

FISHING IN EAST AFRICA.

Fishing is the hunting of aquatic lives from water bodies e.g. Fish lobsters, crabs whales, shrimps, crocodiles; these water bodies are referred to as fishing ground / fisheries.

There are 2 types of fisheries in East Africa

a) Fresh water fisheries.

These involve fishing in the inland water bodies like swamps, ponds, rivers and lakes.

The major species of fish in the inland fisheries include Nile perch. Lungfish catfish, Tilapia, mud fish Bagrus Dagaa electric fish etc.

The major inland water bodies in east Africa include:

1. Lake Victoria.

It offers the biggest catch and the main species include tilapia Nile perch perch bagrus haplachramus etc

The major fishing methods is gill netting and preservation m/ds include smoking freezing and deep flying

2. Lake kyoga

is the most intensively fished lake in east Africa because it is shallor. Fishing is done by the bakenyi using methods like fish traps gill nets baskets and angling.

The main fish species include tilapia, pretentious. The landing sites include Bulaingu, Namansale, Lwampanga.

3. Lake Tangayika

The main type of fish caught is dagaa, the main fishing mtd is lampard and the major port is Kigoma.

4. Lake George.

It is the most productive lake in east Africa as it is only 3m deep and because of dropping of hippos, which fertilize the water. However the main problem is presence of crocodiles the main port is Kasenyi.

N: B the marketing of the fish is done by TUFMAC (The Uganda fish marketing cooperation).

Lake Turkana.

Fishing is attested by remoteness and lack of market. However it is important for sport fishing in East Africa as applies to lake Nairasha.

Lake Albert.

It is the most important fishing ground and the major ports or landing sites include Ntoroko, Butiaba, Wanseke, Tonya e.tc.

Lake Edward.

The major is Rwenshama

b) MARINE FISHERIES.

This fishing is called out in salty waters i.e. oceans and seas most produced in Kenya and Tanzania (Pemba and Zamibar)

The major marine fish species include sardines cod mackerel, tuna, anchery Melin, Haddock, halibut etc

Marine fish species are categorized.

1. Pelagic species

The live the near the water surface e.g. sardines mackerel tuna and anchories.

2. Dimersal species.

3. These live and breed near the seabed e.g. hard lock, halibut cod etc.

4. Crustaceous species.

These have external skeletons e.g lobsters, shrimps, Crabs oysters, prawns.

Fishing methods in east Africa.

There are major 2 types of fishing methods in east Africa.

a) Commercial or modern methods of fishing

These include tralving, drifting, lobster traps long lining and purse seining.

b) Traditional or Printive methods

These include gill neiting, use of baskets, use of spears bows bows and arrowa lampara (lamp attracting) using hoks and fish traps

N: B. Marine fisheries in east Africa are underdeveloped because of the following

1. Presence of a narrow continental shelf affecting the multiplication of planktons and fish
2. High temps at the coast making the fish bad easily and quickly.
3. The ocean flow covered by coral reefs which interfere with the fishing activities
4. Presence of a straight castling which is not suitable for the development of ports and fishing villages.
5. Inadequate capital to purchase the modern fishing equipment
6. Presence of strong ocean currents along the coast which discourage the use of small vessels
7. Limited fish species of commercial values.
8. Limited planktons at the cost because of the depth of the ocean
9. Presence of inappropriate technology i.e. the fishermen at the coast still use primitive methods like baskets.
10. Inaccessibility of some of the fishing grounds

11. Competition with development countries like Norway Japan etc.

12. The people along the making it very unpopular

Preservation methods.

- Smoking
- Sun drying
- Deep frying
- Salting
- Freezing / Refrigeration
- Canning

Uses of fish in east Africa

1. Animal feeds
2. Food/ Sources of proteins
3. Glue
4. Soap
5. Fertilizers
6. Medicine
7. Cosmetics

Factors favoring the development of the fishing industry in east Africa.

1. Presence of extensive water bodies both fresh and salty e.g. Lake Victoria, Tanganyika, Kyoga Indian ocean
2. Presence of a large market both at home and abroad in countries like U.k Japan Canada etc.
3. Favorable government of providing loans to the fishermen, protection against foreign competition diversification of the economy.
4. Presence of improved refrigeration facilities like freezing, canning etc.
5. Abundant supply of labour both skilled and unskilled due to the dense population around lakes, rivers and the Indian Ocean.
6. Presence of a variety of fish species of commercial value like Nile perch meckerel etc
7. Availability of modern fishing gears inform of motorized boats
8. Abundant supply of planlotors due to the shallowness of the water bodies to support large shoal.
9. Availability of adequate capital provided by the government and foreign investors to purchases modern fishing gears.
10. Presence of a well development and reliable transport network for quick transportation of fish from fishing grounds to inland markets.
11. Presence of fish companies that after support to the fish men inform of providing nets, boat engines as well as market.

12. Existence of forests and forests productions for making boats and providing firewood.
13. Presence of fish processing industries which provide market e.g Mases fish company, Gomba fish company etc.
14. The existence of an extensive, shallow continental shelf favoring the growth of planktons and subsequent multiplication of fish.

Contribution/ importance of the fishing industry to East Africa

Fishing industry has provided employment opportunities to many people living at the coast and on islands i.e. as fishermen, processors, and Transporters e.tc

1. It has promoted research and scientific education in E.Africa
2. The fishing industry has also led to the improvement of peoples diet.
3. The industry is also a major source of government revenue through taxation of the fishermen as well as the companies involved.
4. The fishing industry has diversified the economy of East Africa thereby widening the government tax base.
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6. It has led to the development of towns and parts e.g infrastructure like, roads ice, plants, school etc.
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8. It is a source of income to the local population along the coasts.
9. The fishing industry in East Africa has promoted trade and internal relations between east Africa and her trading partners like U, S.A
10. The people employed in the fishing industry have acquired new and modern skills related to fishing.
11. It has promoted tourism.
12. It has led to the improvement of standards of living at the people.
13. The industry is also a major sources of raw materials used for in the manufacture of fertilizers animals feeds, glue, medicine, cosmetics

The problems associated with the fishing industry

1. Pollution of the waters by the vessels and industries along the coast.
2. Deforestation because of the high demand for firewood and timber for smoking and boat making respect ring.
3. Extinction of some fish species because of over fishing

4. Accidents treading to loss of lives and property.
5. Conflicts over territorial water e.g Mijingo
6. Urbanization with related problems like unemployment high crime rates, slum development etc

Problems affecting the Development of the fishing industry in East Africa

1. Inappropriate technology in the fishing industry. The fishermen also use poor fishing gears.
2. Inadequate capital to improve on the fishing activities.
3. Inaccessibility of some of the fishing, grounds making the transportation of fish to the inland markets difficult.
4. Presence of predation like crocodiles and sharks in the oceans which feed on other aquatic lives.
5. Limited processing and preservation methods in east Africa.
6. Presence of shallow areas of the east Africa coastline limiting the use of big vessels.
7. Pollution of the waters by domestic and industrial effluence which affects the metabolism of aquatic lives.
8. Competition for market with developed countries like Japan, Norway, Canada etc.
9. Profit repatriation by foreign companies.
10. Indiscriminate fishing treading to depletion of some of the fishing industries.
11. Theft of nets, boats and boat engines.
12. Compact nature of the east Africa coast line limiting the development of landing sites as well as multiplication of fish
13. Presence of water needs which limit fish metabolism and movement of boats in the inland water bodies like L. Victoria.
14. Limited fish species of economic value.
15. Presence of shared water resources leading to uncultured fishing and dispute
16. Limited government support to the in some cultures people don't eat fish hence limiting markets.
17. Small market for fish and fish products ie in some cultures people don't eat fish hence limiting market.

Steps being taken to solve the problems affecting development of fishing industry in east Africa.

1. Encouraging fish farming to reduce pressure on the existing water bodies as well as reducing over fishing.
2. Fishermen are being encouraged to form cooperatives to help them markets their products as well as obtain loans.
3. Removing water needs mechanically and sometimes biologically.
4. Improving on the transport network by upgrading the existing roads linking landing sites.
5. Fish processing industries have been set up to ensure that they are processed by exports.
6. Educating the fishermen on the dangers of over fishing indiscriminate fishing and fish poisoning
7. Fishermen are being issued with licenses to reduce indiscriminate fishing.
8. Restocking of the over fished water bodies like Kyoga, George etc.
9. Patrolling of the waters and landing sites to keep security
10. Modernizing of the landing sites e.g Kasenyi, Masese.
11. Broadening external markets through advertisements.
12. Provision of better fishing gears to the fishermen in form of motorized boats.
13. Promoting research on new species to maintain supply.
14. Establishment of add storage, facilities (ice plants) e.g in Luziro Masese Lamu etc.