



Target Fishery Species and Their Perspective in Prespa Lakes (West Macedonia, Greece)[#]

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Abstract : The trans-boundary Prespa Lakes Macro (Big) and Micro (Small) near past was considered as traditionally inland fishery areas, for the neighbouring countries, nowadays they tend to lose this characteristic profile due to the degradation and the overexploitation of their natural resources and the lessening of the most important commercially fish species, that are the target fishery species. This paper aims to consider the changes of fishery production through time for the target fishery species for the two trans-boundary Prespa Lakes (Micro and Macro) during the last 20 years of the last century in a yearly basis and in detail the fishery production of the Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), the Prespa roach or 'Platika' (*Rutilus prespensis*) and the European chub (*Squalius cephalus*). The Minitab 13.20 software was used to perform modelling and then, short - term forecasts regarding to the ratio of the target fish species caught from the fishermen. The results signify the evident degradation of the fishery production of these two trans-boundary lakes as also the selectivity of the fishery in the substitution of some important environmentally fish species. The conclusions of this study can be helpful to the neighboring responsible authorities within the development of a common trans-boundary sustainable fishery strategy aiming to protect biodiversity and sustain local economy.

Key words: *Prespa Lakes, fishery, fishery models, fish biodiversity, trans-boundary lakes*

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