

COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON HYDROMETEOROLOGY OF THE CASPIAN SEA (CASPCOM)

Information bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level No. 24 25 November 2022

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 June 2022 was 25 cm below the level of June of the previous year (-28.51 and -28.26 m abs¹, respectively). The rate of its seasonal rise due to spring flooding of the Volga River and further run was rather similar to that in the same period of the previous year.

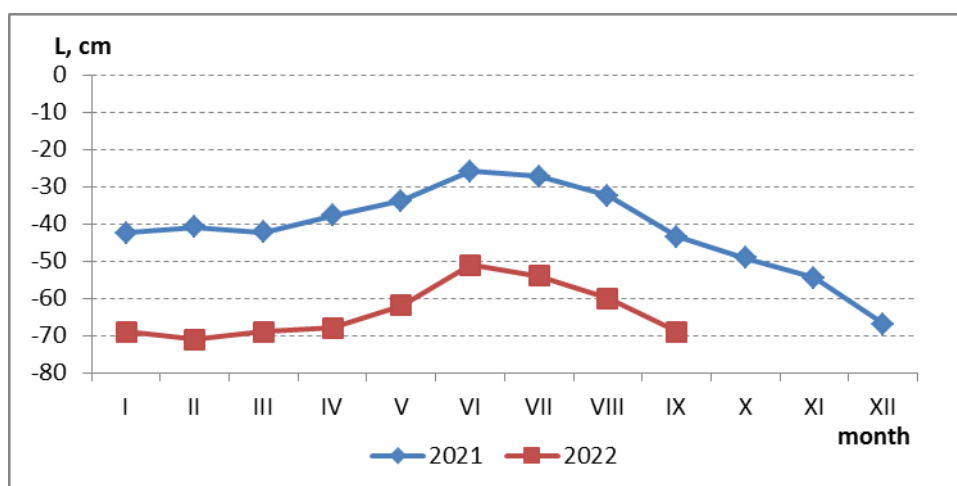


Fig. 1 Seasonal run of the mean Caspian Sea level in 2022 as compared to 2021

The main reason for such a decrease in the sea level was the low inflow of the Volga River observed in two years in the row (in 2021 and 2022). The water runoff of the Volga for 9 months of this year amounted to only 173 cub. km that is just a little higher than the value for the same period in 2021 (171 cub. km). The characteristics of the spring flooding period in the current year (duration, starting date and water runoff) were similar to those 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)

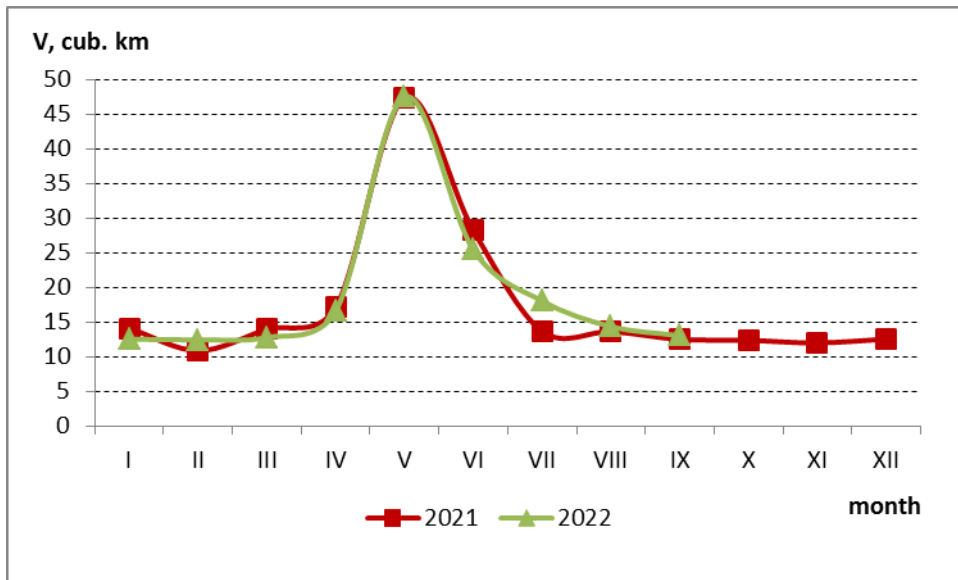


Fig. 2 Mean monthly discharge of the Volga River in 2021-2022

The continued decreasing trend in 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 2022 is about 25 cm lower than in 2021 that is a bit more than it was projected in the previous issue of our bulletin (20-23 cm).

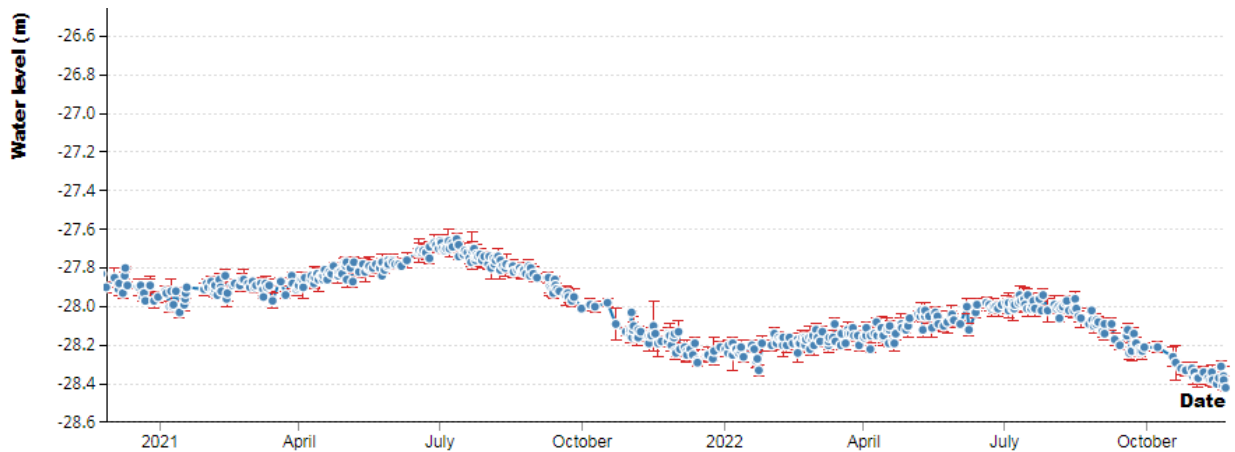


Fig. 3 Caspian Sea Level in 2021 and 2022 (CMEMS data)

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