

Fish Species Composition and Distribution of a Semi-Oxbow Lake in North Central Nigeria

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Abstract : The paper reports on the result of experimental gill net assessment of the fishery of Gbedikere Lake in Kogi State between October 2006 and September 2008. Three stations A-C were sampled. Twelve species from ten families were represented in the experimental gill-net catches. These composed of families Protopteridae, Mormyridae, Clariidae, Mochokidae, Cichlidae, Cyprinidae, Malapteruridae, Osteoglossidae, Gymnarchidae, and Citharinidae. The Cichlids dominated the catches. This is made up of *Oreochromis niloticus* (17.90%), and *Tilapia zilli* (13.01%). These combined to make up 30.91% of the total number of fish caught. Also, the Cichlids formed 30.91% of the total catch by weight followed *Heterotis niloticus* (15.56%), *Clarias gariepinus* (13.16%), *Gymnarchus niloticus* (8.78%), *Heterobranchus bidorsalis* (7.14%), *Synodontis nigrita* (6.69%), *Mormyrus rume* (5.68%), *Citharinus citharus* (3.91%), *Labeo senegalensis* (2.93%), and *Protopterus annectens* (2.74%), respectively.

Keywords : experimental gill net, species diversity, abundance, distribution, Oxbow Lake and yield

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