e) Aquatic plants especially water hyacinth and the Eel Grass produce a lot of organic matter. When this dies and rots at the shallow reaches, they produce unwanted smells and colour that make water unpleasant to people and their livestock.

f) Weed beds of the water nymph and water hyacinth are habitats that habour snail vectors (*Bulinus sp* and *Biomphalaria*) of bilharzia. Information from local fishers indicated that cases of bilharziasis/ schistosomiasis were on the increase especially among vulnerable groups like fishermen, children and women due to their regular contact with lake water where eggs (cercariae) of these vectors easily penetrate through people's soft body parts like between the toes or under the toe nails. People who drink unboiled/untreated lake water may fall victims if such water has cercariae that may penetrate into the body via the alimentary mucosa.

Impacts of Infestation on Fish

a) Habitats infested with the water nymph were associated with fish especially juvenile tilapia as noted from the high concentration of gill nets and actual catches.

b) Weed beds were also reported to deter big sized fishes especially Nile perch and tilapia hence fishing in these beds mainly targeted juvenile tilapia.

Fisheries Conservation

From the fisheries conservation point of view, weed beds protect some fishes especially the tilapias and haplochromines ("nkeje") from predation by providing hiding grounds in which predators such as Nile perch do not easily maneuver during their hunting

Conclusions & Recommendations

a) The three major aquatic weeds of concern on Lake Albert are water hyacinth, the Water Nymph (*Najas horrida*) and the Eel Grass (*Vallisneria spp*).

b) Biological control for water hyacinth is well established despite recurrent hyacinth biomass upsurge.

c) Need to research on biological control of *Najas horrida* and *Vallisneria sp.*

For further information, please contact:

The Director, NaFIRRI
P.O. Box 343 Jinja
Tel: 0434 121369 or 0434 120484
Fax: 0434 120192
Email: firi@infocom.co.ug, director@firi.go.ug or firi@firi.go.ug
Website: www.firi.go.ug
Located on Nile Crescent, Plot 39/45,Jinja
opposite the wagon ferry terminal.

NaFIRRI 2010

NARO
NGETTA ZARDI
LIBRARY

National Fisheries Resources Research Institute

STATUS OF THE FISHERIES OF LAKE ALBERT

DISTRIBUTION OF LANDING

72 landing sites

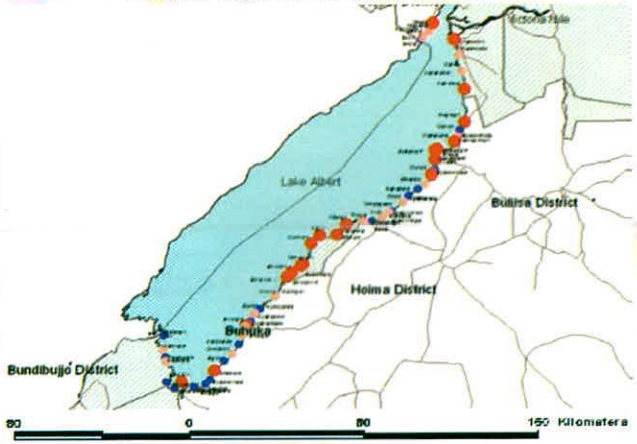
- Nebbi, 6
- Buliisa,14
- Hoima, 38
- Kibaale, 7
- Bundibugyo,7



FISHERS (BOAT CREW)

DISTRICT	NO. FISHERS	%GE
BULIISA	3 820	24.9
BUNDIBUGYO	1 021	6.6
HOIMA	8 438	54.9
KIBAALE	894	5.8
NEBBI	1 191	7.8
TOTAL	15 364	100.0

INTENSITY OF FISHING CRAFTS AT LANDINGS



FISHING BOATS

DISTRICT	NO. BOATS	PERCENTAGE (%)
BULIISA	1 345	23.3
BUNDIBUGYO	512	8.9
HOIMA	3 039	52.7
KIBAALE	434	7.5
NEBBI	436	7.6
TOTAL	5 766	100.0

FISHERS BY GEAR TYPE

Type of gear	*No. fishers*	*%ge*
Small seine (Ragoogi/Muziri net)	4 969	32.3
Multifilament gillnets	4 824	31.4
Long line	4 277	27.8
Beach/Boat seine	438	2.9
Monofilament gillnets	400	2.6
Cast net (Tupa tupa)	178	1.2
Traps	127	0.8
Hand line	26	0.2
Other gears	125	0.8

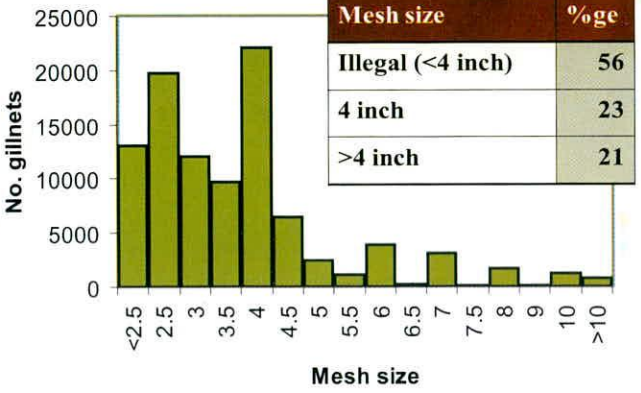
BOATS BY GEAR TYPE

Type of gear	*No. of boats*	*%ge*
Small seine (Ragoogi/Muziri net)	1 619	29.1
Multifilament gillnets	2 033	36.5
Long line	1 533	27.5
Beach/Boat seine	47	0.8
Monofilament gillnets	161	2.9
Cast net (Tupa tupa)	81	1.5
Traps	53	1.0
Hand line	13	0.2
Other gears	32	0.6

BOATS BY GEAR TYPE

(96 655 Multi filament & 1 049 Monofilament)

Mesh size	%ge
Illegal (<4 inch)	56
4 inch	23
>4 inch	21



DISTRIBUTION OF GILLNETS MESH SIZE

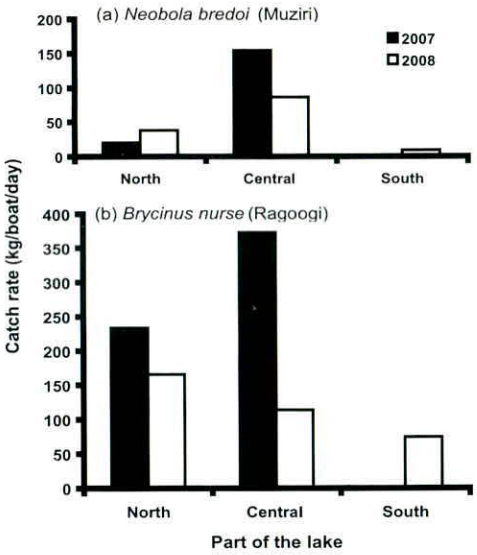
Mesh size	%ge <4"	%ge 4"	%ge >4"
Buliisa	20.9	43.2	35.9
Bundibugyo	85.1	0.4	14.5
Hoima	59.1	21.8	19.1
Kibaale	71.9	7.9	20.1
Nebbi	57.0	30.2	12.8

DISTRIBUTION OF HOOKS

	No. Hooks	%ge
Buliisa	256 301	13.0
Bundibugyo	74 630	3.8
Hoima	1 600 593	80.9
Kibaale	37 500	1.9
Nebbi	9 200	0.5
TOTAL	1 978 224	100.0

TRENDS OF CATCH RATES (kg/boat/day)

Muziri&Ragoogi



Nile perch

