

STATE OF THE ART

The 'State of the Art' project is a comprehensive literature review of research on **small-scale fisheries** taken place around the world. It is developed as part of an online **Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries** (ISSF; issf.toobigtoignore.net), which aims at enhancing knowledge and importance of small-scale fisheries worldwide.

Data sources:

- 233 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, theses, newsletters and conference proceedings.
- Publication year ranging from 1972 to 2014.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

ECOSYSTEMS

Inland fisheries make up a significant portion of Africa's small-scale fisheries fleet. Freshwater ecosystems such as lakes, rivers and estuaries made up 40% of the publications focus.

Among marine fisheries coral reef and lagoon ecosystems were the most abundant

MARKET CHAIN

Number of publications



- Fishers often adapt to market forces, selling high value species and retaining less marketable species for subsistence consumption.

RESEARCH EMPHASIS TO DATE

Target Species: Tilapia, prawn, cichlids

Ecosystems Lake, river, coral reef

Gear Types: Seine nets, hooks and lines

Countries: South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania

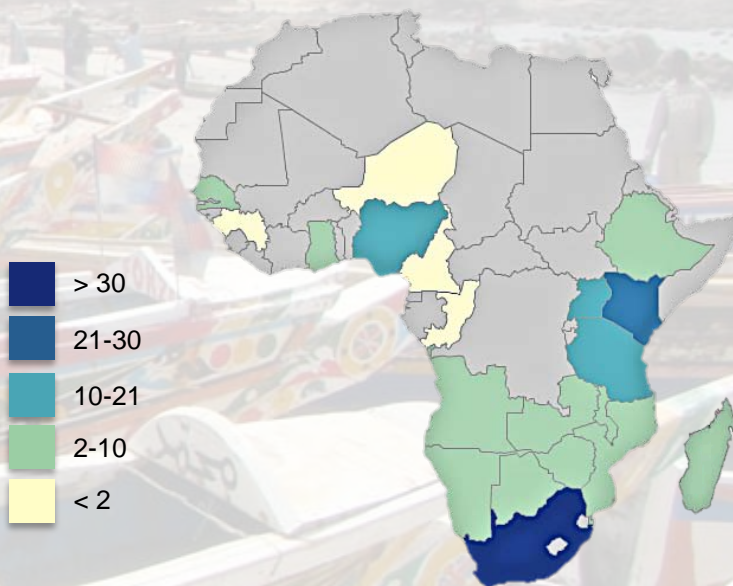


HOW ARE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES REFERRED TO IN THIS REGION?

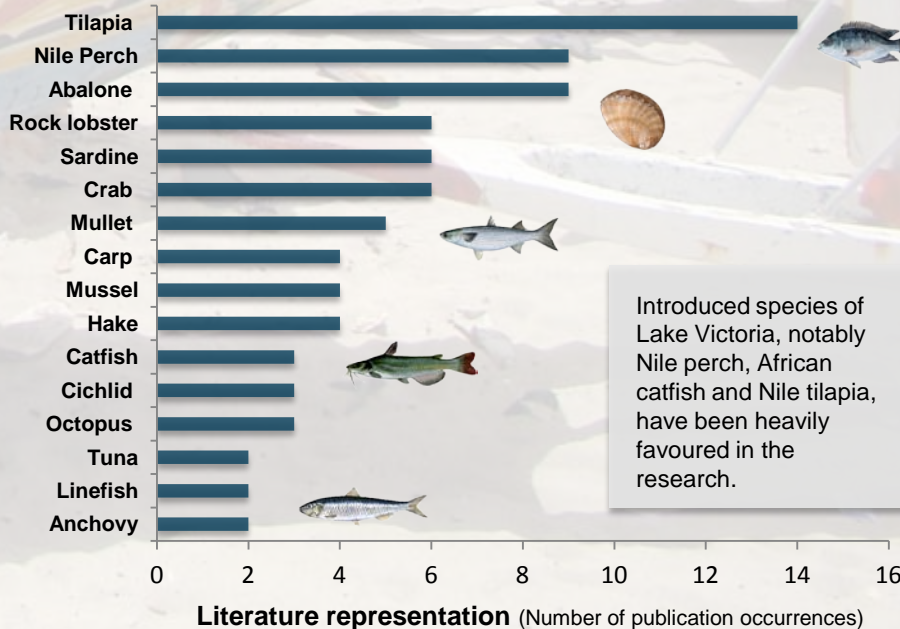
146 publications use **small-scale**, 118 use artisanal, 113 use subsistence

COUNTRY COVERAGE

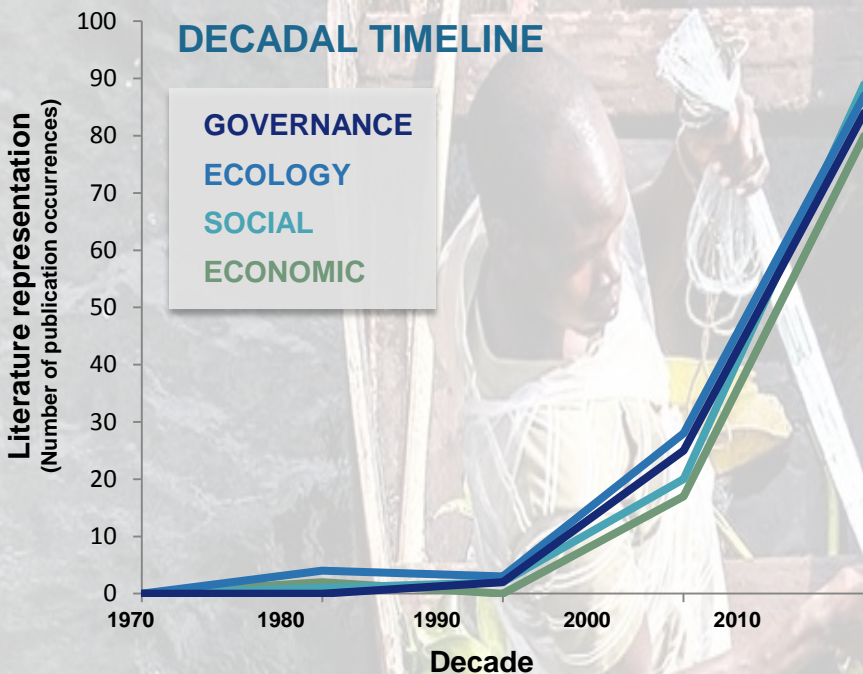
Number of publications per country



SPECIES COVERAGE



Introduced species of Lake Victoria, notably Nile perch, African catfish and Nile tilapia, have been heavily favoured in the research.



TOP 5 RESEARCH THEMES

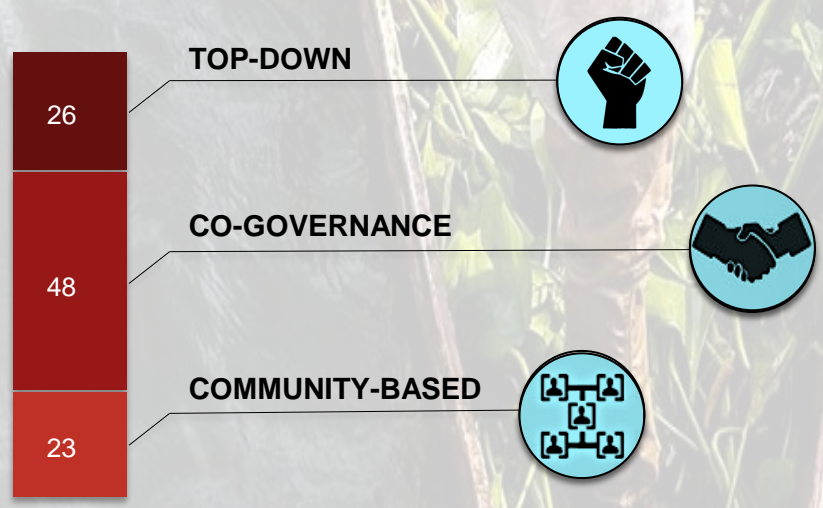
- Stock status
- Poverty and vulnerability
- Fisheries development
- Livelihood dependence on fishing
- Community-based management systems

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Governance, ecological, social and economic themes have increased at a similar rate since the **1990s**.
- **Governance** themes have focused heavily on the role of co-governance and community-based management.
- During the **2000s**, attention to **social** themes such as **poverty and vulnerability, women's roles** and the **health of participants** in the fishery increased exponentially.
- **Economic** themes have been largely limited to fisheries development.

GOVERNANCE

Literature representation (Number of publication occurrences)



A shift from top-down regimes toward forms of participatory governance which better suit the diversity of Africa's small-scale fisheries is apparent throughout the region.

MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS

A transition from classic to rights-based management approaches is apparent throughout the region.

Rights-based:	Quota allocation systems	19
Classic:	Gear and vessel restrictions	44
	Access control through permits	27
	Catch limits	25
	Closures	20

(Number = Publication occurrences)

GEOGRAPHIC EMPHASIS

- Western Africa:** Increased encroachment of coastal harvesting by foreign fleets.
- Central Africa:** Food security and aquaculture.
- Southern Africa:** Post-apartheid fisheries reforms and allocations.
- Eastern Africa:** Introduction of alien species to Lake Victoria and its potential implications.

RESEARCH GAPS

- Regional:** Northern Africa
- Ecosystem:** Mangroves
- Fishery Type:** Aboriginal
- Thematic:** Life and/or job satisfaction
Conservation stewardship

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