

ABSTRACT

Preliminary Study on The Food and Feeding Habits of Schilbe Mystus (Linn., 1762) In River Nyando

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Schilbe mystus (Butlerfish) is one of the "endangered species" of Lake Victoria, whose fishery was once of commercial importance. The annual landings have declined from about 400 mt in 1968 to a bare 15 mt in 1991. The average size of the species is smaller than that reported by Greenwood (1966). During the study, the size range sampled was 11.2 to 25.6 cm. fork length with the majority measuring 14.0-15.0 cm FL. The food and feeding habits of the fish are discussed. Study on the gut content shows that Schilbemystus preys mainly on insects with chironomid larvae as the dominant prey.

Key words: Schilbe mystus, Butlerfish, food habits, feeding habits