

ABSTRACT

Small fisheries play a key important across the world in their contribution to food security, nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation. While, it's widely accepted that these contributions are central to sustainable development, there hasn't been proportionate investment in the sub sector to realize these outcomes. In Tanzania especially to the populations living along the Lake Victoria are their main income generating activity is fishing. This research project assesses the impact of fishing policies on small fisheries of Lake Victoria in Mwanza region: a case of Igombe ward Ilemela district. The specific objectives of study are to identify the perception of small fisheries on fishing policy, to find out the contributions of fishing policy to the welfare of small fisheries, to determine the key policy areas of improvement to the small fisheries. The study adopted mixed methods involving the use of both qualitative and quantitative techniques, simple random sampling was used to select sample of 50 respondents. Questionnaires and interviews were used as data collection tools to assist in collecting relevant information. Data was analyzed through Frequencies and Multinomial Logistic Regression tools which indicated the findings using tables and figures and hence the study findings was sorted and coded using SPSS software. The researcher was guided by ethical consideration while before and after data collection. The finding revealed that fishing policy contributes to the welfare of small scale fisheries if these communities who are mostly targeted by the policy are full participated during formulation and implementation of the policy, this situation could help them in project sustainability and ensure full potential of their development. The study recommends that the government should formulate rules and policies that encourage fishers to diversify their livelihoods. Further research is required to cover many fishing areas and other co-management stakeholders in order to have a holistic view not covered by this case study.

