

**RECOFI WORKSHOP ON BYCATCH
MANAGEMENT AND LOW IMPACT FISHING**

MoA \ General Board for Fish
Resource Development \ Iraq

KUWAIT 9-12 DECEMBER 2012

Iraq can be considered one of the marine countries, Situated at the head of the Arabian Gulf. The area of national territorial waters about 900 km², from FAW port . this area is characterized by lack of depth waters where the maximum depth is about 15 m and this waters are under effects of tidal currents, where the water levels rises and lowers about 2.40 m. regional coastal waters are directly continued with gulf waters and exchanging with marine waters by tidal movement, as the water flows from Gulf and Karun river to Shatt al-Arab and back, Therefore this area is characterized with high fertility water which attracts fishes for feeding or breeding purposes, few species of these fishes may continue to migrate to internal waters through Shatt al-Arab and marshes.



The geographical location allows Iraq to exercise fishing and build a national fishing fleet in neighboring waters (Arabian Gulf. Arabian Sea) and international waters (high seas) under international conventions.

Although Iraq has this area but this source have not been optimally used to boost marine fish production .



The picture for Iraqi marine fishing system is not clear due to internal and external political climate. Priorities must set up to develop and rebuild capacities which will lead to better understanding of this sector as well as the policy of the national fisheries strategies for inclusive cooperation between all regional countries with common awareness to upgrade this sector to protect what remains of these fishes (fish stocks), species and their habitats .



Summery

We can summaries marine fishing status as following-:

- **1. Owner ship** \ the ownership of this sector is privet sector, the stat is not involved directly or indirectly. Fishermen have non government organization (cooperative association) to regulate and represent their activities and needs with authorities
- **2. state contribution** \ the sole service given by the state is issuing license for fishermen and boats.
- 3- The fishing boats** \ small, simple and primitive most of them are for daily fishing .



Types of the gears, HP& Length \ storage of fishing boats

Ggea No. of boats	Gears used	Power\HP	Length\m	Storage\T	Remarks
30	Gill nets	75-240	Up to 12 m	0.750-7	Licensed
15	Gill nets\traps	75-240	Up to 18	1. 3.5	Licensed
152	Traps\ multipurpose	65-826	Up to 24	3-8	Licensed
26	Trawls\ traps	150-916	Up to 30	3-5	Licensed
223 Total No. Of fishing boats		75- 916	12-30	0.75-5	Licensed

Total Catch

2005 = 2527 ton

2006 = 12774 ton

2007 = 9560 ton

2008 = 4814 ton

2009 = 6484 ton

2010 = 7118 ton

2011 = 1682 ton



TARGETED, NOT-TARGETED, DISCARDED FISHES

Nearly all captured fishes have market value in Iraq, of course their differences in

Prices depending on fish species, we can divide these fishes as targeted or not targeted

But this does not mean that these fishes are not required or desirable by the consumer, Iraqi markets receives all kinds of fish except unsuitable for human use fishes.



Species \targeted	Not-targeted\retained	Discarded
With Arabic name		
1-Hilsa illish\sobor صبور	1-Synaptura orientalis \ mezlag \ مزلك	1. 1-Pterios volitans\ deek al- bahar
2- Epinephelus areolatus\ hammor \ هامور	2-Alepes mtate\ <hamam\<حمام< td=""> <td>ديك البحر</td> </hamam\<حمام<>	ديك البحر
3- Formio niger\ <halwaeey </halwaeey حلواني	3-Scamberomorus commerson\ khabat\<خباط	2- Hyporhamphus spp\ <mekhat< td=""> </mekhat<>
1. Nemipterus japonicus \ basy yabanee\<باسي ياباني	4- Saurida tumbil \ abu al- heel\< ابو الهيل	al-nabe\<مخيط النبي
5-Pampus argenteus\ <zobedi< td=""> <td>1. Chirocentrus dorab \<haf </haf \ حف</td> <td>3 -Small size unsuitable</td> </zobedi<>	1. Chirocentrus dorab \ <haf </haf \ حف	3 -Small size unsuitable
1. زيبيدي	6- Arius thalassinus\ <chem \="" td="" جم\<<=""> <td>اسماك صغيرة غير ملائمة</td> </chem>	اسماك صغيرة غير ملائمة
6- Lisa lentjan\ <beyah \="" td="" بياح<=""> <td>7- Sphyraena jello\<barakoda </barakoda \ بركودا</td> <td>3- Rays, sharks, guitar rays\<لخمة\كواسج \كوسج قيثارة</td> </beyah>	7- Sphyraena jello\ <barakoda </barakoda \ بركودا	3- Rays, sharks, guitar rays\<لخمة\كواسج \كوسج قيثارة
1. 7- Lethrinus lentjan\ <shanak\<شانك< td=""> <td>8- Nemipterus. spp\<bassy\<باسي< td=""> <td></td> </bassy\<باسي<></td></shanak\<شانك<>	8- Nemipterus. spp\ <bassy\<باسي< td=""> <td></td> </bassy\<باسي<>	
2. 8- Diplodus kotschy\ <shank nokta<br=""></shank> sawda\<شانك نقطة سوداء	9- Thrissocles purava\ <shegha \<br=""></shegha> شبيغة	
3. 8- Chorinemus lysan \<ضلغة	10- Nematalos nasus\ <jafota \<br=""></jafota> جفوته	
9- Pomadasys argenteus\ <nagror\ </nagror\ نكرور	11- Illish filigera\ <abu –ewana<br=""></abu> \ ابو عوينة	
10- Johnius sp \Otolithus ruber \newabe\<نوبيي	12- Pelates quadrlineatus\ <bezemee\<بزيمي< td=""> <td></td> </bezemee\<بزيمي<>	
11- Mylio bifasciatus \ shanak sha aam\ شانك شعم		
11- Penaeus semisulcatus \ robyan\<روبيان		

General Information on by-catch and discards

Bycatch

•Fishes

- As mentioned above, most bycatch fishes are desirable and have their consumers and market values, and can be easily utilize as well (have good economic value)
- Bycatch fishes must be recorded in weight \species as income source.
- There is no policy\ law\regulation to control or monitor bycatch.
- Iraqi fishing boats are not using bycatch reduction devices (BRD) or turtle exclusion device (TED).
- Above devices cannot be use on Iraqi boats because they are expensive, its technology is not available as well as scarcity of qualified trained persons.



● **Incidental bycatch**

- Seabirds, it is normal to be trapped in nets during looking for fish to eat.
- Marine animals, some time turtle may be found in nets but never keeping them according to their experience all marine birds, animals must be returned to sea immediately alive.

Discarded

▲ *Fish catch*

Discarded fishes never been recorded or estimated before.

Mostly they have not market value, and not suitable for human use.

May take time to collect in case of small fishes catch, which will damage the target catch



▲ *Fishing gears*

- Due to bad weather, unchanged of old ropes and bad handling some fishing gears including bottom trawls, traps, and gill nets may lost incidentally.
- Illegal gears may discarded during inspection for IUU or illegal fishing(gears, season ,zone)
- Some fishing boats many abandon their old fishing gear at sea (no stores is available).

▲ In order to monitoring (ALDFG) it is very important to establish workshops, training ,better understanding on the impacts of these gears on habitats



هامور سماني *Epinephelus areolatus*



صبور *Hilsa ilisha*



حلوائي *Formio niger*



زبيدي Pampus argenteus



باسي ياباني \ Nemipterus japonicus



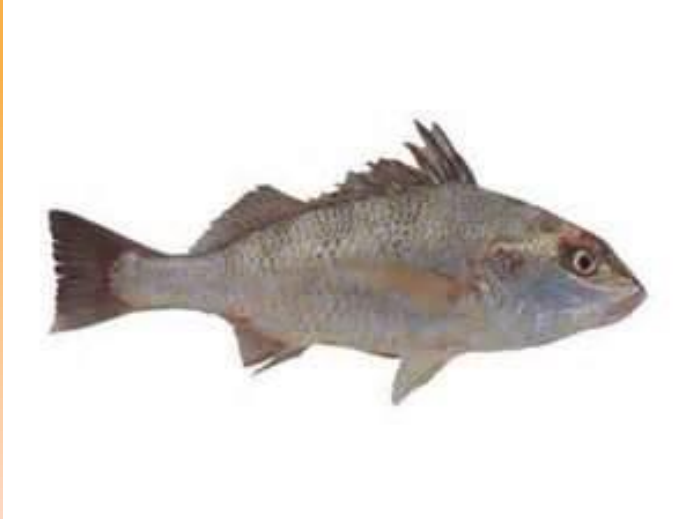
شانك Lethrinus lentjan



بياح Lisa subviridis



نكرور Pomadasys argenteus



شانك ابو نقطة السودان Diplodus kotschy



– Johnius sp نويبي Otolithus ruber



ضلعة Chorinemus lysan



شانك شعم Mylio berda



Penaeus

روبيان semisulcatus \



سر دبنیلا Clupeidae



Non- Targeted Fishes\ Retained

Alepes mtate حمام



مزلك Synaptura orientalis



خباط Scamberomorus commerson



Chirocentrus dorab حف



Saurida tumbil
ابو الهيل



Sphyraena jello برکودا



Arius thalassinus جم البحر



Nematalosa nasus

جفوته



Nemipterus spp باسي



Pelates quadrilineatus بزيميه



Ilish elongata ابو عوينة



Discarded fishes

ديك البحر Pterios volitans
(Scorpaenidae)

قيصان البور Mene maculata



Dasyatis spp



Hyporhamphus spp. مخيط النبي



Torpedo marmorata Risso



Guitar ray



Thank you
for your
attention

Vartan.A.Sarkissian

General Board for Fish Resource
Development 2012

