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Causes and effects of the Lake Victoria ecological revolution

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PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit van Leiden,
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus Dr. D.D. Breimer
hoogleraar in de faculteit der Wiskunde en
Natuurwetenschappen en die der Geneeskunde,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op woensdag 6 september 2006
klokke 15:00 uur

door
Pleun Cornelis Goudswaard
Geboren te Dordrecht
in 1950

Promotie commissie

Promotor:	Prof. Dr. J.J. Videler
Co-promoter:	Dr. F. Witte
Referent:	Prof. Dr. A.D. Rijnsdorp Groningen
Overige leden:	Prof. Dr. P.J.J. Hooykaas Prof. Dr. M. K. Richardson Prof. Dr. J.J.M. van Alphen Dr. W.L.T. van Densen Wageningen Dr. F.A. Sibbing Wageningen

Het onderzoek waarop dit proefschrift is gebaseerd, werd gefinancierd door het Ministerie van Buitenlandse zaken. Het onderzoek werd verricht als lid van het Haplochromis Ecology Survey Team (HEST): een samenwerking tussen de vakgroep Dierenmorfologie (thans opgegaan in: Integratieve Zoölogie) van de Rijks Universiteit Leiden en het Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute te Mwanza, Tanzania.

Voor Esther

Origin of Nile Perch

I HAVE been following with keen interest the argument raised by experts about the existence of Nile Perch in Lake Victoria. What I have observed is that, most of the experts do not know the year the Nile Perch were stocked in Lake Victoria and where they were transferred from or the purpose why the Perch were stocked in Lake Victoria.

As I did mentioned in your paper (The Standard Saturday February 25, 1978 readers forum) that Nile Perch were stocked by me from the then Lake Albert (Uganda) in August

1954 after getting clearance from former Senior Fisheries Officer of Uganda Government by the name Mr Alsk R. Anderson.

Therefore, it should be in record that the Perch were stocked in Lake Victoria in 1954 not in 1960's. Some of experts states that some Nile Perch were stocked in Lake Victoria from Lake Turkana.

As far as I can recollect no any Perch were transferred to Lake Victoria from Lake Turkana. And if it has done as most of the experts want us to believe I challenge who did it to come forward and let us know the year he did it and how he did it.

The main purpose why the Nile Perch were stocked in Lake Victoria was that during 1954 there was too much talk of East African Federation at this same-time as had East Africa Fisheries Research Vessel operating in Lake Victoria.

Therefore a suggestion came up that why can't we try to stock Lake Victoria with Nile Perch which will benefit both East Africa countries.

As to whether the Nile Perch is causing hazards to other species of fish in Lake Victoria is for experts to prove. What I can prove to them is that Nile Perch has never caused any hazards to other species in the Lakes, Albert in Uganda and Turkana.

Infact during 1948-70 catches of other species from both Lakes were very high. Why have the catches decreased to very low catching, is it due to Nile Perch? It should as in record that the Nile Perch is a highly nutritious type of fish and its highly consumed in Western Province which makes fishermen and fish-mongers to earn more money.

J. OFULLA AMARAS,
Kakamega.

Mr Amarar is a former Fisheries Officer in Kenya

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