

**Report on the training sessions on fish catch and effort data collection
system the fisheries of Lake Chilwa using the BVCs.**

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1.0 Introduction

The training sessions covered two basic aspects – BVC roles and responsibilities as well as discussions on logbook datasheet as a tool for data collection by the fishing communities. The participants included village heads, gear owners, fishing crew and BVCs. The gear owners and fishers include those of fish traps, seine nets and line fishing (handline, longline and chomanga). Within the BVC structure, a representation included portfolios of chairpersons, secretary, treasure and ordinary members.

2.0 Logbook datasheet

On logbook sheet, there is need to include a column “Comments” so that explanation on why there was no fishing on a particular day could be captured.

The term “vuwo/mavuwo” should be replaced with “mzingo/mizingo” to follow the normal terminology used by the fishers on Lake Chilwa.

3.0 Issues that featured

It became apparent that the research team undertakes a task to pre-record weights of the species prior to the period the fishers would commence filling the logbook datasheets. For example, Mlamba species is not sold in dozens or tins but as individuals. This would make it easy to determine the species weight as the fishers land with the spp. It should be noted that mlamba spp is commonly sold as individual fish or in chipiku format and not in dozens as is the case with the other species.

Close season

The issue of close season featured highly in virtually all the training venues. This clearly shows that the issue requires a consolidated approach and review so that costs associated with close season for Lake Chilwa are properly counted.

4.0 Expectations

Commencement of data collection

Data collection using logbook datasheets is expected to commence as soon as a manual is produced. This will avoid occurrence of drudgery, as the fishers will have on-hand manual for reference.