

Changes in diversity and composition of fish species in the Southern Benguela Ecosystem of Namibian

Authors:
Nashima FP.

Institution:
University of Namibia

Corresponding author:
Nashima FP.

ABSTRACT:

Species diversity and composition of fish in bottom-trawling were investigated in the Namibian waters between Oranjemund and Henties Bay. Sampling followed a systematic transects design, along latitude gradients (28 - 22°S) at different seafloor depths (100 - 500 m). In total 21 transects were sampled containing 105 stations. At each trawled station the whole catch were sorted into species type and the total body mass (kg) of each fish species was recorded. Results indicated significant differences in means of fish species diversity at different seafloor depths. The Hierarchical Cluster Analysis indicated a complex interaction of gradients which have influenced the pattern in species composition. Differences in species diversity of fish at seafloor depths might be a result of absence of disturbances by bottom-trawling at shallower depths. It was concluded that environmental variability's of the Namibian coast influence fish species composition.

Keywords:

Seafloor depths, species diversity, species composition.