

BIG STORY

big story

Where have all the fishes of Tubli Bay gone?

Dredging and discharge of sewage have completely wiped out the marine wealth in Tubli Bay, once the largest incubator of shrimp and crustaceans. The Daily Tribune takes a look into the sad state of the Bay, once the biggest shrimp conservatory in the whole of Arabian Gulf



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ABU MOHAMMED
A LOCAL RESIDENT

TDI | Manama

Thamer Taifoor

Local people's talks often revolve around the Tubli Bay - how it was once rich with marine life, probably one of the largest incubators of shrimp and crustaceans in the Gulf and how it has been destroyed by human intervention. "Tubli Bay was the best place for fishing. It was the biggest shrimp conservatory in the whole of Arabian Gulf, where all kinds of fishes were found once," remembered Abu Hussein, 40, a local resident.

Dredging and discharge of sewage have completely wiped out the marine wealth in Tubli Bay.

There are no incidents of fish



Waheed Al Dosari



Mohammad Jawad

deaths in the Gulf of Tubli. The images of fish deaths in the social media circulated recently were very old ones. How can fish deaths occur if there are no fishes?

The head of Bahraini Fishermen's Association, Waheed Al-Dosari said there were no cases of fish deaths in Tubli Bay, although it occurs in the sea as a result of high temperature, especially during the afternoon, a natural phenomenon.

Abu Mohammed joins in to comment: "Today there are no fishes and fishing in Tubli Bay. All the fishermen have to go beyond Sitra bridge to fish. In the past, we used to hunt the 'groupers' 'Hamour' and the 'Maed' in the shallow waters, but today neither 'Hamour' nor 'Maed' is seen, nothing is left in the sea.

On Fridays, the colour of the sea turns similar to the colour of milk, due to the chemicals

that are thrown into the sewage. These chemicals have a foul smell like rotten eggs. The chemicals have left no life in the Gulf of Tubli, except for some algae that were able to adapt to those substances and survive."

Says Abu Ali, a local citizen: "90 per cent of marine life has been affected by the sewage. Most of the village residents practice fishing and know the sea very well. The sea in the area needs to be rehabilitated. There are strange calcareous and chemical deposits in the seabed that prevent coral sediments from growing. There are chemicals that create oil stains on the water surface, thus preventing oxygen from reaching under the water. This has led to the death of living creatures, destroying their homes and coral reefs.

The residents suggest that the authorities should do what

the Turkish government did in Istanbul's Golden Horn Bay - clean the bottom of the bay and then put pumps down the water and on the surface to create ocean currents capable of transporting oxygen into water.

"The Gulf of Tubli has been destroyed by unscrupulous human activities," said environmental activist Mohammed Jawad.

"The sea cannot be returned to 50 per cent of what it used to be, but trying to recover it is better than leaving a quagmire that threatens public health," he said.

"The treated water discharged from the sewage station in Tubli Bay is suitable for irrigating crops only. Due to its high transportation costs, the plant sheds 70 per cent of the water in the Gulf, and only 30 per cent is used to irrigate crops. This water has withdrawn oxygen, and it certainly affects the proportion of oxygen in the Gulf, especially as the movement of the waves and tides is very weak because of the obstruction of the canal in Al Ma'amir," says Mohammed Jawad

The environmental activist stressed that the problem of the Tubli Bay cannot be solved in any way without expanding the Al-Ma'amir canal, and turning it from a buried street as it is now to a bridge wherein water can cross from below it. This helps in the flow of water and accelerates the movement of tides and waves in the Gulf."



Trying to revive Tubli Bay is better than leaving a quagmire that threatens public health, says Mohammed Jawad, activist