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## ASPECTS OF HYDROBIOLOGY OF LAKE ONA IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA 1: FISH FAUNA

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### ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at three stations on Lake Ona between August 2001 and July 2003, to provide baseline information on the community structure, species composition, abundance, diversity and spatial distribution of the fish fauna of the lake. Fish samples were collected fortnightly from the stations between 06.00-07.30 hrs and 17.00-18.30 hrs on sampling days. A complement of both surface and bottom fishing gear were used to catch fish. The total catch was 1,394 individuals with a biomass of 184 kg. The catch was made up of 52 species, 33 genera and 22 families. The dominant species in terms of number and biomass were Mochokidae and Osteoglosside respectively. Analysis of variance and LSD showed fish biomass at stations I and V to be significantly different from Station III ( $P < 0.05$ ). Number of fish caught in stations III and V were significantly different from Station I ( $P < 0.05$ ) but were not significantly different from each other ( $P > 0.05$ ). Station I had the lowest number of taxa and individuals caught, but had the highest diversity and evenness. With good management, the fisheries resource of the lake can be profitably exploited.

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