

REPORT OF FISHING SECTOR IN LAKE VICTORIA PARTICULAR MWANZA REGION AND ITS CHALLENGES

1.0 Introduction

Lake Victoria is the Major contributor to fish production in Tanzania and it accounts for over 60% of the Tanzania inland waters fish production. The lake used to be a multi species fishery and Haplochromines and Tilapia (*Oreochromis Spp*) in 1980s back ward were the main fish stocks in Lake Victoria. Other species of commercial importance were of the genera *Bagrus*, *Claries*, *Propopterus*, *Mormyrus*, *Synodontis*, *Labeo*, *Schilbe*, *Alestes*, and *Barbus* etc.

Nile Perch (*Lates niloticus*) was introduced in 1950s aimed at improving the fisheries and species diversity. ..Today Lake Victoria Fisheries is dominated by three major species, namely two exotic species *Lates Niloticus*(Nile Perch), *Oreochromis niloticus* (NileTilapia) and an indigenous species *Rastrineobola argentea*(Dagaa). Nile Perch has become the major component Of the Lake Victoria biomass and source of fish export to international markets while Dagaa is for Local and regional markets and Nile Tilapia for domestic markets.

2.0 number of fishers and people in fisheries related activities

The Lake Victoria fisheries is of economic importance to people living in the Lake basin. The Lake fisheries provide income, employment, source of animal protein, source of revenue and foreign Exchange to government.The Lake fisheries provide income, employment, source of animal protein, source of revenue and foreign Exchange to government.

Lake Victoria Fisheries in Tanzania employs 109,397 full time fishers (2016 Frame Survey) out of which 45,616 operate in Mwanza region. Over one million people are employed in fisheries related activities such as Fish business, Fish processing, manufacturing of Fishing gears, Construction of boats, Fishing net sell etc) and multiplier effect to more than five million people who benefit from the Lake Victoria resources.

3.0 Fish Production

In 2008 a total of 579,853 metric tones of fish were landed in Lake Victoria Tanzania. In 2010 a total of 547,502.52 metric tones. in 2011 a total of 559,296 Metric tones, In 2014 a total of 567,833.85 while In 2015 a total of 609,024.40 metric tons of fish were produced in Lake Victoria Tanzania out of which 327,676.30 metric tones were produced in Mwanza region.

4.0 Number of fish processing factories

Before the development of the Nile Perch fillets export market, fish from Lake Victoria were sold at local and regional markets. Development of Nile Perch export markets in 90s gave rise to the construction of eleven (11) Nile Perch fish processing factories at Mwanza (7), Musoma (2) and Bukoba (2) out of which only nine (9) fish Processing Factories are working. Two factories have closed down one in Mwanza and Musoma respectively due to various reason ranging to availability of raw materials(fish), business competitions and markets, financial and administrative challenges of individual factories.The nine fish Processing factories in operation employs 2,465 workers

5.0 Effect of illegal fishing and water pollution to fishing activities

. Higher fishing pressure and illegal fishing has Nile Perch fishery exhibits reduction in age/length at first maturity, reduction in catch per unit effort, higher proportion of immature Nile Perch (below 50cm total length). and Increased proportion of immature fish in the catches. Furthermore Pollution and ecosystem change affects the sustainability of fish resources. Pollution in water body reduces biodiversity of aquatic organism leaving only those which can tolerate.. Eutrophication arising from increased inflow of nutrients has resulted into proliferation of water hyacinth(*Eichhornia crassipes*) and .disappearance of indigenous fish species.

6.0 Government effort to tackle illegal fishing and water pollution

Effort is being done to control fishing illegalities by creating awareness to fishers on good fishing practices which don't affect the resources and its environment) and the effect of illegal fishing, The government in collaboration with other fisheries stakeholders enforces the Fisheries Act

No. 22 of 2003 and its Regulations 2009 by conducting surveillance and confiscating illegal fishing gears and apprehending culprits and took them to the court for legal action..

7.0 Government Support to Fishermen

Sustainability of the fisheries resources of any water body including the Lake Victoria require stakeholders compliance to the fisheries rules and regulations and more generally compliance to the agreed management measures for fisheries resources protection and sustainable utilization;

- i) Create awareness to fishermen through public meetings, radio and Tv programmer and workshops on sustainable fishing and utilization of fisheries resources.
- ii) The government have been mobilizing fishermen for form cooperative societies to enable them access to loans from banks which enable them to improve fishing by having modern fishing facilities.
- iii) The government through annual budget provide grant to enable fishermen purchase legal fishing gears, boats and engines