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Assessment of marine fish species diversity in the Shatt Al-Arab River and Al-Hammar Marsh: a comparative study before and during salt intrusion

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Abstract:

The present study aimed to evaluate the effect of salt intrusion on the presence of marine species in the Shatt Al-Arab River and Al-Hammar Marsh. Thirty-five species of marine fish belonging to 24 genera and 17 families were recorded during the salt intrusion period entering the selected study stations: Abu Al-Khaseeb (first station), Sindbad (second station), and Al-Hammar marsh (third station), of which 28 species were in the first station, 18 species in the second station, and 21 species in the third stations for the period from January 2018 to December 2018, the highest similarity percentage (64.3%) was between the first and second stations, and the lowest (40%) was between the first and third stations.

The total number of marine fish entering the Shatt Al-Arab and the Al-Hammar Marsh before and during the salt intrusion period were: Forty species were recorded entering Abu Al-Khasseb station, twenty-six were obtained at Sindbad