



Aquatic Macrophyte Indices as Tool for Ecological Status of Ohrid Lakes

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Accepted November 12, 2012

Abstract: Ecological status of lakes according to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to be partially based on the species composition of the aquatic macrophyte community. We tested assessment method to define the ecological status of Lake Ohrid, the macrophyte community in response to eutrophication issue in lake water. Macrophyte index is often very good practice in the European lake types. This work is aimed to the compilation and evaluation in the use of macrophytes as bioindicators of lake ecological status. In total 71 different species recognized are grouped in 7 different belts of macrophytes. On the basis of the catalogue of indicator species, in combination with the abundance of the species, “a macrophyte index” was devised which ranges from 1 (unpolluted) to 5 (heavily polluted), each groups of values of macrophyte index represented by a different colour of grey-scale (Melzer, 1999). The main objectives are the study of the disturbances and requirements of Ohrid Lake and the suitability of ecological assessment methods for the monitoring of the ecological status, since at the present there is not an official macrophytes sampling protocol.

Key words: *Lake Ohrid, Ecological status, Water Framework Directive (WFD).*

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#This paper has been presented at IC-2012, Shkoder, Albania