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Causes and effects of the Lake Victoria ecological revolution

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**Causes and effects of the
Lake Victoria ecological revolution**

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Causes and effects of the Lake Victoria ecological revolution

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
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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

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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 Amaras is a former Fisheries officer in Kenya

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768



CONTENTS

Chapter 1	General introduction and summary	9
Chapter 2	The invasion of an introduced predator, Nile perch (<i>Lates niloticus</i>) in Lake Victoria (East Africa): Chronology and causes. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard, Frans Witte & E.F.B. Katunzi	17
Chapter 3	Distribution of Nile perch (<i>Lates niloticus</i>) in southern Lake Victoria, in relation to environmental factors. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard, Egid F.B. Katunzi, Jan H. Wanink & Frans Witte	33
Chapter 4	Diel vertical migration of major fish species in Lake Victoria, East Africa. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard, Jan H. Wanink, Frans Witte, Egid F.B. Katunzi, Michel R. Berger & David Postma	45
Chapter 5	The shrimp <i>Caridina nilotica</i> in Lake Victoria (East Africa), before and after the Nile Perch increase. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard, Frans Witte, Jan H. Wanink & Michiel R. Berger	61
Chapter 6	The catfish fauna of Lake Victoria after the Nile Perch upsurge. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard & Frans Witte	77
Chapter 7	Decline of the African Lungfish (<i>Protopterus aethiopicus</i>) in Lake Victoria, East Africa. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard, Frans Witte & Lauren J. Chapman	105
Chapter 8	The tilapiine fish stock of Lake Victoria before and after the Nile perch upsurge. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard, Frans Witte & Egid F.B. Katunzi	119

Chapter 9	Synthese - What happened and who did what. Kees (P.C.) Goudswaard	137
	Referenties.	145
	Samenvatting.	163
	Curriculum vitae.	171
	Publications.	173