

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CAPTURE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IN IMO STATE

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Imo State is an inland State, blessed with many rivers, streams, flood ponds, and reservoirs. Some of the major bodies of water are Imo River, Urashi River, Njaba river, Uramiri Ukwa river, Otamiiri river, Okwu river, Ogocha river, Ukwutu lake, Oguta lake, Ihioma lake, Iyiorka lake, Abadaba lake and ibina flood ponds (oguta II).

The National Fisheries frame survey of Imo State conducted within the period 2000-2002 indicates that there are 3,504 fishermen in Imo State who earn part of their livelihood from fishing. (Table 1).

The estimated fish landed by these fishermen per annum is 2,522.88 M/tones, which is more than 90% of the fish produced domestically in Imo State.

The dominant fish species from the rivers, lake and flood ponds are: Tilapia sp; Clarias sp., Clarotes sp, Gymnarchus sp, Heterobranchus sp, Hydrocynus sp, Citharinus sp, Synodontis sp, Alestes sp, Labeo sp, Channa sp, Protopterus sp, Mormyrus sp, Ophiocephalus sp, Malapterurus sp.

The fishing gear and craft used by the fishermen is indicated in table 1.

The fish landing sites are indicated in table 2.

Some of the fishermen are organized into cooperative societies. The cooperative societies are indicated in table 3. Some of the cooperative societies are multi purpose cooperative societies. They are engaged in fishing, fish farming, poultry, and crop farming. The constraints that militate against the efficient operation of the fishermen are:

- (a) High cost of fishing inputs
- (b) Insufficient availability of fishing inputs
- (c) Insufficient availability of craft
- (d) High cost of outboard engines
- (e) Lack of credit
- (f) Poor development of fish landing sites
- (g) Crude processing facilities
- (h) Pollution
- (i) Inaccessibility of fishing ports
- (j) Poor health facilities for fishermen

In order to alleviate the problems militating against the efficient operation of the fishermen, these solutions are proffered.

- (a) Introduction of subsidies for fishing inputs, craft, outboard engines, water pumps and modern fish processing outfits.
- (b) Provision of soft loans for fishermen.
- (c) Government Intervention by way of development of fish landing sites, development of access roads to fishing villages and ports as well as provision of health facilities for fishermen.
- (d) Pollution of water bodies should be regularly monitored and controlled whenever detected.
- (e) The inland fisheries law should be enforced by the fisheries department.
- (f) Stocking of water bodies with juveniles should be actively pursued.

There will be need for the intervention of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Research Institutes in this regard. If the measures (a) and (f) are adopted and applied, there will be an increase in the quantity of fish landings by fishermen. This will increase their per capita income and also increase the GDP of Imo State.

**TABLE 1: NATIONAL FISHERIES FRAME SURVEY
IMO STATE (FISHERMEN, GEAR AND CRAFT) (2000 2002)**

S/NO	ZONE	OGUTA	OHAIJ/ EGBEMA	OWERRI	ORLU	OKIGWE	TOTAL
	No. of Fishermen	1,261	1,237	387	303	316	3,504
	Craft						
1.	Do-Dug out	606	765	276	42	597	2,286
2.	PLK-Plant	471	90	36	-	30	627
3.	PLK-DO-Plant-Dug out	105	24	3	3	6	141
4.	GN-Typ-Ghana Type	-	3	9	-	-	12
5.	GRD-Gourd	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Others	(1 fib. gls)	-	-	9	-	10
1.	Gears Type Gillnet		3,054	1,788	1,455	1,710	9,249
2.	Cast Net		312	195	63	87	1,065
3.	Beach seine	1,242	-	-	270	-	345
4.	Drift Net	408	3	-	282	-	408
5.	Lift Net	75	63	12	30	3	123
6.	Hooks	123	136,860	26,451	16,884	5,994	254,214
7.	Traps	3	24,318	2,799	9,573	1,341	50,232
8.	Others	68,035 12,201 3,690	5,952	2,049	246	198	12,035

TABLE 2: FRAME SURVEY AND LANDING SITESK IN IMO STATE (2000 2002)

OKIGWE ZONE

Fishing Village	Landing Site	Local Government	No. of Fishermen
Umunachi	Onunwankwa	Obowo	41
Umungwa	Imo Dam	Obowo	73
Umudike Agbobu	Umudike	Okigwe	8
Etiti	Abueke	Uboma	67
Ezinachi	Ndihia	Okigwe	8
Diakuma Umuna	-	Onuimo	18
Umucheke Okwe	-	Onuimo	18
Ezulu Okwe	-	Onuimo	10
Umunachi	Umuezeala Abueke	Onuimo	13
Ajabo Umunna	Imo Head Bridge	Onuimo	34
Etiti	Ofeme	Uboma	9
Ndibesani	Iyiachara	Okigwe	
ORLU ZONE			
Abonihitte Owerri	Orie Amagu	Orlu	83
Umulebe Umuobom	Umulebe Beach	Ideato South	45
Ughamiri	Umuezukwe	Oru East	22
Umumaishiaku Umulewel		Ideato South	52
Fisheries Frame Survey Ohaji/Egbema			
Abacheke	Agbayi	Ohaji/Egbema	223

Abacheke	Ose Iye Oka	“	451
Abacheke	Iberu	“	212
Umuagaro	Umuekene	“	9
Umuagwo	Etioha water/s	“	12
Mbara	Onu Oloshi	“	83
Mmahu	Ugada/Ose Iyeoka	“	91
Abacheke	Abaraukwu camp	“	11
Abacheme	Aburutu camp	“	10
Abacheke	Aburutu	“	9
Egbema	Ogada/Ndoni	“	34
Ukarutu	Ukarutu site	“	25
Oforda	Obibi	“	6
Awara Ikwerrede	Oru Ogara	“	11
Oforola Egbema	Ukwuali	“	5
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Fisheries Frame Survey Oguta

Afiafor	Ibina waterside	Oguta	150
Um,uchisi	Amaraocha	Oguta	187
Abatu & Kalabari	K-beach	Oguta	106
Afiafor	Iyima camp	Oguta	60
Nnamuochie	Afiafor	Oguta	23
Ishibe	Afiafor	Oguta	70
Umuayatta Ngegwe	Akri	Oguta	51
Orsu Obodo	Ferry beach	Oguta	39
Abiazim	Osse Abasiem	Oguta	31
Umuezeachi	Osse Umueze	Oguta	38
Ogiriuzo	Afiafor	Oguta	38
Utu	Ose Utu	Oguta	17
Nkwessi	Umudei	Oguta	14
Oguta	Ose motor	Oguta	32
Nkwessi	Green water beach	Oguta	14
Amagu	Amagu beach	Oguta	23
Orsu Obodo	Anmagu bach	Oguta	34
Mbell	John Holt	Oguta	35
Nnebukwu	Osse Aforway	Oguta	24
Umunadike	Umuezeadi	Oguta	27
Umusu	Ose Umuosu	Oguta	216
Orashi	Umudawike	Oguta	18
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Okwudor	Njaba Beach	Njaba	75
Okwuekpe	Umundurizi	Orlu	30
Umuaka	Njaba beach	Njaba	3
Abukwa	Okwa Beach		
Umuobom			

OWERRI ZONE (NGOR OKPALA)

Elelem	Elelem Water Side	Ngor Okpala	46
Umunam Imerienwe	Egbelu	Ngor Okpala	20
Okpala	Okpala Water side	Ngor Okpala	36
Umuokoro	Umuokoro water side	Ngor Okpala	8

EZINTHITTE			
Udo Mbaise	Udo water side	Ezinihitte	17
Udo Mbaise	Itu water side	Ezinihitte	78
Udo Mbaise	Ogboibe	Ezinihitte	27
Itu	Itu Beach	Ezinihitte	15
Ife	Ife Water Side	Ezinihitte	30
Anambra	Amumara Water side	Ezinihitte	9
OWERRI MUNICIPAL/OWERRI WEST			
Eziobodo	Eziobodo River	Owerri West	6
Iheagwa	FUTO beach	Owerri West	15
	Mba Oke	Owerri West	6
	Umuchoke	Owerri West	6
Emeabiam	Oloku Water Side	Owerri West	6
Amawom	Azu-Elu	Werri West	8
Nekede	ADC Quarters	Owerri West	6
Nekede	No. 12, Bus Stop	Owerri West	3
	Umuejechi	Owerri West	28
	Police Stream	Owerri West	3
	No. 8, Water Side	Owerri West	3
	No. 1, Bus Stop	Owerri West	3

TABLE 3: LIST OF REGISTERED FISHERIES COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

S/NO	Name of society	TOWN L.G.A.	ACTIVITY
1.	Otuifunanya Fishing Coop. Society c/o Ogbangwo Mandy	Abacheke in Ohaji/Egbema	Fishing and Fish Farm
2.	Usdoka Fish Farmers Group c/o Emmanuel Mikere	Umuezukwe Awo -Omamma in Oru East	Fishing and Fish Farm
3.	Udokamma Fisheries Coop. Society c/o Ojenya Collins	Mmahu in Ohaji/Egbema	Fishing and Fish Farm
4.	Ifeoma (Egbema) Farmers Multi-purpose Coop. Society Ltd.	Upuoma (borottu) in Iha/Egbema	Fishing and Fish Farm
5.	Oborottu Coop. Society Ltd.	Upuoma (Oborottu) in Ohaji/Egbema	Fishing and Fish Farm
6.	Egbema Farmers Multi-Purpose Coop. Society	Obiaku in Ohaji/Egbema	Fishing and Fish Farm
7.	Oru East Multi-Purpose Coop. Society	Oru East	Fishing and Fish Farm
8.	Kalabari Beach Fishermen Coop. Society	Oguta, Oguta LGA	Fishing and Fish Farm
9.	Fishermen Coop. Society c/o Romanus Nwachukwu	Umueze-Ezimba Ihitte Uboma	Fishing and Fish Farm
10.	Fishermen Coop. Society c/o Edward Keke	Abueke, Uboma, Ihitte Uboma	Fishing and Fish Farm
11.	Amaruru Dev. Multi-Purpose Coop. Society	Araruru Orsu LGA	Fishing and Fish Farm
12.	Akogu Multi -Purpose Fish Farmer Society c/o Chief A.O. Akogu	Umunna	Fish farming, poultry and crop farming
13.	Onyenwudi Fishing Coop. Society	Umuoparaodu Ihitte Uboma	
14.	Abacheke Fisheries Progressive Coop. Society c/o Ali Osuwa	Abacheke Ohaji/Egbema	
15.	Obioma Fishermen Coop. Society, Oborottu c/o Emmanuel Amechi	Opuoma (Oborottu) in Ohaji/Egbema	
16.	Umueseala Abueke Fishermen Coop. Society	Ihitte Uboma	
17.	Obiawuotu Fish Coop. Society c/o Chief Ofili	Ohaji/Egbema	
18.	Udo-Amaka Farmers Multi -Purpose Coop. Society, Umulebe-Umuobom	Ideato South LGA	
19.	Afor-Dimkpa Multi -Purpose Coop. Society Umuobom	Ideato South LGA	
20.	Abukwa - Umuobom Farmers Multi -Purpose Coop. Society Ltd.	Ideato South LGA	
21.	N.A.F.F.A. Imo State Chapter Owerri (NGO) c/o Col. Iheanacho (Rtd.)		
22.	N.A.F.F.A. Imo/Abia Chapter c/o Engr. Sonny Eluma, No. 1A Eluma Road, Mgbidi Orlu West LGA		
23.	NUFSA c/o I. Enyinima		

**TABLE 4: ANNUAL ESTIMATE OF FISH YIELD
FROM ARTISANAL FISHERIES IN IMO STATE**

STATION	ESTIMATED NO. OF FISHERMAN	AVERAGE NO. OF FISHING DAYS	AVERAGE DAILY CATCH (KG)	TOTAL WT. OF FISH CAUGHT IN MITANNE	TOTAL VALUE OF CATCH S.P. (N300/KG) OR N300,000/M/T
OGUTA/Egbema	2,498	240	3kg	1,788.56	539,568
OWERRI	387	240	3kg	278.64	83,592
ORLU	303	240	3kg	218.16	65,448
OKIGWE	316	240	3kg	227.52	68,256
TOTAL	3505	240	3kg	2,522.88	756,864.00

