

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

## Information bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level No. 21 14 May 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.*

According to the data received from the National Hydrometeorological Organizations of the Caspian littoral states, the mean level of the Caspian Sea decreased by about 3 cm in 2020 compared with 2019 (-28.20 m abs.) and amounted to -28.23 m abs<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 1). Thus, in 2020, the fall of the sea level slowed down as contrasted to 2019, when it fell by an average of 20 cm per year. The main reason for this slowdown was the increased flow of the Volga River in 2020 (279 cubic km at the top of the delta), which was significantly higher than normal one (238 cubic km) and the volume of runoff in 2019 (205 cubic km).

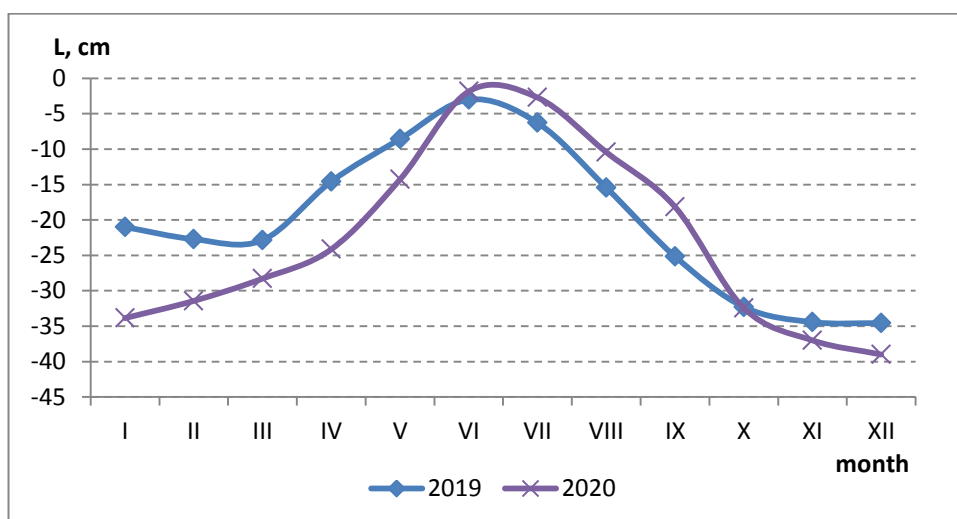


Fig. 1 Seasonal run of the mean Caspian Sea level in 2020 compared to 2019

Nevertheless, in December 2020, the mean sea level was about 5 centimeters lower than in December 2019 (Figure 1). In January, this difference was already 8 centimeters (Fig. 2).

For the first four months of 2021, the Volga runoff had significantly lower volumes compared to the same period in 2020 (Fig. 3).

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

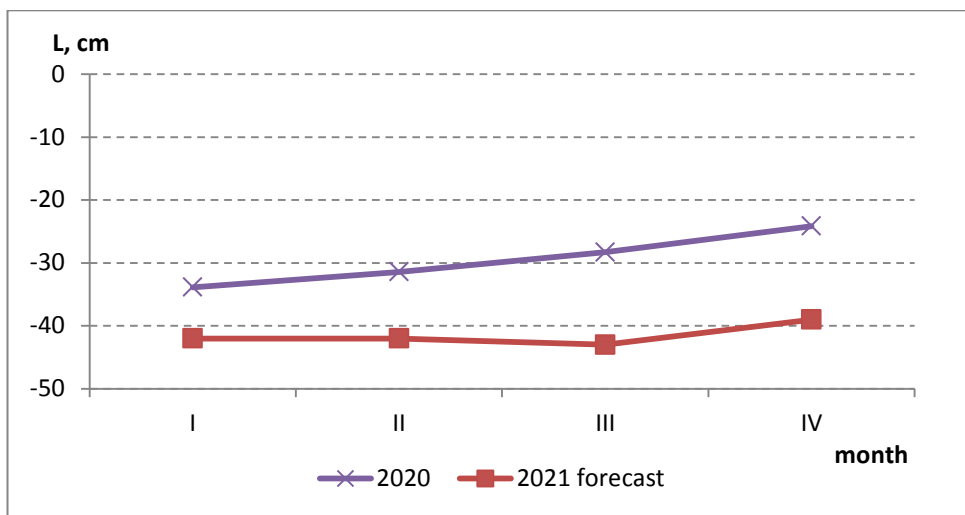


Fig. 2 Seasonal run of the mean Caspian Sea level in early 2021 (projected) compared to early 2020

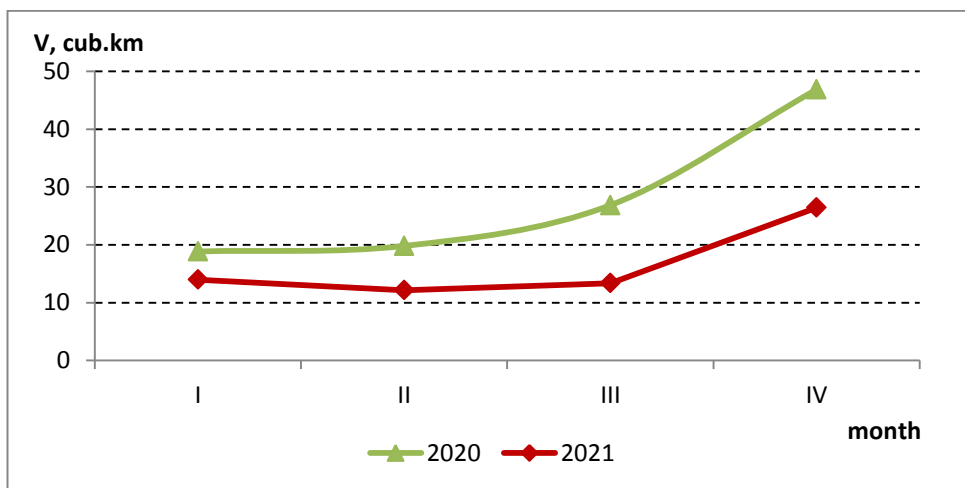


Fig. 3 Monthly discharge of the Volga River in early 2021 compared to early 2020

According to the bulletin No. 36 published by the Hydrometeorological Center of Russia on April 26, 2021, it is expected that due to the predicted low water flow of the Volga River in 2021, the mean annual level of the Caspian Sea goes 12-17 cm lower than in the previous year.

*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*