

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

**Information bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level
No.19
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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 2019¹ was more than 20 cm below the level of July of the previous year. However, the rate of its subsequent seasonal fall was less than in the same period of the previous year. As a result, the sea level in December 2019 went around 15 cm lower than in December 2018 (Fig. 1). The significant decrease in the sea level occurred for the reason of lesser Volga inflow in 2019 (205 cubic km at its delta top), which was substantially lower than normal (238 cubic km). 2019 entered a number of extremely low-water years, although it did not break the records of 1996 (176 cubic km) and 2015 (182 cubic km).

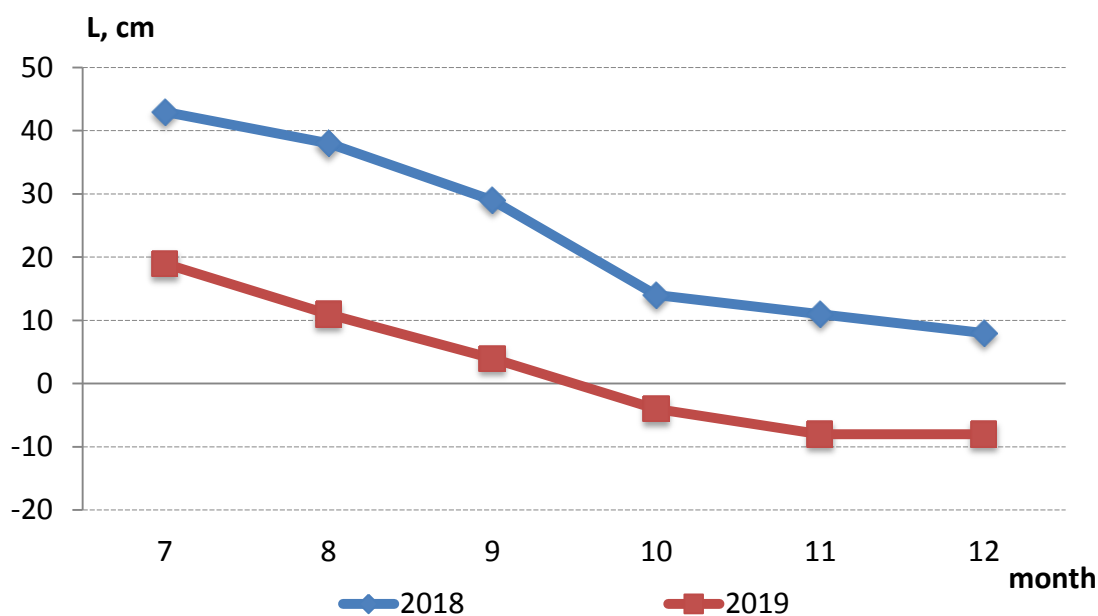


Fig. 1 Seasonal run of the Caspian Sea level in the second half of 2019 as compared to 2018

Figure 2 presents the graph of Caspian Sea level changes in the last two years according to the data by CMEMS (Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service).

¹ According to the data in Baku

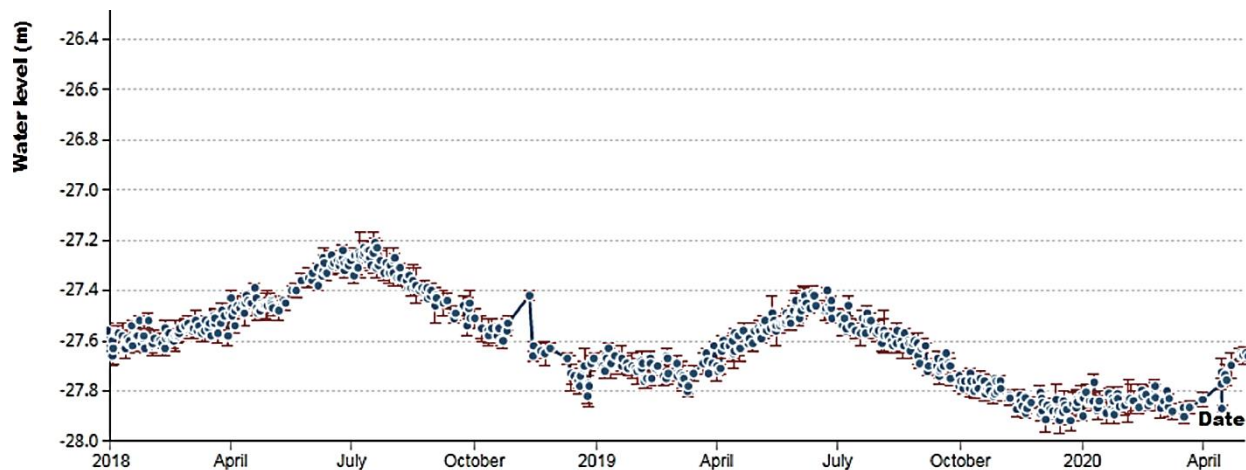


Fig. 2. Changes of the Caspian Sea level in the period from 01.01.2018 to 01.5.2020 (CMEMS data)

The satellite monitoring data shows that the mean Caspian Sea level in 2019 decreased by about 20 cm compared to the previous year ². Due to the fact, that the sea level “started” in 2020 with lower value than at the beginning of 2019, and the Volga River annual inflow is preliminarily projected to be below normal, the mean level is expected going down further, by 5-10 cm, although not as drastically as in 2019.

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

² By the moment of this bulletin preparation, the data has not yet been completed by all NMHS. Complete information on the mean Caspian Sea level in 2019 will be given in the next issue of the bulletin