The rehabilitation of Fasht Al Adham

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Abstract

The existence of many kinds of fish in the regional water of Bahrain is related to the existence of the coral reef. It has long been believed that Fasht Al Adham is the mother of all coral reefs in Bahrain for the appropriate environment it provides for so many of the marine life.

Coral reefs are considered to be a safe habitat, especially for many shell fish. Other fish find it a refuge to feed and hide. They are also considered to be a safe haven for many marine species of economical and environmental importance.

The east coast of the Kingdom of Bahrain, running from Fasht Al Adhm to Ras El Barr is considered to be rich with many kinds of fish and is an appropriate environment for the growth of shrimps. It is also an area where a large number of “dugong” and sea turtle are found due to the existence of a large area of sea weeds. It is believed that the Fasht Al Adhm contributed heavily to the existence of other marine environments southwards.

Fasht Al Adhm is estimated to be 5000 to 6000 years old basis recent geological studies. It is also considered to be one of the largest coral reefs as it is estimated to be 85 km² in size.

Many places on the Fasht Al Adhm are found to be covered with precipitants and sediments from reclamation projects carried out within the vicinity. Projects such as building the “Jozor Al Door” as tourist attraction projects.

In the early 80’s Fasht Al Adhm went through many serious incursions. The building of several industries on its banks, the dumping of industrial waste and land reclamation projects, all contributed heavily and seriously to the degradation of its cond-

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operation. Hence, this study looks into the possibilities of rehabilitating Fasht Al Adhm through various techniques such as coral or pearl plantation. It also suggests converting Fasht Al Adhm into a natural sanctuary and establishing rules and regulation in order to protect and maintain what is left from the coral reef their economical and social importance.