



SUPERVISION ABOVE DUTCH CRAB *RHITHROPANOPEUS HARRISI TRIDENTATA* (MAITLAND) OF PRIDUNAYSKIY LAKE KITAIY IN 2007

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Lake Kitay is located on the north-west of Kiliya. The lake is prolate in meridional direction, its length is 25 km, area – 60 km², volume of waters – 102 mln. m³, the greatest width is 3,7 km. The depth at the time of maximal flood is up to 5,5 m. Mineralization constitutes 1290-3490 mgs/l. Temperature, amount of cut-in oxygen is more or less stable on all lakescape. Soils are silt, sand, silt-covered shelly soil and other. All of it, obviously, gave a crab suitable conditions for dwelling. Presently the Dutch crab is an ordinary type of macrozoobenthos, feed object of many bentophages fishes. Attention, however, spared it from the side of hydrobiologists, ichthyologists. The purpose of the work was to study size-mass description of this species.

64 samples of crabs, collected in lake Kitay in 2007 on loose and stony soils in off-shore area by scraper breadthways 0,3 m codes and by hand, served as material, lifting stone for examination. The range of depths was inspected up to 1 m. Crabs were collected in the central part of lakes (56 ex.) and in the lower reaches (8 ex.).

Material was fixed in 4% solution of formalin and treated by standard method. Taken into account were length, width of karapaks, half, fecundity, raw formalin mass. The collected crabs as to the length of karapaks were divided into two size classes: less than 10 mm and 10-15 mm. It was established during research, that about 90 % of general number of crabs – shallow (56 ex.), most large (5 ex.) make 10 % from the total number.

Length of size karapaks crabs class was less than 10 mm in Chervoniy Yare was (51 ex.) from 4,4 mm to 9,3 mm, in the lower reaches (8 ex.) – from 4,3 mm to 9,3 mm, i.e. they in fact coincided.

Attitude of karapaks length toward the width for the most shallow crabs was from 0,715 to 0,928, at large ones – from 0,715 to 0,839. Mass of the most shallow crabs in Chervoniy Yare and in the lower reaches of the lake constitutes, accordingly, 0,212 g and 0,224 g.

In June, 2007 in tests there were females with eggs: three measuring less than 10 mm and one 10-15 mm. A middle amount of eggs on one female of size A one was about 3070, for larger female - about 7990, i.e. transition of crabs from a size class into a size class of 10-15 mm brings less than 10 mm to the increase of individual fecundity.