

The State of Fisheries in Zambia

Fishing is the lifeline of the people of Luapula Province and it is also the main economic activity for rural Zambians that live near the Fisheries. The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, imposes an annual Fish Ban from 1st of December to the 28th of February each year. The Fish Ban is implemented to allow for the fish to breed and to allow for replenishing the fish stock, as this is their peak-breeding season. However emerging reports from residents around Lake Mweru indicate that the Fish Ban was not being effectively implemented.

The Fisheries sector is a key component of the Zambian economy as it is estimated that the sector supports more than 300 000 people, who derive their livelihood directly as fishers and fish farmers. In 2007 the sector accounted for 1% of Zambia's GDP, which amounted to US\$109 million.

ZAMBIA'S MAJOR FISHERIES

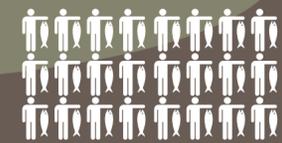
- Mweru-Wantipa**
Northern Province
- Lake Tanganyika**
Northern Province
- Itezhi-Tezhi**
Central Province
- Lake Bangweulu**
Luapula Province
- Lake Mweru**
Luapula Province
- Lukanga Swamps**
Central Province
- Kafue River**
Southern Province
- Zambezi River**
Western Province
- Lake Kariba**
Southern Province

MAP OF ZAMBIA



Fisheries Department

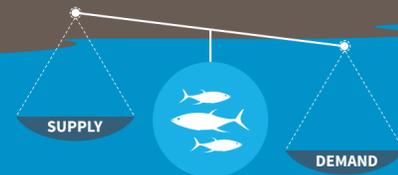
Community



+300,000 People
Derive their livelihood directly from fishing



US\$109 million
In 2007 the sector accounted for **1% of Zambia's GDP**



Supply Vs Demand
Annually Supply 70,000 tonnes vs Annual Demand 120,000 tonnes



Budget Allocation
In the 2015 National Budget, Fisheries Department has been allocated **K17,742,309**

LEGISLATION

The Fisheries Act of 1974 under the Laws of Zambia regulates the Fisheries Sector. In 2007, the Government passed the Fisheries (Amendment) Act of 2007 with the objective of improving the involvement of communities in fisheries management, promote development of the aquaculture sector.

Fish Production

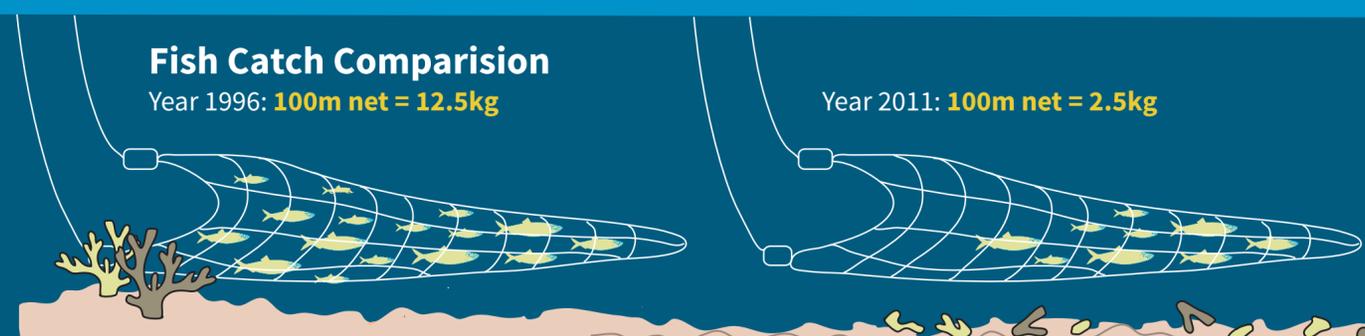
Fish production levels from **Capture and Aquaculture fisheries** in metric tonnes

| Year | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Capture Fisheries | 76,396 | 69,364 | 76,214 |
| Fish Farming | 10,291 | 10,533 | 12,988 |

Fish Catch Comparison

Year 1996: **100m net = 12.5kg**

Year 2011: **100m net = 2.5kg**



CHALLENGES

- Illegal fishing methods (incorrect net sizes) e.g. use of mosquito nets for fishing,
- People settling in designated breeding areas where the fish ban is implemented throughout the year.
- The use of anchor boats that remained stationed of the water body for longer periods of time
- Poor staffing levels, 2 fisheries extension officers are responsible for 1000 villages.
- The Department of Fisheries (DOF) does not have a prosecutor, thus all wrong

- doers are set free and not charged. This has encouraged to the fishermen to continue breaking the law.
- DOF cited that their research revealed that in 1996 a 100 meter net would fetch 12.5 Kg of fish but as of 2011 the same 100 meters net can only fetch 2.5 Kg. This reduction in catches per unit has also led to a decrease in Fishermen from 21,000 in 2008 to 18,000 in 2011.
- Lack of economic diversification (for continued incomes during the fish ban). This implies that most of the community only focuses on finishing as their main economic activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- PMRC urges the Government to increase resources to the Department Fisheries in the form of human and financial resources. This will enable the Department to effectively carry out the implementation of the Fish Ban as well as their other core activities.
- PMRC encourages Government to actively engage with Traditional leaders in the management of Fisheries located in rural areas and around chiefdoms. Traditional Leaders play an important role in community sensitization and behavioural change of people in rural areas.
- PMRC urges the Government to set up a division within the Department of Fisheries that will be tasked with the enforcement of the law pertaining to Fisheries. This Division can be based on a similar concept to the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to ensure effective enforcement.
- PMRC further urges government to put in place measures to effectively monitor and provide surveillance of fishing activities so as generate accurate data and statistics that can be used to improve the sector.