

REPORT ON LAMU ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION 2017 DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, LIVESTOCK AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.

Introduction

The department of fisheries is mandated to increase fish productivity and ensure sustainable management of marine resources in Lamu County. This mandate can be achieved through supporting fishermen to exploit resources offshore while ensuring inshore fishing grounds are least fished.

The support to fishermen has been channeled through provision of fishing fleets which includes outboard engines to power fishing crafts, provision of cooler boxes for fish preservation, provision of fishing aids (GPS and fishing ground maps), fishing gears and other accessories.

The impact of the department's assistance to fishermen through the revolving fund can only be measured through determination of how much the fish land per fishing trip or fishing operation and such data and information submitted to the department.

In order to capture both temporal and spatial data on fishing operations offshore, the departments in 2015 initiated a fishing competition and investor forum to be annually.

The 2017 annual fishing competition is the 3rd such event that provided the department with an opportunity to assess its achievements with regards to the facilities issued to fishers.

The theme for this year's event was "Promote Sustainable Fishing in Lamu County".



CEC, Department of Fisheries, Livestock and Cooperative Development Mr. Abdu Godana issuing certificate and trophy to one of the winners of the year 2017 Fishing Competition.

Background information

Fishing and fisheries related activities in Lamu county accounts for over 70% of household incomes in Lamu East, Lamu Island and the adjacent fishing villages inhabiting the shorelines in Lamu west Sub County.

In 2016 slightly over 2,500 tons of fish and fish products were caught and processed in Lamu with over 90% coming from inshore fisheries and only 10% offshore. The in shore fishing areas have recorded undersize catches with increasing trends while the offshore fishing has remained stable recording capture of large, high valued fish like tuna and the reef fishes.

The potential for our offshore fisheries is estimated at over 150,000 tons annually and has not been fully exploited due to lack of modern fishing technologies and use of rudimentary gears and obsolete traditional fishing skills inherited overtime from the past generations.

Lamu waters therefore as seen a rise in illegal unregulated and unreported fishing activities dominate unabated especially from distant water fishing nations who overtime have been sighted by the local fishermen while conducting their operations at night.

It is this trend that the department through its programmes and activities would want the change through empowering the fishermen to exploit the rich and unexploited resources in the Kenyan territorial waters and the EEZ. However, this can only happen with more emphasis being put on sensitization, training and provision of fishing fleets to fishers.

Through the annual fishing competition the department has been able to mobilize and sensitize fishermen and the Lamu community at large on the available opportunities to increase fish production offshore and the need to have a paradigm shift from fishing inshore to allow for stocks recruitment and enhancement.



Lamu resident viewing the caught fish at Mkunguni square

RESULTS

- A total of 54 fishing crafts registered and participated in the event out of which 40 crafts landed fish ranging from 1kg per boat to 221kg in total landings per boat. On the other hand the same boats recorded individual fish at 1kg to 44kg per species per boat.
- The winners were awarded with certificates, trophies and cash as indicated in table 1 and 2 below
- A total of 2282 kg fish were landed by 40 boats who successfully went through the competition.
- A total of ksh 63,850 was realized from fish auction with the highest bidder offering kshs 8,000 for Kambisi weighing 44 kg while the lowest bided fish at ksh 200 for 2 kg rock cod.
- The event was made a light when shogo of 0.5 kg was bided for ksh 2000