

## Growth Pattern and Condition Factor of *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Sarotherodon galilaeus* in Epe Lagoon, Lagos State, Nigeria

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**Abstract :** The growth pattern of *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Sarotherodon galilaeus* in Epe Lagoon Lagos State was investigated. One hundred (100) samples of each species were collected from fishermen at the landing site. They were transported to the Fisheries Laboratory of National Institute of Oceanography for identification, sexing morphometric measurement. The results showed that 58.0% and 56.0 % of the *O.niloticus* and *S.galilaeus* were female respectively while 42.0% and 44.0% were male respectively. The length-weight relationship of *O.niloticus* showed a strong regression coefficient ( $r = 0.944$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ) for the combined sex, ( $r = 0.901$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ) for female and ( $r = 0.985$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ) for male with b-value of 2.5, 3.1 and 2.8 respectively. The *S.galilaeus* also showed a regression coefficient of  $r = 0.970$ ;  $p < 0.05$  for the combined sex,  $r = 0.953$ ;  $p < 0.05$  for the female and  $r = 0.979$ ;  $p < 0.05$  for the male with b-value of 3.4, 3.1 and 3.6 respectively. *O.niloticus* showed an isometric growth pattern both in male and female. The condition factor in *O.niloticus* are 1.93 and 1.95 for male and female respectively while that of *S.galilaeus* is 1.95 for both sexes. Positive allometric was observed in both species except the male *O.niloticus* that showed negative allometric growth pattern. From the results of this study, the growth pattern of the two species indicated a good healthy environment.

**Keywords :** Epe Lagoon, length-weight relationship, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Sarotherodon galilaeus*

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