, respectively). The rate of its seasonal rise due to spring flooding of the Volga River was much less than in the same period of the previous year.

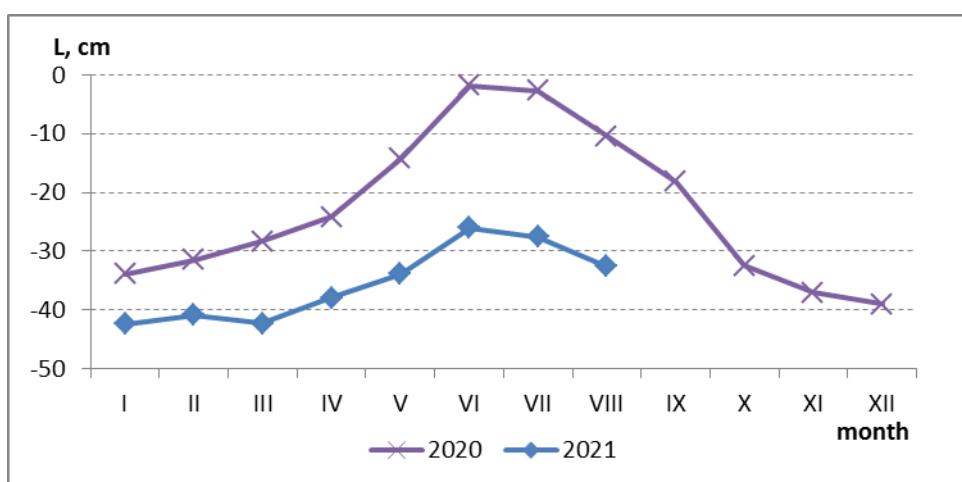


Fig. 1 Seasonal run of the mean Caspian Sea level in 2021 as compared to 2020

The main reason for such a sharp decrease in the sea level was the low inflow of the Volga River in 2021. The volume of water runoff of the Volga for 9 months of this year amounted to only 191 cub. km, which is significantly lower than the value for the same period in 2020 (225 cub. km). The spring flooding period in the current year was significantly shorter and lesser than in the previous year (Fig. 2).

¹ To calculate the mean value of the sea level for the entire water area, we used data from observations at "century" posts: Baku, Makhachkala, Fort Shevchenko, Guvlymayak (Kuuli-mayak), Turkmenbashi (Krasnovodsk), Duzlybogaz (Kara-Bogaz-Gol)

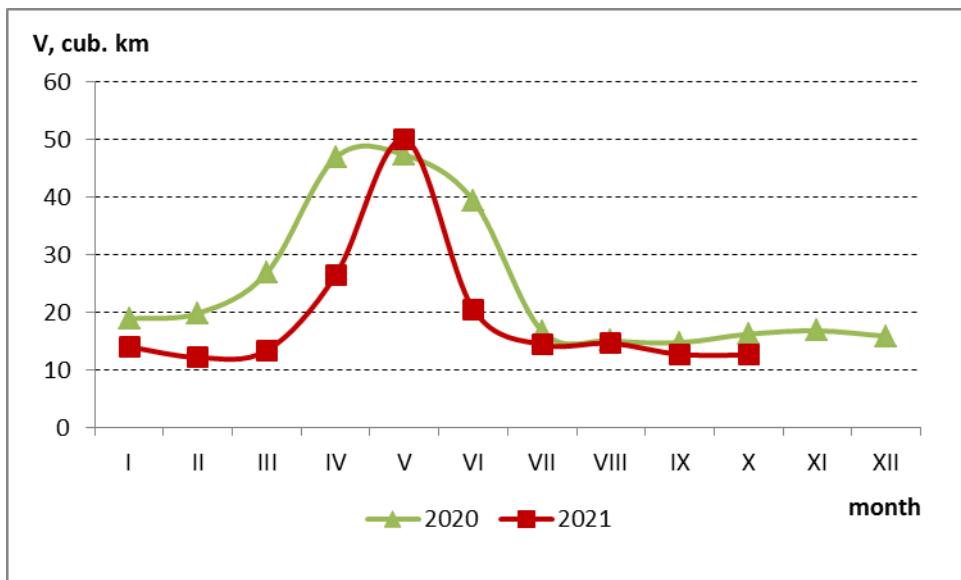


Fig. 2 Mean monthly discharge of the Volga River in 2020-2021

The decreasing trend of the Caspian Sea level variations over the past two years can be seen at Figure 3 (satellite data from CMEMS (Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service) were used). Figure 3 also shows that the mean value in 2021 is about 20 cm lower than in 2020.

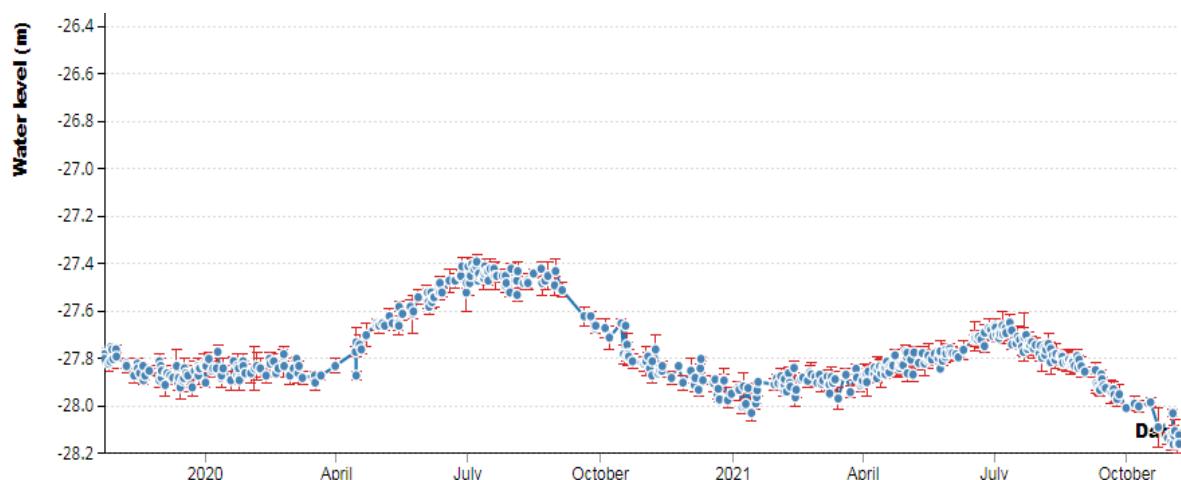


Fig. 3 Caspian Sea Level in 2020 and 2021 (CMEMS data)

This bulletin is intended for the authorities, enterprises, organizations and coastal communities as well as for all whose activities are connected with the Caspian Sea. Its preparation became possible only 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