

LECTURE NOTE ON FIS 512

FIS 512: FISHERIES POLICY AND LEGISLATION

This Course is taught by three (3) lecturers- Dr. I.T. Omoniyi, Dr. F.I. Adeosun and Dr. A.A. Idowu.

The Course Synopsis is further outlined on lecture basis as follow:

Lectures 1-2: Fisheries institutions

Lectures 3-4: Conservation strategies

Lectures 5-7: Fisheries policy and law of Nigeria

Lectures 8-10: International laws of the sea

FISHERIES INSTITUTIONS

Fisheries institutions or institutes are bodies established and regulated by the policies and activities of conserving and managing fisheries resources in a country/ geographical region. It is known that all fisheries resources are finite, hence the resources must be well managed and developed for sustainability of the region. In recognition of this, Nigeria established two institutes centred of freshwater and marine fisheries resources.

These are:

1. National institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research(NIFFR) in New Bussa, Niger State.
2. Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), Victoria Island Lagos State.

NIFFR was established in 1968 as a project by the Federal Government of Nigeria with an aid from the United National Development Programme (UNDP). Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was executing agent while the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources represented the Federal Government. By 1975, FAO experts withdrew their participation and qualified Nigerian scientists took over the management of what was re-named Kainji Lake Research Institute (KLRI) instead of Kainji Lake Research Project. With much re-organisation from the multi-disciplines into the one carrying out researches on Freshwater Fisheries and aquatic resources, the name changed to National Institute for freshwater fisheries Research. This is to reflect the emphasis of its researches on Aquaculture, fisheries biology, hydrology, fisheries technology, fisheries economics, training and extension. With this new mandate, the activities of the institute is funded by the FGN while the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology is the supervising Ministry. The broad objective is to assist the country in comprehensive development, utilization and preservation of all the natural resources from man-made lakes and other freshwater bodies through research and surveying. Under this, the mandate of the institute include:

- Abundance, distribution and other biological features of freshwater fishes and other aquatic resources.
- Genetic improvement of freshwater fishes and other aquatic resources in rivers, lakes (natural or man-made)
- Hydrological behavior of natural and man-made lakes etc.

Attend my class for other mandates and further discussion. Note that, this institute has 3 outstations in Nigeria.

NIOMR – This institute was established out of the research division of the Federal Department of Fisheries in 1975 purposely to conduct researches into the resources and physico-chemical features/characteristics of the Nigerian territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the high seas beyond and to train man power required for the public and private sectors of the coastal fishing industry. The institute formulated its objectives to meet the National needs for research and technical development. The mandates include:

- Knowledge of fish stock size and the amount to be exploited on a sustained commercial basis in the Nigerian brackish and coastal waters at least up to 200 nautical miles (320km).
- Knowledge of the geology and geophysics of sea floor of Nigeria and her sediments with a view to controlling beach erosion, determining sea floor topography, types of sediments and possibilities of economic exploitation.
- Determination of the presence of petroleum gas pockets in the sediment and concentrations of heavy minerals and gravel exploits.
- Socio-economic evaluation of problems arising from the exploitation of resources of the sea and brackish water fishing as well as fish distribution methods.

It should also be noted that the institute oversees the African Regional Aquatic Centre (ARAC) at Aluu, near Port Harcourt where the training of the man power objective is being achieved.

Other fisheries institutions of note are some Nigerian Universities which offer programmes leading to the award of degrees in Fisheries courses. For example, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; University of Ibadan (UI), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (OAU), University of Lagos (UNILAG), Lagos State University, Ojoo Lagos (LASU), Fed. University of

Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM), Federal University of Technology (FUTA), Federal University of Science and Technology, Minna (FUT) etc.

Some associations and societies include:

Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON)

National Association of fish farmers and Aquaculturists (NAFFA)

Association of catfish farmers etc.

Attend class on further discussion on the fisheries institutions and societies.

FISHERIES POLICY AND LAWS OF NIGERIA

The Federal Department of Fisheries is vested with the statutory responsibility of developing Nigeria's fisheries for attainment of sustainable self-sufficiency in fish production, utilization and resource conservation. As a policy, the Department does not embark on direct fish production, but implement projects that create enabling environment and motivation for private sector investment in fisheries development. However, at present, the activities of the Department are marred by almost zero fund allocation in the last five years. The policy strategies of the Department are aimed at accelerating the pace of private sector involvement in fish production, processing, marketing, utilization and resource conservation. In line with the stated policy objective, the Department has evolved some of the following strategies for project implementation:

- Provision of appropriate infrastructure to enhance fish production and utilization by the private sector,

- Transfer of modern fisheries technologies to end users and extensionists in linkage with relevant state extension agencies,
- Sourcing and provision of credit to fishermen through collaboration with relevant donor agencies, credit institutions and State Fisheries Departments
- Collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of fisheries data for fisheries planning and development
- Re-stocking of lakes, lagoons and reservoirs for enhanced fish production and resources conservation etc.

Others will be discussed during lecture hours. Attend.

In Nigeria, the National Fisheries Development Committee (NFDC) made up of Director of Federal Fisheries Department, State Directors of Fisheries, Director of NIOMR, NIFFR and the Vice Chancellors (or their Representatives) of the three Federal Universities of Agriculture is the highest policy formulating body in Fisheries matters. The decision and reports of this committee are transferred to the National Economic Council through the Federal Minister of Agriculture.

The fisheries policies are being governed by decrees and laws that are usually published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria official gazettes. You would be provided with some of these laws and decrees published in the FG gazettes. Also, the essential features of these laws shall be discussed during lecture hours.

Finally, the general constraints to fish production in Nigeria would be discussed in class. For example, these include: high cost of fishing inputs and construction equipment; inadequate supply and high cost of quality fish seeds, leading to under-stocking of ponds; inadequate supply of quality fish feed; piracy at sea; poorly funded research and extensive of institutions and

Universities; illegal exploitation of marine fisheries resources, particularly by foreign vessels; high cost of automotive gas oil (AGO) and its uncoordinated supply to the industry; shortage of competent and experienced technical manpower; lack of access to affordable credit and insurance cover for fish farming enterprises etc.