

Spatial Distribution and Population Status of Critically Endangered Indigenous tilapia in Lake Kayanja and Kayugi, Uganda.

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Introduction

Singidia tilapia Indigenous tilapiine fishes like Singidia tilapia and Victoria tilapia are critically endangered.

The aim of this study was to provide updated information about spatial distribution, population status and threats to these fishes and their habitats

Methods/ Activities

We sampled fish populations using various technique like gillnetting to collect fish data. Physical observations and interviews were used to collect data for threats. Breeding sites were mapped.

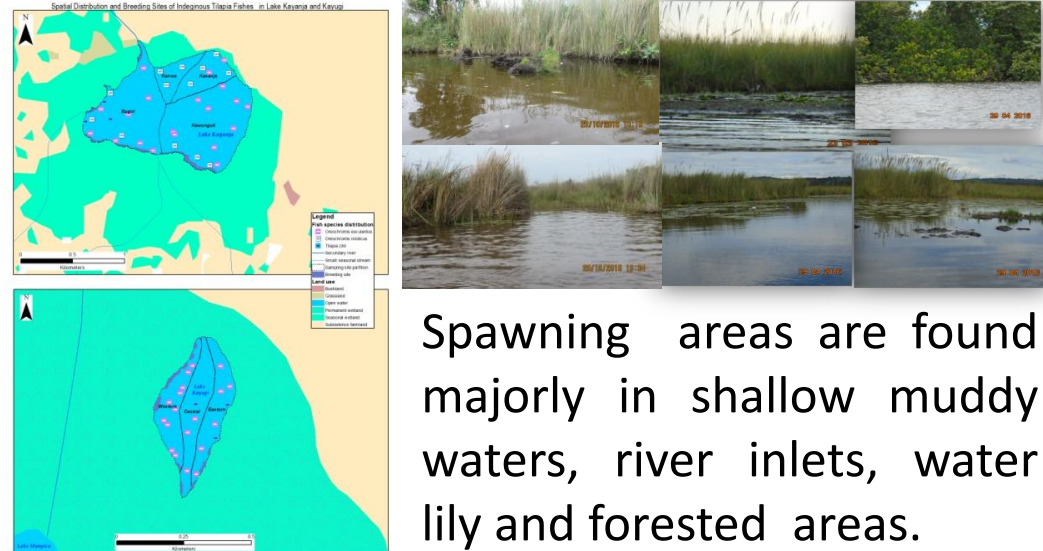


Major Results/Findings

Major threats included; Cage fish farming, agricultural activities, water abstraction and pollution



Presence of Singidia tilapia was recorded in both lakes, no Victoria tilapia. Nile tilapia was encountered in Lake Kayanja only.



Spawning areas are found majorly in shallow muddy waters, river inlets, water lily and forested areas.

Abundance: Singidia tilapia were abundant in Lake Kayugi (5.4%) than Lake kayanja (2.1%) of the total experimental catches.

Discussions

- ❖ The study revealed no presence of Victoria tilapia and decline in the numbers of Singidia tilapia in comparison with earlier studies (1997 - 1999) carried out in both Lakes. The decline was higher (21.1%) in Lake Kayanja than that of Lake Kayugi (1.3%) and could be attributed to the increase in habitat degradation and other human activities such fishing in the former than the later.
- ❖ Introduced (exotic) tilapia such as Nile tilapia and Tilapia zillii that were not previously encountered during earlier studies have started to feature in these lakes. This could be attributed to human activities like fish farming.

Recommendations

- ❖ Urgent actions needed to minimize and mitigate the threats to native tilapia and their habitat.
- ❖ Need to protect spawning and nursery areas mapped in these Lakes.

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