Some of the recommended fishing gears

Basket traps (beating water).

Gill nets (passive) 5" - 10"

Drift nets
A recent fishing method operated in open waters. Use 6" - 10".

Mukene nets
Mukene fishing depends on the fish being attracted to light. Use 5 - 10mm.

Benefits of using recommended gears and fishing methods

- Allows uninterrupted fish breeding and growth.
- Allows enough female Nile perch to breed.
- Some organisms that act as food for fish become available.
- Increases fish catches resulting into income and improved livelihood among fishing communities.
- Increased foreign exchange earning from export of fish and other fish products
- Food security and increased fish protein availability to people.

For more information contact
Director, Fisheries Resources Research Institute (FIRRI), P.O. Box 343, Jinja - Uganda
Tel: 043-120284, Fax: 043-120192
Introduction

Fish is important for good nutrition, income generation, provision of employment and foreign exchange earning. Uganda earned over US$ 80 million in 2001 through the export of Nile perch and other related products. Fishing can also be a social activity.

Objective

The objective of the brochure is to advise the fisher communities and fishery managers on appropriate commercial fish harvesting gears and methods on Lake Victoria - Uganda.

Problem statement

The following are the main problems with fishing in the lake:
- Collapse or decline of important commercial fisheries on the Lake.
- Indiscriminate use of certain fishing gears.
- Use of small mesh size of gill nets
- Uncontrolled fishing methods

Research Statement

The size of fish that should be caught is set at first maturity. This is the size at which 50% of the fish in a population are allowed to breed before they are caught. The size at first maturity for Nile perch is 50 cm total length (TL) for male fish and 90-100 cm TL for female. For the Nile tilapia it is 23 cm TL for males and 25 cm TL for females. All Nile tilapia are mature at 29 cm TL. The size at first maturity for mukene is 42 mm standard length. By 45 mm all fish are mature.

Fishing gears

Some of the destructive fishing gears and methods:
1). Beach seine and trawl nets
2). Cast nets and tycoon fishing