

[Research]

Climatic potential of sport tourism in Anzali-Rezvanshahr coastal belt, South-west of Caspian Sea, Iran

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this research is to identify eco-tourist capabilities and to determine temporal and spatial suitable area in order to attract athletic tourism in the north of Iran from Anzali coast to Rezvanshahr. Investigation method in this research is descriptive - analytic based on using attributive / library studies and due to existing capabilities in this region, the climatic rest area had been specified by performing Beicker and Olgay climogram method and had been dealt with studying the relation of climate with athletic coastal activities such as swimming, Aerial sports, football, parachuting and Athletics Track. Finally, regarding the results from above three methods, a communality was taken for more exact determination of human climatic rest area and suitable temporal area of performing athletic activities. The results had been indicated that in Anzali coastal belt to Rezvanshahr, June, July, August, and September are enjoying human rest climate where in Anzali shore June is suitable for Aerial sports and swimming. July and August are useful for swimming and September have temperate climate for football in Rezvanshahr shore. June and July are suitable for football and swimming. August have temperate climate for swimming and September is enjoy from an optimal condition for playing football and parachuting .So, regarding the results, we can engaged with optimal planning in order to attract naturalist and specially to attract athletic tourism.

Keywords: *Naturalism, Eco-Tourism, Guilan, Sport tourism, Iran .*

INTRODUCTION

Today, the linking between tourism and sport has created a new kind of tourism, namely, sport tourism which is widely interesting for the people all over the world. Sport tourist is one who visits from his/ her interested sport course as a spectator by a sport tour, and sport tourism is participation in various athletic movement whether active or passive. Coastal regions had been attractive for tourist since long and they are among the very valuable eco-tourism capabilities in each country (Evans, 2001 and Muller, 2000). Coastal area with the nice combining of sea and shore had been creates comfortable environments which have the ability to attract the tourist from the distance place (Romeril, 1985). Sport is one of the most important activities of tourist and coastal regions are the regions

susceptible for doing some coastal athletic activities (Theophile, 1993 and Wearer, 2001 and Fennel, 1992). Caspian sea as the largest lake of the earth has created a lot of marine and environmental interest for the countries around itself. In the southern shores of Caspian sea there are environmental favorable conditions, very nice natural and tourism perspective. The coastal line of Golestan, Mazandaran and especially Guilan bank by a length about 600 km enjoys various natural tourist attractions and has sandy shores and beautiful landscapes, therefore it is one of the largest tourism focuses in North of Iran.

This area is one of the most favorable regions of Iran to develop tourism industry (Beyk Mohammadi, 2006) because of its great potentials such as: enjoying

natural favorable factors and special weather in summer including suitable temperature, sunny hours of days, sea water temperature, needed humidity, forest cover and natural beautiful landscape. (Lew, 2001 and Kaiser, 1998 and Syme, 1999) Also easy access to Tehran and the other high-crowded area of Iran, enjoying welfare and recreation installations are the existing facilities which can attract a wide range of tourist. (Beyk Mohammadi, 2006) With regard to existing potential in this area, eco-tourism attraction, especially athletic tourism in coastal area can be an important resource to increase productivity and to improve current situation. Athletic tourism in Iran is a newly-established issue and with introducing cultural heritage and tourism department in early 2004, the athletic tourism committee appeared from in the cultural heritage and tourism department. In August 2005, athletic tourism mutual agreement was signed by this department and national Olympic committees (Kiakajouri and Roudgarnezhad, 2007). But, today in the global level, according to various national, regional and global dimensions, all international institute such as International Sports Federation (IFS), National Olympic Committees (NOC), United Nations Environmental Policy (UNEP), Environment Olympic Commission (EOC) are participating in developing and promoting stable developments in the sport and tourism dimensions (Rajaei and Rajabi, 2006). The result of a research (Ramezani, 2006) which had been performed in order to identify climatic comfort area of Guilan shore in 2006 showed that, planning for environmental potential including coastal eco-tourism and integrated management of shore need to use scientific methods.

Using geographical information system (GIS) in elementary investigations of possibility measurement of this potential indicated that coastal area of Astara, Rezvanshahr to Kiashahr and Langerood to Ramsar are enjoying mere advantages in desirability of coastal environmental comfort eco-tourism in Guilan shores. These potential advantages can be turned to actual advantages by more professional studies and measuring the whole natural and human dimensions.

These advantages can be reinforced due to port condition and coastal market with Azerbaijan country and can be associated with employment and a healthy environment area by performing more and detailed studies so that Guilan shores are not under the unprincipled aggression. Coastal area of Hashtpar has the least desirability rate of environmental comfort during hot season of the year (Ramezani, 2006)

The study area in this research is coastal region of Anzali Township to the Shore of Rezvanshahr Township in Guilan province- North of Iran (Table 1). The main question of this research is that, regarding the climatic condition in the study area; Is there any capability to attractive athletic tourism in this area? Three methods of Beckler, Olgay climogram and athletic model of Kay and Vamplew had been used to investigate favorable months for tourism. Coastal athletic activities of swimming, Aerial sports, football, parachuting and athletics track by performing Kay and Vamplew model were investigated, and the area was Proved as a suitable temporal area in order to plan for athletic tourism; meanwhile it can be an auxiliary tool for planner in constructing a favorable environment.

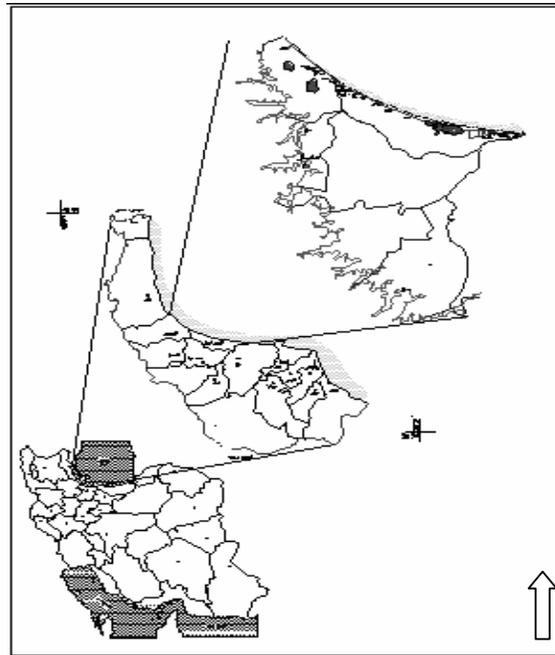


Table 1: Geographical situation of area in Gilan province - North of Iran

Data and methods

Meteorology data of Anzali , Kasma , Pounel , Shanderman and Pilambara station was used during 1991 to 2001 with uses of topographic maps .Climatic comfort scope in the studied region had been specified by performing Beicker , Olgay climogram , Key and Vamplew methods. The aim was to investigate the relation of climate elements with coastal athletic activities of swimming , Aerial sports , football , parachuting and athletic track. Finally, with regard to the results of performing three above methods communality was taken to reach a more exact determination of human bioclimatic comfort scope and suitable temporal scope of performing athletic activities.

Beicker method

In 1979, Beicker dealt to prepare bioclimatic inducible map of Germany according to the following formula which has a great validity in international level.

$$Cp = (0.26 + 0.34 V^{0.632}) (36.5 - T)$$

Where (Cp) is Cooling Power rate of environment due to the difference between body and weather temperature in m/cal per second / cm² had been indicated, where wind speed (V) is in m/s and (T) is the average daily temperature in Celsius scale. Table 1, shows the index of cooling power rate of environment and bioclimatic stimulation threshold based on Beicker model.

Table 1: determining the Beicker climatic condition

The kind of bio-climatic stimulation	Cooling power	Weather condition
Pressure	Cp=0-4	Warm , hot , humidity and unpleasant
Comfort	Cp=5-9	Warm and endurable
Comfort	Cp=10-19	Comfort
Slight stimulation	Cp=20-29	Cool
Middle stimulation	Cp=30-39	Cold
Average pressure	Cp=40-49	Very cold
Severe pressure	Cp=50-59	Unpleasant cold
Intolerable	Cp=60-70	Intolerable high cool

(Razjouyan , 1987)

Kay and Vamplew method

Kay and Vamplew (2002) had performed this model in England in order to study the climatic effects in one group of sports. In this method, 5 climatic data in clued temperature degree, barometric pressure, wind, precipitations and mist had been investigated.

By determining approximate output, effectiveness rate of this data on various athletic groups had been divided in 5 classifications including slight, low, remarkable, Significant and high effectiveness

rate.Kay and Vamplew tried to provide suitable time in determining climatic comfort for various and wide type of this athletic activities by providing this model so that with climatic changes one can be aware of suitable temporal scope for performing this activities (Kay and Vamplew , 2002). In this research, due to conformity of this climatic model with the studied region climate and the studied coastal area, some kind of coastal sports including swimming, Aerial sports, football and athletic track, had been selected and analyzed.

Table 2: Subjective evaluation of climate parameters effect on one category of sports

sport	mist	precipitation	wind	temperature	Barometric pressure
Swimming	1	1	2	5	1
Aerial sports	4	1	5	5	1
Football	4	5	3	4	2
Parachuting	4	4	3	3	2
Athletics track	4	4	5	3	2

Key point: 1-slight 2-low 3-high 4-significance 5-very high
Output of this five group is as follow :

Table 3 :Output of five climatic group of Kay and Vamplew model

Effectiveness rate	temperature	Barometric pressure	wind	precipitation	mist	Key point
Slight	<10	1005-1014	<0.5	30-90	≤1	1
Low	10-15	1012-1020	0.5-1.5	90-150	≤2	2
High	15-20	1020-1035	1.3-2	150-200	≤3	3
Significance	10-24	1035-1045	2-2.4	200-300	≤4	4
Very high	15-24	1045>	2>	200>	≤5	5

Olgay Climogram

Olgay climogram identifies the human physiological comfort condition with regard to their around environment climatic. In this method, two climatic data of monthly, temperature and humidity on Olgay climogram are used to determine various climatic region types. Transferring a monthly temperature and humidity of the weather of a region during a specific time on the bio-climatic table determines the duration of human bio-climatic comfort. Human physiological states due to effect of temperature and humidity in some area

have specified this climogram. So, it can be a useful and comprehensive study in order to determine human bio-climatic comfort month due to climatic data of temperature degree and humidity.

RESULTS

The communality of the three methods of Beicker , olgay climogram and Kay and Vamplew shown in table 4 ,indicates that due to the results in Anzali township September,August,June and July are suitable for human bio-climatic comfort and performing athletic activities.

Table 4. Communality of Beicker , Olgay climogram and Kay and Vamplew moded in Anzali township

Method	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Nov	Dec	Feb
Beicker method	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	*
Olgay climogram	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kay & Vamplew model	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suitable months in Anzali	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Regarding the results of Kay and Vamplew model, June is the best time for swimming and Aerial sports. July and August are suitable for swimming and September has suitable climate for swimming and football sports. In table 5, like the above sector, the communality of

these three methods had been taken in Rezvanshahr township, With regard to the results, suitable time in human bio-climatic comfort and performing studied athletic activities in Rezvanshahr township had been specified.

Table 5: Communality of Beicker, Olgay climogram and Kay and Vamplew model in Rezvanshahr township

Method	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Nov	Dec	Feb
Beicker method	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	*
Olgay climogram	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kay & Vamplew model	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suitable months in Anzali	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

According to the results of Rezvanshahr township, June, July, August and September have climatic condition of human bio-climatic comfort. Regarding the Key and Vamplew model, June and July are suitable for football and swimming, August is suitable for swimming and September has suitable normal condition for playing football and parachuting.

Totally, the above results in Anzali coastal belt to Rezvanshahr imply that June, July, August and September have the best climatic condition to attract athletic tourism and June is suitable for football activity, swimming and aerial sports .July has normal climate for swimming and football, August is suitable for swimming and September has suitable climatic condition for performing parachuting, swimming and football.

Conclusion

It is Suggested to:

-Hold multi sports including swimming,

cycling and athletic track in Anzali coastal area.

-Hold athletic camping in order to encourage athletes create suitable installations in national and international levels.

-Use experts aware of standard conditions of open door athletic activities including standard rood construction in order to do athletic track, appropriate path for cycling and etc.

-Select some area as athletic sites in the shore out of urban area such as Hasanrood shore and Dinachal bank in order to link them to the other athletic sites, of this area, It must connect this area and the region susceptible athletic tourism around it in whole North-west bank to develop efficiency of Anzali banks to Rezvanshahr and to place it in the regional development flow.

-Encourage suitable advertisements to attract internal and external investors.

-Hold festivals and eco-tourist and athletic meetings to introduce these regions.

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