Iraq can be considered one of the marine countries, Situated at the head of the Arabian Gulf. The area of national territorial waters about 900 km², from FAW port. this area is characterized by lack of depth waters where the maximum depth is about 15 m and this waters are under effects of tidal currents, where the water levels rises and lowers about 2.40 m. regional coastal waters are directly continued with gulf waters and exchanging with marine waters by tidal movement, as the water flows from Gulf and Karun river to Shatt al-Arab and back, Therefore this area is characterized with high fertility water which attracts fishes for feeding or breeding purposes, few species of these fishes may continue to migrate to internal waters through Shatt al-Arab and marshes.
The geographical location allows Iraq to exercise fishing and build a national fishing fleet in neighboring waters (Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea) and international waters (high seas) under international conventions. Although Iraq has this area but this source have not been optimally used to boost marine fish production.
The picture for Iraqi marine fishing system is not clear due to internal and external political climate. Priorities must set up to develop and rebuild capacities which will lead to better understanding of this sector as well as the policy of the national fisheries strategies for inclusive cooperation between all regional countries with common awareness to upgrade this sector to protect what remains of these fishes (fish stocks), species and their habitats.
**Summery**
We can summaries marine fishing status as following:-:
• **1. Owner ship** \ the ownership of this sector is privet sector, the stat is not involved directly or indirectly. Fishermen have non government organization (cooperative association) to regulate and represent their activities and needs with authorities
• **2. state contribution** \ the sole service given by the state is issuing license for fishermen and boats.
3- **The fishing boats** \ small, simple and primitive most of them are for daily fishing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ggea No. of boats</th>
<th>Gears used</th>
<th>Power\HP</th>
<th>Length\m</th>
<th>Storage\T</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Gill nets</td>
<td>75-240</td>
<td>Up to 12 m</td>
<td>0.750-7</td>
<td>Licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gill nets\traps</td>
<td>75-240</td>
<td>Up to 18</td>
<td>1. 3.5</td>
<td>Licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Traps\multipurpose</td>
<td>65-826</td>
<td>Up to 24</td>
<td>3-8</td>
<td>Licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Trawls\traps</td>
<td>150-916</td>
<td>Up to 30</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Licensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223 Total No. Of fishing boats</td>
<td></td>
<td>75-916</td>
<td>12-30</td>
<td>0.75-5</td>
<td>Licensed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total Catch

2005 = 2527 ton
2006 = 12774 ton
2007 = 9560 ton
2008 = 4814 ton
2009 = 6484 ton
2010 = 7118 ton
2011 = 1682 ton
TARGETED, NOT-TARGETED, DISCARDED FISHES

Nearly all captured fishes have market value in Iraq, of course their differences in prices depending on fish species, we can divide these fishes as targeted or not targeted. But this does not mean that these fishes are not required or desirable by the consumer, Iraqi markets receives all kinds of fish except unsuitable for human use fishes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species targeted</th>
<th>Not-targeted\ retained</th>
<th>Discarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Species</strong></td>
<td><strong>Targeted</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discarded</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>With Arabic name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not-targeted</strong></td>
<td><strong>1. Synaptura orientalis \ mezlag</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1-Hilsa illish\ sobor</strong></td>
<td><strong>1- Pterios volitans \ deek al-bahar</strong></td>
<td><strong>2- Alepes mtate\ hamam</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2-Epinephelus areolatus \ hammor</strong></td>
<td><strong>2- Hyporhamphus spp \ mekhat al-nabe</strong></td>
<td><strong>3- Scamhaemorus connorson \ khabat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3-Formio niger\ halwaeey</strong></td>
<td><strong>3- Small size unsuitable</strong></td>
<td><strong>4- Saurida tumbil \ abu al-hel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*<em>1. Nemipterus japonicus \ basy yabane*</em></td>
<td><strong>4- Chirocentrus dorab \ haf</strong></td>
<td><strong>5- Saurida tumbil \ abu al-heel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Lisa lentjan \ beyah</strong></td>
<td><strong>6- Arius thalassinus \ chem</strong></td>
<td><strong>6- Chirocentrus dorab \ haf</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Lethrinus lentjan \ shanak</strong></td>
<td><strong>7- Sphyraena jello \ barakoda</strong></td>
<td><strong>7- Sphyraena jello \ barakoda</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Diplodus kotschyi \ shank nokta sawda</strong></td>
<td><strong>8- Nemipterus. spp \ bassy</strong></td>
<td><strong>8- Nemipterus. spp \ bassy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Pomadasys argenteus \ nagror</strong></td>
<td><strong>9- Thrissocles purava \ shegha</strong></td>
<td><strong>9- Thrissocles purava \ shegha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Johnius sp \ Otolithus ruber \ newabe</strong></td>
<td><strong>10- Nematalos nasus \ jafota</strong></td>
<td><strong>10- Nematalos nasus \ jafota</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Mylio bifasciatus \ shanak sha aam</strong></td>
<td><strong>11- Illish filigera \ abu –ewana</strong></td>
<td><strong>11- Illish filigera \ abu –ewana</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. Pelates quadrlineatus \ robyan</strong></td>
<td><strong>12- Pelates quadrlineatus \ bezemee</strong></td>
<td><strong>12- Pelates quadrlineatus \ bezemee</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Information on by-catch and discards

*Bycatch*

**Fishes**

• As mentioned above, most bycatch fishes are desirable and have their consumers and market values, and can be easily utilize as well (have good economic value).
• Bycatch fishes must be recorded in weight \species as income source.
• There is no policy\law\regulation to control or monitor bycatch.
• Iraqi fishing boats are not using bycatch reduction devices (BRD) or turtle exclusion device (TED).
• Above devices cannot be use on Iraqi boats because they are expensive, its technology is not available as well as scarcity of qualified trained persons.
Incidental bycatch

- Seabirds, it is normal to be trapped in nets during looking for fish to eat.
- Marine animals, some time turtle may be found in nets but never keeping them according to their experience all marine birds, animals must be returned to sea immediately alive.

Discarded

Fish catch

Discarded fishes never been recorded or estimated before.

Mostly they have not market value, and not suitable for human use.

May take time to collect in case of small fishes catch, which will damage the target catch
Fishing gears

• Due to bad weather, unchanged of old ropes and bad handling some fishing gears including bottom trawls, traps, and gill nets may lost incidentally.
• Illegal gears may discarded during inspection for IUU or illegal fishing( gears, season, zone)
• Some fishing boats many abandon their old fishing gear at sea (no stores is available).

In order to monitoring (ALDFG) it is very important to establish workshops, training, better understanding on the impacts of these gears on habitats
Epinephelus areolatus

Formio niger
Nemipterus japonicus

Pampus argenteus

Lisa subviridis

Lethrinus lentjan

شانك

بياح
Pomadasys argenteus

Diplodus kotschyi

Johnius sp

Otolithus ruber

Chorinemus lysan
Penaeus semisulcatus
Non-Targeted Fishes\Retained

Alepes mtate حمام

Synaptura orientalis مزلک

Scamberomorus commerson خباط
Saurida tumbil
ابو الهيل

Chirocentrus dorab
حف

Sphyraena jello
بركودا

Arius thalassinus
جم جري البحر
Nematalosa nasus

باسي

Pelates quadrlineatus

Illish elongata
Discarded fishes

Mene maculata قيصان البور

Pterios volitans ديك البحر

(Scorpaenidae)
Dasyatis spp

Hyporhamphus spp.

Torpedo marmorata Risso

Guitar ray
Thank you for your attention

Vartan.A.Sarkissian

General Board for Fish Resource Development 2012