

Project Update: February 2016

I have just completed the second phase of my project titled 'Conservation awareness campaign in the protection of critically endangered Jipe tilapia *Oreochromis jipe* and its habitat in Lake Jipe Tanzania-Project ID: 15759-2 '.

After completion of the second phase, I and my team decided to conduct a preliminary survey on the population status of the critically endangered Jipe tilapia, the target species in our project. We wanted to know if there is an improvement in the conservation and population status (size and abundance) of species and also to see if the rampant illegal fishing gear observed at the beginning of the project has declined or has increased following 3 years conservation work in Lake Jipe, Tanzania

Attached below is a brief report of our survey and some pictures/images. In summary, the survey indicated the following key findings:

1. The size of the Jipe tilapia caught in different areas of the Lake and river mouth has improved.
2. The fishermen catch is dominated by matured individuals of Jipe tilapia among other fish species.
3. Number of fishermen using illegal fishing gear (i.e. 1.5-2.5 mm mesh size) has declined while number of individuals using legal fishing gear (3-3.5 mm mesh size) has increased.

Therefore, the conservation work supported in Lake Jipe has led to the fruitful improvement of the species and the ecosystem.