

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

**Information bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level
No.17
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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 2018¹ occurred roughly at the same mark as compared to July 2017. However, the rate of its seasonal fall was higher than in the same period of the previous year. As a result, the sea level in December 2018 went around 20 cm lower than in December 2017 (Fig. 1). The main reason was lesser Volga inflow in 2018 (268 cub. km at its delta top) comparing to 2017 (272 cub. km). Mean monthly discharge in December 2018 and January 2019 measured by 5 cub. km less than in the same months of the previous years.

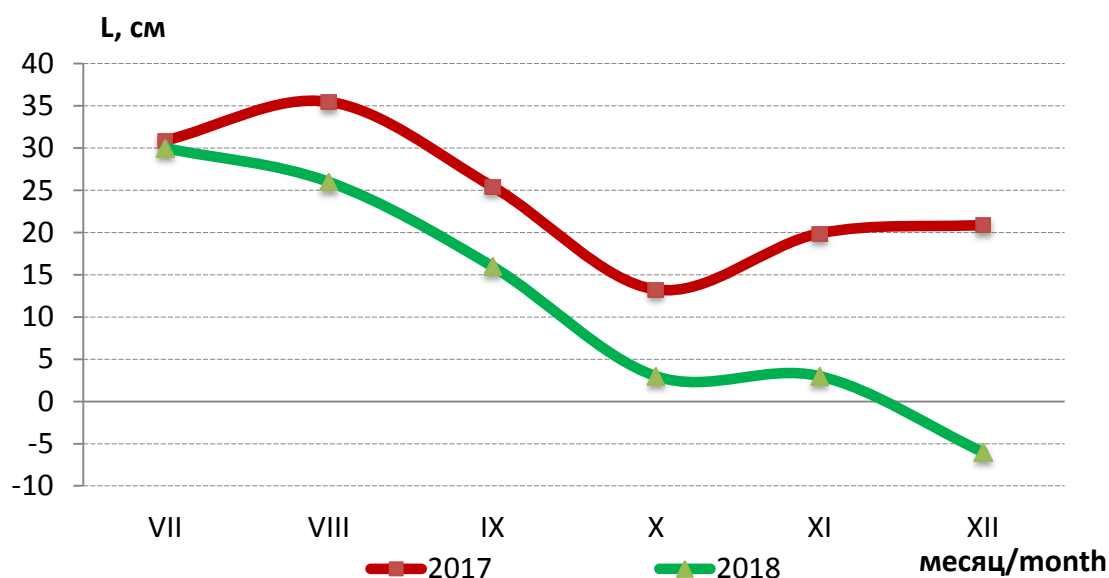


Fig. 1 Seasonal run of the Caspian Sea level in the second half of 2018 as compared to 2017

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 Makhachkala

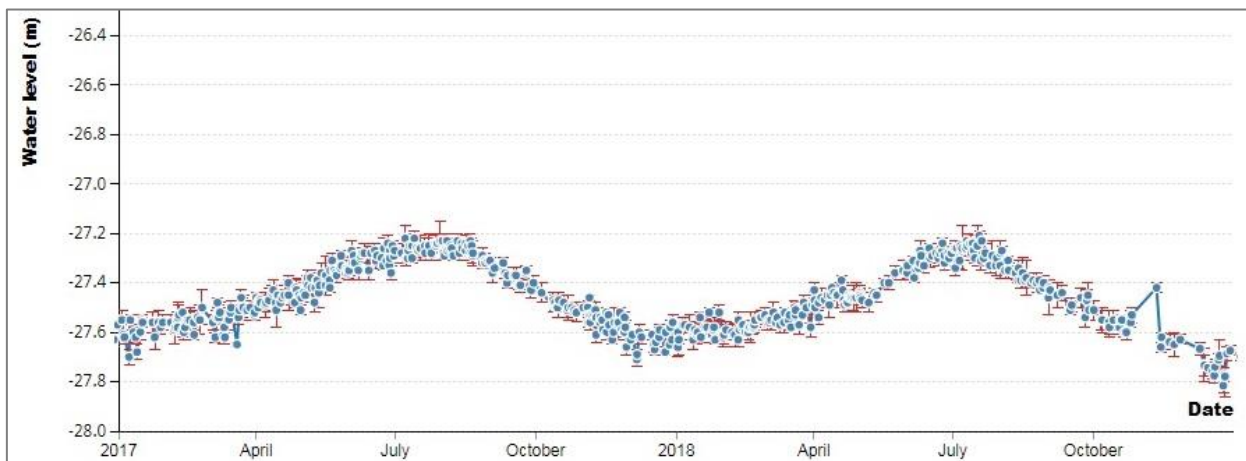


Fig. 2. Changes of the Caspian Sea level in the period from 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2018 (CMEMS data)

The satellite monitoring data shows that the mean Caspian Sea level did not differ substantially in 2018 from that of the previous year and stayed around the mark -28.0 BS^2 . In 2019, the sea level “started” with lower value than in the beginning of 2018, and the Volga River annual inflow is preliminarily projected normal, the mean level value is expected staying close to $-28.0 \text{ BS} (\pm 5 \text{ cm})$ in 2019 as well.

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 and the Volga River discharge in 2019 will be given in the next issue of the bulletin