

# **A Taskforce Approach for Sustainable Fisheries Management of Lake Victoria**

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# Importance of Lake Victoria Fisheries

- The fisheries resource is a source of livelihoods for a large population of the lake basin through:-
  - Fishing
  - Fish processing and trade
  - Associated activities, such gear manufacture, transport etc.
  - Regional fish trade
- It contributes to the economies of the three countries through fish exports and employment.

# Challenges Facing Lake Victoria Fisheries

- Declining fish stocks due to increasing fishing effort
- Illegal fishing (beach seines, illegal gillnets etc)
- Open access
- Harvesting of juvenile fish (detrimental to recruitment)
- Weak and underfunded MCS
- Political patronage
- High level corruption
- Uncontrolled trade in juvenile fish (DRC market)
- Weak management systems of a shared resource
- Inadequate financial support for fisheries management
- Vulnerable and weak BMUs
- User conflicts (e.g. cage farming Vs. fishing)

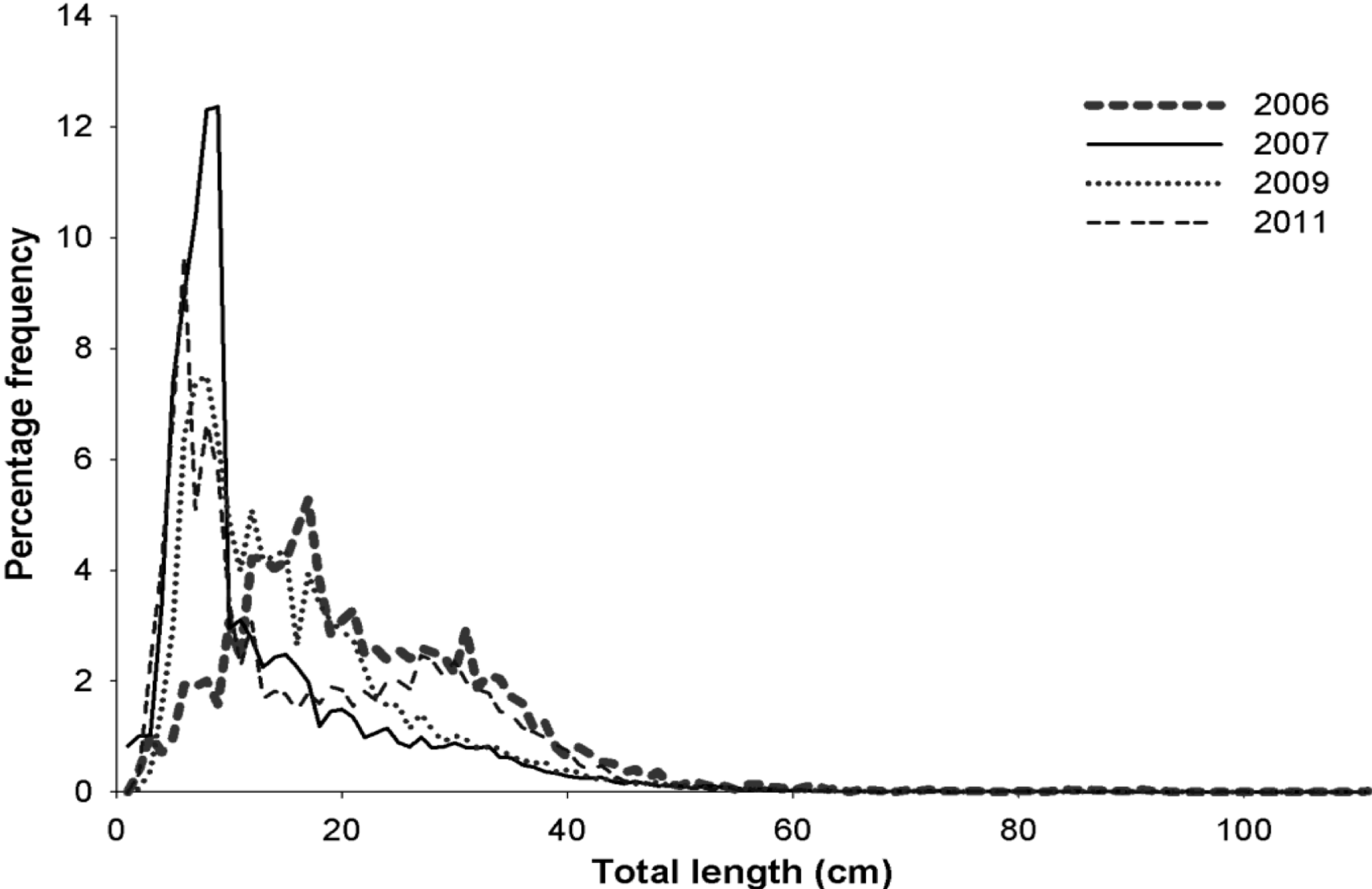
## Fishing effort in Lake Victoria (2000-2010)

Year	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
Total number of fishers	129,000	176,000	153,000	196,000	199,000	194,000
Total fishing crafts	43,000	52,000	52,000	69,000	68,000	66,000
Crafts with outboard engines*	4,000	7,000	10,000	13,000	14,000	16,000
Total No. of gillnets <5"	113,000	178,000	143,000	215,000	208,000	159,000
Total no. of gillnets 5-6½"	410,000	610,000	966,000	905,000	686,000	534,000
Total No. of gillnets 7-10" *	128,000	115,000	125,000	102,000	120,000	175,000
Total No. of all gillnets	651,000	903,000	1,233,000	1,222,000	1,014,000	867,000
Total Long line hooks*	3,496,000	8,098,000	6,096,000	9,045,000	11,268,000	11,472,000

\* Boats and gears targeting Nile perch

Source: LVFO Frame Survey Report 2010

# Length-frequency distribution of Nile perch: 2006-2011



Source: Stock assessment RWG 2011 report

## Nile Perch Annual Catches and Exports from Lake Victoria (M.tons) 2000-2010

<b>Year</b>	<b>Nile perch catches</b>	<b>Total fish catches</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Nile perch Exports</b>
<b>2000</b>	199,068	485,739	41	64,300
<b>2001</b>	247,166	641,338	39	78,500
<b>2002</b>	227,947	541,308	42	66,400
<b>2003</b>	227,947	515,111	44	74,000
<b>2004</b>	227,947	604,749	38	81,200
<b>2005</b>	268,152	937,995	29	91,900
<b>2006</b>	264,070	1,091,604	24	81,800
<b>2007</b>	233,941	1,000,907	23	88,600
<b>2008</b>	309,099	827,389	37	71,700
<b>2009</b>	276,429	808,223	34	48,500
<b>2010</b>	198,624	841,794	24	51,300

*Source: LVFO:*

# Initiatives to arrest the fisheries declining trend

- Policy initiatives.
- The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) efforts
  - Regional MCS efforts
  - National MCS efforts
- Self monitoring and control program by the Nile perch processing and exporting industry
- Community-based and local-level enforcement efforts
- Private Sector independent initiatives (Uganda)

# Overall Challenges of implementation of the initiatives

- Little or no commitment for implementation of the agreed measures by partner states.
- Political patronage
- Lack of adequate financial support
- Institutional failures
- Corruption at all levels
- Weak and vulnerability BMUs that lack a political voice



# **A Study on the Funding Options for Sustainable Management of Lake Victoria Fisheries**

- The study was initiated by the East Africa Fish Processors and Exporters Association and funded by EU-ACPII
- The aim of the 2012 study was to review Uganda's Taskforce model and make recommendation on a management and a funding mechanism suitable for the sound management of Lake Victoria fisheries.
- The study approach included:-
  - Field interviews with cross-section of stakeholders
  - Study of Uganda's National Fisheries Taskforce
  - SWOT analysis of Lake Victoria fisheries management with Stakeholders
  - Analysis of Return on Investments (RoI) of stakeholders' funding and management option for sustainable fisheries

# **A taskforce approach to sustainable management of Lake Victoria fisheries**

- Establish national and regional inter-agency taskforces whose membership would include a cross section of the stakeholders and users.
- Empower these national entities through autonomous boards of management that are independent in decision making.
- Establish and empower a regional board
- Ensure the national and regional boards are well resourced from funds generated by the sector
- Provide the national and region taskforces with necessary empowerment to operate.
- Facilitate these processes through the Lake Victoria Council of Ministers Decisions.

# Sustainable funding for the taskforce

- It is estimated that US\$ 1.6 to 1.8 million per year is adequate for sustainable management of Lake Victoria.
- Processors that were interviewed said they are willing to pay US \$ 0.03 (3 US cents) up to US \$ 0.035 per exported kilogram of fish.
- This would raise approximately US\$ 1,539,000 or US\$ 1,795,500 respectively based on 2010 total regional Nile perch exports (51,300 tons).
- Additional funds could be sourced from fishers at an agreed rate per weight of fish sold.
- Contributions from the governments and EAC
- Friends of the lake (donors) are other sources of funding
- This would provide equitable and sustainable contribution to the MCS Fund for the national and regional taskforces

# Management of the Fund and the Resource

- Discontinue the current Nile perch processing industry contributions for the slot size monitoring.
- Establish independent National and Regional Boards of Management, with own bank accounts and the power to operate the Fund.
- The national and regional Boards should be mandated to make management and operational decisions without governments' interference
- Boards with powers to coopt board members (as need arises), elect their chairs and establish the taskforces.
- Through a consultative process, these boards should develop TORs, SOPs and a reporting mechanism on both the Fund and the resource status to ensure accountability.
- Develop systems for the Fund levy collection and submission to the boards.

# Return on Investment

- This investment by stakeholders would guarantee increased and sustainable funding for the national and regional taskforces operations.
- It would also guarantee RoI in terms of:-
  - Reduction in illegal fishing and trade as a result of a robust collectively managed MCS
  - Increase in production of bigger size value fish
  - Increased fishers' incomes for better livelihoods
  - Increased earnings for the fish processing and exporting industry, creating a vibrant employment environment .
  - Increased foreign exchange earnings for the partner states.
  - Increased income for the partner states from levies charged on exported fish.
  - Fisheries habitat improvement due to reduction in destructive fishing.
  - Empowerment of BMUs to perform their roles

# Conclusion

- Implementation of the taskforce approach would realize short and long term positive socio-economic benefits for partner states.
- Reduction of political patronage and corruption in the fishing and fish trade
- Achievement of sustainable funding for the lake fisheries management, including MCS
- Independent boards of management teams, legally backed would make management of the lake fisheries more tenable.
- Empowerment of BMUs would enable them play their role in fisheries management
- Return on investment would be realized through incremental benefits accruing from increased fish harvests

# Acknowledgement



Thank you