THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (MAAIF)

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT 2010



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MIN

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1.5 Fisheries Production statistics

Uganda has approximately 20 percent of its surface areas as water. This comprises five major lakes (Victoria, Albert, Kyoga, Edward and George and about 160 minor lakes, rivers and wetlands). These water bodies, if well managed; have an estimated production potential of over 800,000 tons of fish although the current catch is estimated at 430,000 tones.

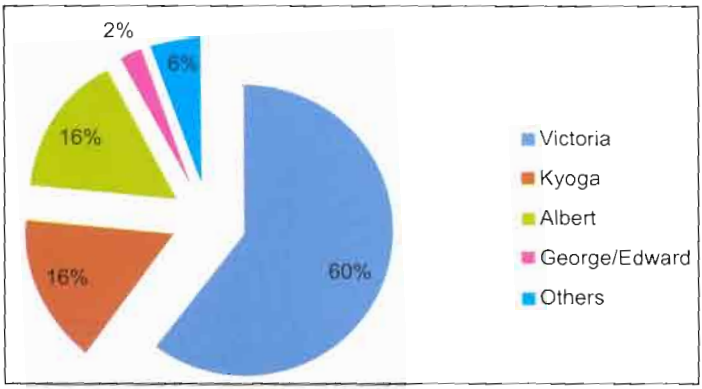
The Fisheries sector remains the second highest foreign exchange earner for Uganda. Investment in the sector is estimated at US$ 200 million with employment of over 700,000 people. During 2009, the fishing industry continued with a strong position in the country' economy and is currently number two to Coffee in export earnings with the Nile perch, Nile tilapia and

Mukene forming the mainstay of the fisheries. Nile perch products represent over 90 percent of exports. Fisheries remain one of Uganda's key industries although its share of total exports has declined rapidly.

The fishing subsector showed signs of recovery after three consecutive years of falling output. In 2009/10, the subsector is estimated to have grown by 2.6 percent compared to a decline of 7.0 percent in 2008/09. The recovery in the fishing activities is mainly attributed to the controls imposed by the fisheries authorities.

Fisheries activities provide an important source of livelihood for many people in Uganda. The most important source in 2009 was Lake Victoria contributing 60% followed by L. Kyoga and L. Albert respectively as shown by the figure below.

Fig 4: Proportion of Fish catch by water body, 2009



Although Uganda has more than 350 fish species, the Nile perch (Lates niloticus) and Tilapia (*Orechromis niloticus*) remain the most important, making up 46% and 38% of the total respectively. The sector depends on natural water bodies which account for about 20% of Uganda's total surface area. In 2007 the total amount of fish catch was 374,300 metric tons, an increase from 367,200 metric tons in 2006. Lake Victoria - the largest tropical lake and second largest freshwater lake in the world contributed 60% of the annual fish catch (221,300 metric tons) while other lakes such as Kyoga and Albert contribute 16% (60,000 MT) and 16% (56,500 MT) respectively.

As the numbers of people depending on the sector continue to increase the catches from Lake Victoria are dwindling fast, the situation for the other lakes is worse.

Table 14. Quantities of fish landed by water body and related value for 2008, 2009 and estimate for 2010

Water body	2008		2009		2010 (projections)	
	Quantity ,000t	Value (millions)	Quantity, ,000t	Value (millions)	Quantity ,000t	Value (millions)
Victoria	219.5	636,550	221.3	818,810	220.4	1,278,320
Kyoga	60	174,000	60	222,000	70	406,000
Albert	56.5	163,850	56.5	209,050	60.5	350,900
George/ Edward	8.8	25,520	8.8	32,560	9	52,200
Others	20	58,000	20	74,000	22	127,600
Total	364.8	1,057,920	366.6	1,356,420	381.9	2,215,020

Source: Department of Fisheries Resources, MAAIF

Table 15. Retail value of fish catch by 2008, 2009 and 2010

Fish Species	Retail Value per Kg		
	2008	2009	2010 (projections)
Nile Perch (Mputa)	4,000	5,000	7,000
Tilapia (Ngenge)	3,000	4,000	6,000
Cat fish (Male)	2,500	3,000	4,000
Bagrus (Semutundu)	4,000	5,000	10,000
Mukene	1,000	1,500	2,000
Average	2,900	3,700	5,000

Source: Department of Fisheries Resources, MAAIF

Table 16: Trend of fisheries variables between 2000-2008 for the Ugandan part of L. Victoria

VARIABLE	YEARS				
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008
No of landing sites	597	552	554	481	435
No of fishers	34,889	41,674	37,721	54,148	51,916
No of fishing boats	15,544	18,609	16,775	24,148	21,836
Fish shades	56	33	21	54	68
Fish stores	78	6	11	18	34
Toilet facilities	-	95	41	171	196

Source: Department of Fisheries Resources (DFR), Frame survey data

As seen from the table above, it is evident that the number of fishers and fishing boats are on an increasing trend on Lake Victoria. Though data from other lakes is not available, the situation is similar. The open access policy to fisheries resources has been cited as the major cause of increase in fishing effort. In an attempt to reduce fishing effort through licensing, the Department of fisheries resources has finished the vetting exercise and shortlisted fishers to be licensed national wide. Results of this exercise with estimates of revenue to accrue from it are summarized in the table below;

Table 17: No. of fishers to be licensed and revenue estimates by Lake

NUMBERS	Victoria	Albert	Kyoga	George- Edward	Others	TOTALS
Vessel Licenses	11827	2144	2,204	334	94	16,603
Fishing license	8197	1623	1,257	510	100	11,687
Artisanal processors	1799	379	588	2	-	2,768
Mongers license	1763	668	644	321	-	3,396
Boat builders	98	32	8	3	-	141
Gear repairers	51	71	17	2	-	141
Fish Trucks	663	47	30	-	-	740
Revenue (000)	**1,904,675**	**335,975**	**329,675**	**62,550**	**11,900**	**2,644,775**
% Contribution	72	12.7.	12.5	2.4	0.4	

Source: DFR licensing data 2010

On the other hand, there is an increase in the number of fishing gears being used on all lakes in Uganda. Unfortunately most of the gears used are illegal. The table below gives the trend of fishing gears as per frame survey results of 2000-2008 on Lake Victoria.

Table 18: Trend of fishing gears between 2000-2008 for the Ugandan part of L. Victoria

GEARS	YEARS				
	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008
Gillnets <5"	54,454	52,846	56,246	91,740	76,908
Gill nets of or > 5"	243,209	374,642	402,351	498,037	327,098
Mukene nets	2,452	1,296	1,181	1,608	2,334
Scoop nets		555	292	590	752
Longline hooks	254,453	926,959	968,848	2,285,609	2,763,799
Handlines hooks	4,585	6,547	8,335	15,860	19,627
Beach/boat seines	811	880	954	1,425	1,649
Cast nets	1,276	858	659	631	1,000
Monofilament nets			845		11,203

Source: Frame survey data

Law Enforcement.

The use of destructive indiscriminate fishing gears and methods is among the major causes of declining fish stocks. Law enforcement is one of the key activities conducted to increase compliance to fisheries regulations thus enabling stock recovery. Fish transport trucks are normally inspected for immature fish and illegal fishing gears impounded and destroyed. Current results for law enforcement are summarized below;

Table 19: Results of law enforcement July 2009 - June 2010

REGION	Trucks inspe-cted	Imma-ture fish fish(kg)	Nets	Seines	MF	Cast Nets	Boats	Tycoons	Traps	Cases
ALBERT-EDWARD-GEORGE	4	10102	717	15	917	3	16	0	13	87
VICTORIA	0	5300	3010	590	2908	231	479	0	60	174
KYOGA	0	1843	2078	143	234	45	0	264	80	39
TOTALS	**4**	**17245**	**5805**	**748**	**4059**	**279**	**495**	**264**	**153**	**300**

Source: DFR Monitoring, Control and Surveillance data

Restocking and Aquaculture.

Efforts to boost Aquaculture for reducing pressure on capture fisheries and meeting the fish demand gap are underway. Under the AG 66B Support to Aquaculture-Fish fry project, a total of 2,718 fish farmers national wide benefited from 6,773,004 fish fry valued at 1.5 billion. The restocking was made in ponds, small lakes and dams in 2003.

Fish Export trend

Fish exports declined further in 2008/09 by 0.1 percent following an earlier drop of 11.8 percent in 2007/08. As already mentioned, fishing activities have been hampered by the continued depletion of fish stocks from the lakes as a result of over fishing and use of illegal fishing gears that end up catching immature fish.

The fish products exported include fresh fish (not chilled), chilled and frozen fish, dry/smoked fish, fish maws, fish meal, fish oil, fish skins and live (ornamental) fish. Fresh fillets are the main fish products exported from Uganda

accounting for 76% of total quantity and 78% of total value. The European Union (EU) is the major market for Uganda's fish accounting for 75% of total exports. The front runners are France, Belgium and Netherlands

The regional market for fish is gradually rising with the return of peace in southern Sudan and Eastern Congo and export earnings range between US$ 15 to 30 million annually. At the regional level, Kenya, Sudan, D.R. Congo and Rwanda are the major importers of Uganda's fish products.

Table 20: Fish Exports (2002- 2008)

Year	Quantity (tones)	Value ('million US$)	Average Prices (US$/Kg) f.o.b	Percentage of Total Exports
2002	28,000	80	2.587	18.8
2003	25,080	86.8	3.460	17
2004	29,830	101.0	3.386	16
2005	39,201	143.0	3.648	17.6
2006	36,461	145.8	3.999	15.2
2007	31,681	124.7	3.936	9.3
2008	24,965	124.4	4.983	7.2

Source: Department of Fisheries Resources, MAAIF

The Department of Fisheries Resources has noted the continued decline in fish exports recorded from annual export returns. The annual exports of Nile perch have declined from 31,681 to 24,965 tons in 2007 and 2008 respectively. As a result of this, the export earnings from fisheries have reduced from US$ 124.7 million in 2007 to US$ 124.4 million in 2008. Trends for 2009 and 2010 may still show decline unless strict controls on use of illegal fishing gear and control of fishing effort on all lakes.