

## **Fish Check-List and Their Characteristics in Bayeku Water, Lagos, Nigeria**

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**Abstract :** Fish check list of Bayeku water, Lagos, Nigeria was investigated between February 2012 and January 2013. Fish specimens were caught with gill and cast-nets, and non-return valve basket trap. Services of artisanal fishermen were employed for the setting of gears and collections of fish. Species not captured after sampling were assumed to be absent or so rare as to be of minimal ecological importance. The 632 specimens were preserved in 10 % formaldehyde in the field prior to their identification. Physicochemical parameters such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and pH were determined from the lagoon water samples following standard methods. A total of 632 fish were encountered, belonging to 23 families, 27 genera and 29 species. The most abundant species were *Chrysichthys nigrodigitatus* (9.65 %), *Macrobrachium vollenhoveni* (7.94 %), *Ethmalosa fimbriata* (7.12 %), *Elops lacerta* (6.96 %), *Cynoglossus browni* (6.17 %), *Gobioides broussonnetii* (5.69 %), *Sphyraena piscatorum* (5.39 %), *Polydactylus quadrifilis* (5.06 %), and *Mugil cephalus* (4.91 %). There were seasonal variations in species occurrence and abundance. Marine fishes were found in dry season.. Freshwater fishes were more during the wet season. There are marine and freshwater fishes that have euryhaline characteristics and have adapted to the lagoon environment such that they were encountered both in dry and wet seasons.

**Keywords :** fish check list, species occurrence, abundance, ecological importance

**Conference Title :** ICBESE 2015 : International Conference on Biological, Ecological and Environmental Sciences, and Engineering

**Conference Location :** London, United Kingdom

**Conference Dates :** April 24-25, 2015