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WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: THE BRAILA SMALL ISLAND EXPOSED TO NOISE POLLUTION

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Abstract

Braila Small Island is situated on the Danube, in Braila County, Romania being considered a protected area, in the category V IUCN - Natural Parks. Because of aggressive tourism, inappropriate behaviour of the tourists as well as of the residents, as well as of the fact that the navigation channels are open and the transit is made by engine boats, the whole ecosystem is endangered by noise pollution. The purpose of this paper is to determine the level of the noise pollution emerging from the human intrusion in the south-east of Braila Small Island, on the left border of the Vâlcium Channel, off the villages Marasu, Bandoiu and Tacau. This area was chosen from the entire Natural Park since the noise level was proven to be high. The noise measurements were made during July - September 2013. From the statistical analysis of equivalent sound level it is shown that the minimum noise level is around 25-30dB, the maximum noise level is in around 70-80dB and the average noise level is around 45-50dB for August-September. From the noises spectral analysis it was seen that the noise peaks in Braila Small Island were obtained for the low frequency noise ranges (63-125Hz) for August-September time interval. From the experimental data it was seen that the areas situated across the villages Marasu, Bandoiu and Tacau are the most disturbed from the acoustic point of view, which certifies the negative influence of human activities on the natural park quality.

Key words: ecosystem, noise map, noise pollution, protected area

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