

Survey of marine fishes at Ibrahim Hyderi (Jetty), Karachi-Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Largest canal system is present in Pakistan; and almost 225 wetlands are present in this country, out of total 19 are included as Ramsar sites. Total wetland area of Pakistan is 780,000 hectares. Pakistan coastal wetland has a vast variety of fish species, which having commercial value. 719 marine-water fish species; while 193 freshwater fish's species are recorded from Pakistan. Pakistan fish consumption is lowest in the world (1.6 KG per person/Year). Therefore, the fish is exported to following countries as Middle Eastern countries, Europe, America and Japan. It is noted that few species of marine fishes are export in Pakistan; due to this reason these species are declined from the coastal areas of Pakistan. The main aim of the study was to know the diversity of marine fishes in the study areas.

Materials and Methods: A survey was conducted on Ibrahim Hyderi (Jatti); while study started from January 2014 and end in December 2014. Direct visual observation was carried out to identify the fish species from the study areas. The fishes were caught through gill net, trawl net, cast net, bag net, hand line, troll line and long line.

Results: A total of 20 fish species belong to 19 families, 19 genera were recorded from the study area. Ten fishes were common and 10 were less common. It is also noted that fisherman having knowledge about the vernacular name, habitat and feeding habit of marine fishes.

Conclusion: It is noted that area having high diversity of the marine fishes; people of the area having knowledge about the name, habitat and feeding habit of fishes.

Key words: Habitat, Feeding, Net, Marine, Fish.

INTRODUCTION

Largest canal system is present in Pakistan; and almost 225 wetlands are present in this country, out of total 19 are included as Ramsar sites. Total wetland area of Pakistan is 780,000 hectares; (almost 26% of coastal and 74% of freshwater) (Altaf *et al.*, 2014).

Pakistan coastal wetland has a vast variety of fish species, which having commercial value. Froese and Pauly (2017) noted 719 marine-water fish species; while Rafique and Khan (2012) documented 193 freshwater fishes species in Pakistan.

Pakistan fish consumption is lowest in the world (1.6 KG per person/Year). Therefore, the fish is exported to following countries as Middle Eastern countries, Europe, America and Japan. It is noted that few species of marine fishes are export in Pakistan; due to this reason these species are declined from the coastal areas of Pakistan. Marine resources are managed; and also included modern fishing methods. In 1997-98, Pakistan export is as 171 million US\$. High potential areas are as; fisheries sector has the highest export earnings in Pakistan (SMEDA, 1999). The main aim of the study was to know the diversity of marine fishes in Ibrahim Hyderi.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area: A survey was conducted on Ibrahim Hyderi (Jatti); while study started from January 2014 and end in December 2014.

Methodology: Direct visual and indirect questionnaire methods were used to assessment the fish diversity from the study areas. The fishes were caught through nets (i.e. gill net, trawl net, cast net, bag net, hand line, troll line and long line). The specimen were identified by different scientific techniques and help of key book of Ahmad and Niazi (1998) and Fischer and Bianchi (1984).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 20 fish species belong to 19 families, 19 genera were recorded from the study area. Ten fishes were common and 10 were less common as shown in (Table 1). The recorded species are as; *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*, *Pomadagys kaakan*, *Otolithus ruber*, *Pampus argenteus*, *Lates calcarifer*, *Arius thalassinus*, *Galeocerdo cuvieri*, *Labeo rohita*, *Alepes djedaba*, *Congeresox talabonoides*, *Epinephelus chlorostigma*, *Himantura chaophraya*, *Sillago sihama*, *Acanthopagrus latus*, *Rhizprionodon acutus*, *Parastromateus nigar*, *Teranpon jarbue*, *Scomberomrus guttatus*, *Cynoglossus bilineatus* and *Pseudorhombus arsius*. It is also noted that fisherman having knowledge about the vernacular name, habitat and feeding habit of marine fishes (Table 1).

Conclusion: It is noted that area has high diversity of the marine fishes; people of the area also having knowledge about the name, habitat and feeding habit of fishes.

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Availability of data: I have included all data in the manuscript that were collected during the field survey.

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Table 1: List of Marine Fishes Species at Various Study Sites.

Sr.	Scientific Name	Family	English Name	Local Name	Status	Habitat	Feeding Habit
1	<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>	Lutjanidae	Mangrove red snapper	Hira	Common	Shallow coastal waters mainly around mangroves	Fishes & benthic invertebrates including shrimps, crabs
2	<i>Pomadourys kaakan</i>	Haemulidae	Olive grunt	Dhother	Less Common	Coastal waters	Benthic invertebrates & small fishes
3	<i>Otolithus ruber</i>	Sciaenidae	Tiger tooth croacker	Mushka	Common	Coastal waters	Fishes , prawn and invertebrates
4	<i>Pampus argenteus</i>	Stromateidae	Silver pomfret	Safaid paplet	Common	Coastal waters	Crustaceans , mollusks
5	<i>Lates calcarifer</i>	Latidae	Gaint sea perch	Dangri	Common	Demersal , catadromus	Crustaceans , mollusks and small fishes
6	<i>Arius thalassinus</i>	Ariidae	Gaint cat fish	Khaga Kun	Common	Estuaries and inshore water	Invertebrates and small fishes
7	<i>Galeocerdo cuvieri</i>	Carcharhidae	Sea shark	nurmani	Common	Marine Coastal waters	Crustaceans , mollusks Invertebrates and small fishes
8	<i>Labeo rohita</i>	Cyprinidae	Carp fish	Rahu	Common	Coastal waters, estuaries	Small benthic invertebrates planktonic organism alga
9	<i>Alepes djedaba</i>	Caranidae	Shrimp scad	Bangra seem	Less Common	Coastal waters and reef areas	Crustacean , copepods
10	<i>Congerex talabonoides</i>	Muraenesocidae	Pike congres	Bam	Common	Continental Shelf	Feeds at night on bottom fishes & crustaceans
11	<i>Epinephelus chlorostigma</i>	Serranidae	Brown spotted grouper	Gisser	Common	Coastal waters	Fishes, large crustaceans
12	<i>Himantura chaophraya</i>	Dasyatidae	Sting rays	Pittan	Less Common	Marine Coastal waters	Crustaceans , mollusks Invertebrates and small fishes
13	<i>Sillago sihama</i>	Silago sihama	Silver whiting	Bhambor	Less Common	Shores, Bays, Creeks, estuaries	Mainly on polychaetes & benthic organisms
14	<i>Acanthopagrus latus</i>	Sparidae	Yellowfin seabream	Kissi-Dandya	Less Common	Coastal waters, estuaries	Invertebrates , echinoderms, crustaceans , worms & molluscus
15	<i>Rhizprionodon acutus</i>	Carcharinidae	Milk shark or Dog shark	Mangra, Kamot	Less common	Coastal waters	Fishes, large crustaceans
16	<i>Parastromateus nigar</i>	Carangidae	Black Pomfret	Kala paplet	Less common	Coastal waters	Mainly on polychaetes & benthic organisms
17	<i>Terapon jarbue</i>	Teraponidae	Jarbua terapon	Gingra, Kabloosh	Less common	Shallow coastal waters	Crustaceans , mollusks and small fishes
18	<i>Scomberomrus guttatus</i>	Scorpaenidae	Spanish mackerel	Surmai,	Common	Coastal water	Small benthic invertebrates

				Kalagund			planktonic organism alga
19	<i>Cynoglossus bilineatus</i>	Psettodidae	Four lined tonguesole	Sole, munsa swasoo	Less common	Coastal waters	echinoderms, crustaceans , worms & molluscus
20	<i>Pseudorhombus arsius</i>	Bothidae	Large tooth flounder	Kukar jib buti swasoo	Less common	Shallow Coastal waters	Crustaceans , molluscs and small fishes