



DIVERSITY AND CONDITION FACTOR OF FISH SPECIES OF IKPA RIVER AT NWANIBA IN NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA

I. E. Ekpo

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Uyo, Uyo, Nigeria
Imaobongekpo14@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Fish specimens sampled from Nwaniba (Ikpa River) for 12 calendar months (March 2009 – February 2010) comprised 11 orders, 33 families, 59 genera and 136 species; making a total of 2307 specimens. During the dry season, *Papyrocranus afer* had the lowest (0.32) condition factor (K) value while the highest was *Tilapia zillii* (3.28). During the wet season, *Sphyraena afra* (0.37) had the least K while *T. mariae* (3.88) was the species with the highest K value. Fish annual condition factor (K) values ranged from 0.40 in *Caranx senegalensis* to 3.43 in *T. zillii* while the mean monthly condition varied from 0.07 (*P. afer*) in October to 4.22 (*T. mariae*) in April. Shannon-Wiener biotic index varied from 0.29 being the lowest in September to 2.79 being the highest in May. Seasonal variation in the index showed highest (2.15) during dry season than the wet season (0.67). Species richness was high (136) indicating a polydiversed community. Previous studies showed that *T. mariae* had a mean K value of 3.8 but 2.81 in the present study in the same system. Higher K value of 1.66 was obtained for *B. nurse* but previously was 0.34. These differences may be occasioned by the human anthropogenic perturbations which are on-going in the river system, thus leading to environmental degradation. Therefore, appropriate recommendations were proffered.

Keywords: diversity, piscine, condition factor, Ikpa River, Nwaniba.