



Fish Production in Egypt: Current Status and Future Perspective

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Introduction

Egypt drives its fish yield from three main resources; marine (Red and Mediterranean seas), inland (lakes and River Nile) and aquaculture. These fisheries are one of our chief sources of wealth. If we give them due care, we can increase our national income and solve many of our problems.

Despite the improved fish production in Egypt ($\approx 1,500,000$ ton in 2014: 25% from capture fisheries and 75% from cultured fish), the increasing pressure from growing populations and the desire to increase per capita consumption of fish requires us to reorder priorities in order to achieve optimum exploitation of available fish resources. Egypt as the most of the world needs to focus on fisheries, as productive renewable food resources that can contribute to the development or increase national income as well as safe the food for coming generations. Generally, Egyptian fish stocks from marine and inland waters have severely declined in recent years. The decline of the fisheries has stressed the need for efficient fisheries management. To develop the fisheries sector in present-day, Egypt's attention must be paid to the development of its natural fish resources through better conservation and management of marine and fresh-water resources. So, the objective of the present study is to address the main challenges faced the Egyptian fishery resources and how to overcome it.

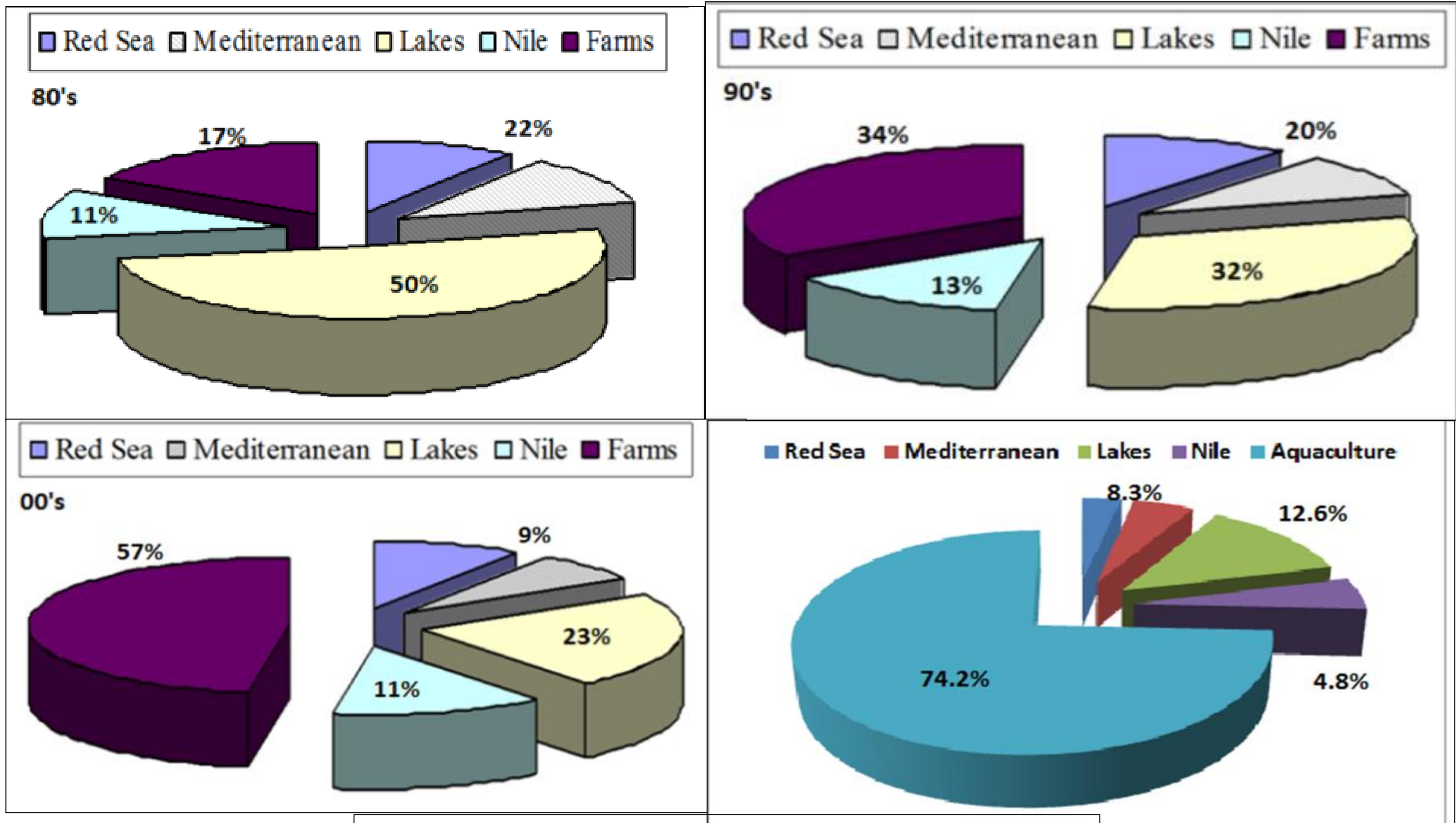
Material and Methods

Fishery statistics during the period 1990-2014 were obtained from the fisheries offices of the General Authority for Fish Resources Development. These data were analyzed to estimate the catch per unit of fishing effort. The logistic model of Schaefer (1957) was applied to assess the fishery status of different fish resources in Egypt. Also, field trips and interviews were done to detect the most common challenges facing the capture and aquaculture industries in Egypt.

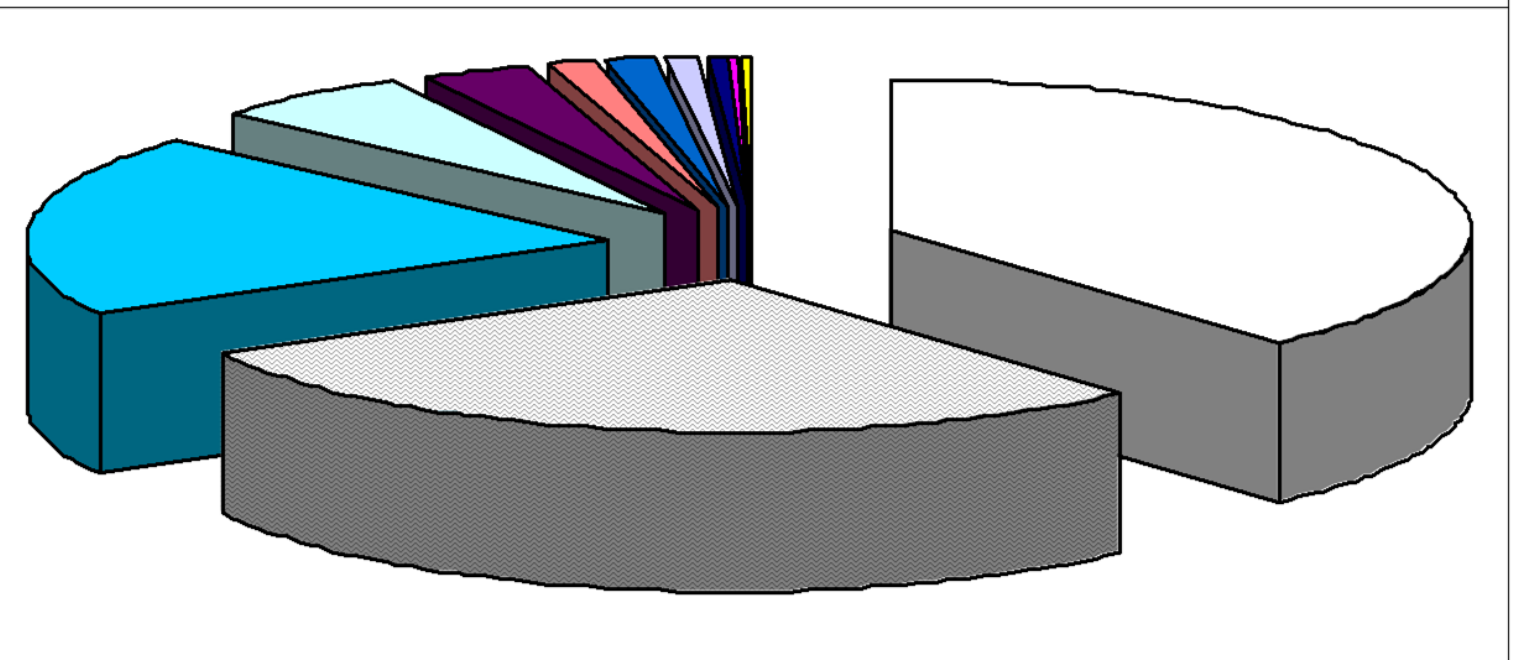


Results and Discussion

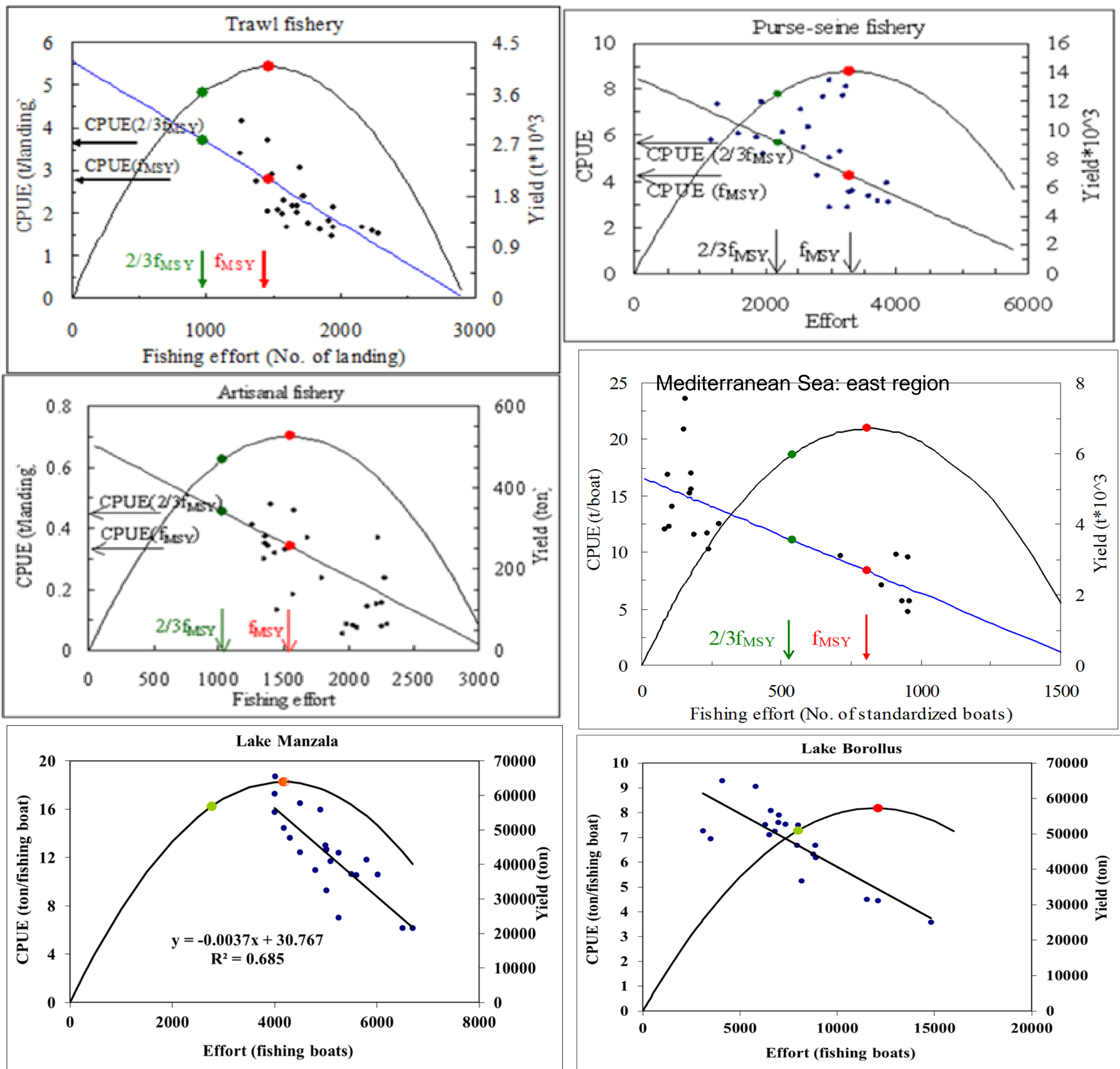
Fish production history from Egypt



□ Manzalah □ Borollus □ Nasser
□ Edku □ Mariut □ Bardawil
□ Bitter lakes and Timsah □ Qarun □ Wadi El-Raiyan
□ Tushka □ Porfouad



Surplus production models (after Mehanna, 2007&2008) Red Sea



Current challenges

Marine fisheries

- Over-exploitation due to the high fishing pressure
- Illegal size nets and destructive fishing methods, illegal harvesting of fish fry
- Increasing of tourism and industrial expansion which cause damages in coastal ecosystem and pollution
- Lack of information on fishery status in terms of biological, ecological, social and economic policy
- Lake of awareness about the importance of fisheries regulations

Aquaculture

- the high prices of fish food
- Shortage in fish fry especially of marine origin
- Pollution
- Leasing period was very short (three years). This period non encouragement for investing in fish farming

Recommendations

Marine fisheries

- Regulation of mesh sizes, controlling gear types used and prohibition the destructive ones.
- Defining closed areas on the light of developing a geographical information system for the fishing grounds.
- Setting of a total allowable catch
- Revision of fisheries laws and improving the system for collecting and compiling fisheries statistics
- Examining the water inflow from the industrial activities to control polluted water inflow into the fishing grounds.
- Encourage the investment in mariculture
- Construction marine hatcheries to cover the excessive demand on fish fry and juveniles for aquaculture

Aquaculture

- Make a new map for all non-agricultural land and study the availability to use this land in farming fish.
- Re-use the municipal wastewater after treatment in fish farms
- Use the recent technology in fish farms and change the present traditional aquaculture techniques to the intensive or integrated culture
- Encourage the construction of hatcheries
- Encourage the investment in mari-culture