

Lake Lanao Fishes: Relative Abundance Based on Fish Catch

Abstract

Lake Lanao has been known for its species flock of 18 endemic species of cyprinids which used to be the dominant species caught in the Lake. Surveys in the past indicated a slow decline in the number endemic species and being slowly displaced by introduced species. The present study documents the relative abundance of fishes caught and landed in the four landing areas of Lake Lanao. Results showed that the dominant species landed is the introduced *Giuris margaritacea*, along with its fries, constitute more than 80% relative abundance in most months. The Tilapia has a moderate abundance while the other introduced species have exhibited a low abundance. No endemic species was recorded, except for *Barbodes tumba* which is not a usual inhabitant of Lake Lanao itself.

Keywords : Lake Lanao, fish abundance, fish catch, *Barbodes tumba*, *Giuris margaritacea*, Cyprinids