
BY

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A Dissertation Submitted to the University of Zambia in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in History

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

LUSAKA

2011
DECLARATION

I, JOSHUA CHILONGE, declare that this dissertation:

(a) Represents my own work;

(b) Has not previously been submitted for a degree at this or any other University; and

(c) Does not incorporate any published work or material from other dissertation.

Signed ......................................................

Date ......................................................
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APPROVAL

This dissertation by JOSHUA CHILONGE is approved as fulfilling the partial requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Arts in History by the University of Zambia.

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ABSTRACT

Fishing was one of the oldest and lifelong human activities which did not only attract high population densities, but was also used, in certain areas, as an alternative source of income and food security. Fish contributed to the development of trade between the riverine communities, which caught fish and agricultural communities which grew crops. This study appreciated the strategic importance of the Bangweulu Fishery and its contribution to the economy of Samfya District from 1935 to 1970.

The study analysed the lifestyle of the fishermen and how their dependence on fishing as the only source of livelihood led to overexploitation of the Bangweulu fishery. The study further looked at how some primary and secondary colonial and post colonial fishing regulations affected the fishermen and their industry in Samfya District. The study noted how increased fishing activities in the Bangweulu fishery drastically reduced fish catches per fisherman, and how consequently, the dependence on fishing alone made it difficult for most fishermen to make a meaningful living.
DEDICATION

To my mother, Elina Musabula, my wife, Vestina Chilonge and my children, Katuka, Silvester, Maria and Joshua for their patience, support and sacrifice throughout my studies.
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I also thank the officers at the Provincial Fisheries office in Mansa and District Fisheries Office in Samfya for availing me with important documents where I gathered valuable information. I wish to appreciate the special assistance rendered to this study by the officers at the Department of Fisheries (DoF) in Chilanga who allowed me to use the Fisheries library.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAAR</td>
<td>African Affairs Annual Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMU</td>
<td>African Fishers Marketers Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETUZ</td>
<td>Basic Education Teachers’ Union of Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BWTS</td>
<td>Bangweulu Water Transport Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistical Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.C</td>
<td>District Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoF</td>
<td>Department of Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNDP</td>
<td>First National Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GN</td>
<td>Government Notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAFF</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAZ</td>
<td>National Archives of Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NER</td>
<td>North Eastern Rhodesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>NISTCOL</td>
<td>National In-Service Teachers’ College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWR</td>
<td>North Western Rhodesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>Purchasing Power Parity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>Statutory Instrument</td>
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