

Unit 1	Fisheries and Fish Production in Nigeria
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UNIT 1 FISHERIES AND FISH PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, like other developing countries of the world, there is an increasing need for abundant sources of high-protein food to meet the protein requirements of the ever-increasing population, and the associated supply and costs of animal protein sources, such as meat, milk and eggs. Fish production provides a renewable source of cheap, high-quality animal protein and it is therefore, highly emphasized as an agriculture sub-sector. Fisheries not only supplies fish of various types, but also other aquatic living organisms, including plants such as sea weeds and coral reefs.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to discuss:

- the aims of fisheries management, and
- the techniques of fish production in Nigeria.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 Objectives of Fisheries in Nigeria

- xxxviii. To increase fish production by employing modern methods of fishing and technology;
- xxxix. To improve the nutritive food value of human diets;
- xl. To exploit as profitably as possible the fishery resources through rational exploitation for sustainable production and conservation;
- xli. To improve the utilization of aquatic resources by the introduction of modern methods of processing and marketing facilities;
- xlii. To raise the standard of living and socio-economic status of indigenous fishermen through cooperative societies, purchase of fishing inputs at subsidized rates (loan-in-kind fishermen programme);
- xliii. To reduce the importation of fish and fish products to the barest minimum in order to conserve the scarce foreign exchange;
- xliv. To increase fish production and facilitate exportation and fish and fish products for foreign exchange; and
- xl. To generate maximum employment for the populace.

3.2 Fish Production in Nigeria

Based on the source of production, the fishing industry is divided into two groups, namely

3.2.1 Capture Fisheries

This involves fishing in the open sea. Fish are regarded as natural endowments and captured freely without consideration for their reproduction, growth and development. Fishing is done by fishermen at no cost and without replacement. However, the system accounts for more than 90% of the total domestic fish production in Nigeria. There are two sub-divisions, namely Industrial fisheries and Small-scale fisheries. The latter is further divided into Subsistence fisheries and Artisanal fisheries. The bulk (about 80%) of fish production from capture fisheries is contributed by the artisanal sector and the remaining contribution comes from the industrial sector.

3.2.1.1 Industrial Fisheries

The features of this system are higher capital/labour ratio, in-board diesel engines, general ownership of boats by entrepreneurs with the boats manned by salaried crews, high level of organization and efficient shore-based infrastructural facilities (berths for vessels, stores for

products); and generally high productivity (catch per unit effort) and incomes.

3.2.1.2 Small-Scale Fisheries

This system employs small, traditional, largely unmotorised craft, and simple, hand-operated gears; it involves low capital investment, low production per unit effort, usually marine, brackish and inland water operations, unreliable statistics of landing catches, scattered fishing units, high labour requirement, poorly-developed storage and processing plants and therefore, high spoilage and wastage losses, and inadequate credit facilities from banks.

3.2.1.3 Artisanal Fisheries

The features of this system are remoteness of village fishing centres to commercial centres; poor access roads to fishing villages; inadequate preservation and processing capabilities; absence of appropriate village-level extension services; absence of well-established marketing system and associated infrastructure; and inaccessibility to formal credit market in addition to inadequate knowledge of the lending channels.

3.2.2 Culture Fisheries

This is the growing of fish in confined water bodies through the manipulations of water parameters and fish to achieve desired production level. It is also referred to as Fish farming or Aquaculture. It can be likened to intensive livestock farming or battery cage system in poultry production.

4.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have learned that the fisheries sector is a very important sector of Nigeria's agricultural economy, and various techniques are adopted in fish production.

5.0 SUMMARY

Fish production in Nigeria is well-focused at meeting the food and non-food benefits of fish species, through a variety of scientific methods that cut across different groups of fish farmers.

6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Outline any five objectives of fisheries in Nigeria.
- 2) Classify fully, the fishing industry in Nigeria.

7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

An Introduction to general Agriculture (CSP 201) School of Agriculture & Agricultural Technology, The Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishery>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing>

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Fact Sheet- Why Farm Fish and Seafood. http://www.dfo-mpo-gc.ca/Aquaculture/sheet_feuillet/farm_seafood_ehtm