## Supplementary material

## Reconstructing Kenya's total freshwater fisheries catches: 1950-2017

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Table S1. Data anchor points and sources used for reconstructing catches from Lake Victoria (Kenya)
from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | Description | Sources |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Catch and taxa | 1948 | Total catch for Lake Victoria <br> Total catch \& taxonomic composition, <br> incl. illegal gear | Ogutu-Ohwayo (1990) |
|  | 1958 | Lake Victoria Fisheries Service (1959) |  |

Table S2. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches from Lake Turkana (Kenya) from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Years) | Description | Sources |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Catch and taxa | 1951-1956 | Total catch \& taxonomic composition | Kolding (1995) |
|  | $\begin{gathered} 1962,1963, \\ 1966 \end{gathered}$ | Total catch | Kolding (1989) |
|  | 1964 | Total catch | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1966a) |
|  | 1965 | Total catch | Welcomme (2011) |
|  | 1967-1991 | Total catch | Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (1972, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1994) |
|  | 1992-1994 | Total catch \& taxonomic composition | Christopher Aura (KeFS, unpubl. data) |
|  | 1995-2017 | Total catch \& taxonomic composition | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017) |
| Number of fishers | 1962-1988 | Number of licenced fishers | Kolding (1989) |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1996-2013, } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | Number of licenced fishers | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017) |
| Fish consumption | 1982 | 73 kg per person per year in fisher households | Kolding (1989) |

Table S3. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches for Lakes Baringo and Naivasha from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | Description | Sources |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Catch and taxa | 1964 | Total catch | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1966b) |
|  | 1965 | Total catch | Welcomme (1979) |
|  | 1967-1991 | Total catch | Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (1972, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1994) |
|  | 1992-1994 | Total catch \& taxonomic breakdown | Christopher Aura (KeFS, unpubl. data) |
|  | 1995-2017 | Total catch \& taxonomic breakdown | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017) |
| Number of fishers | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1982, } 1985, \\ 1986 \end{gathered}$ | Number of licenced fishers | Vanden Bossche and Bernacsek (1990) |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1996-2013, } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | Number of licenced fishers | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017) |
| Other | 1959 | Start of commercial fishery (Lake Naivasha) | Hickley et al. (2002) |
|  | 1975 | Protopterus spp. introduced (Lake Baringo) | Kimani et al. (2018) |
|  | 1984 | Protopterus spp. listed in commercial catch | Kimani et al. (2018) |

Table S4. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches for Lakes Kenyatta and Kanyaboli from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | Description | Sources |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Catch and taxa | 2006 | Total catch \& taxonomic composition <br> Total catch \& taxonomic composition (Lake <br> Kenyatta) | Kenya Fisheries Service (2006) <br> Kenya Fisheries Service (2007) |
|  | 2007 | Total catch \& taxonomic composition | Kenya Fisheries Service (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, |
|  | $2008-2017$ | Number of licenced fishers (Lake Kanyaboli) | Kenya Fisheries Service (2004) |
| Number of <br> fishers | 2004 | Number of licenced fishers | Kenya Fisheries Service (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, |
|  | $2006-2013$, |  | 2013,2016 ) |

Table S5. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches for Lake Jipe, Lake Chala and other water bodies in Taita-Taveta county from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | Description | Sources |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Catch and taxa | 1964-1965 | Total catch (Lake Jipe) | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1966b) |
|  | 1982 | Total catch (Lake Jipe) | Vanden Bossche and Bernacsek (1990) |
|  | 1983-1985 | Total catch (Lakes Jipe and Chala) | Vanden Bossche and Bernacsek (1990) |
|  | 1992-1994 | Total catch \& taxonomic composition | Christopher Aura (KeFS, unpubl. data) |
|  | 1995 | Total catch | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996) |
|  | 1996-2017 | Total catch \& taxonomic composition | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017) |
| Number of fishers | 1965 | Number of licenced fishers (Lake Chala) | Vanden Bossche and Bernacsek (1990) |
|  | 1985-1986 | Number of licenced fishers (Lakes Chala and Jipe) | Vanden Bossche and Bernacsek (1990) |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1996-2013, } \\ & 2016 \end{aligned}$ | Number of licenced fishers | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016) |

Table S6. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches for the Tana River Dams from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | Description | Sources |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reported catch and taxa | 1967 | Annual catch from Kindaruma Dam | Mann (1969) |
|  | 1992-1994 | Total catch \& taxonomic breakdown | Christopher Aura (KeFS unpubl. data) |
|  | 1995 | Total catch | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996) |
|  | 1996-2017 | Total catch \& taxonomic breakdown | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017) |
| Number of fishers | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1996-2013 } \\ 2016 \end{gathered}$ | Number of licenced fishers | Kenya Fisheries Service (1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016) |
| Other | 1967 | First major dam on Tana River | Mann (1969) |

Table S7. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches for the Tana River Delta from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | Description | Sources |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Reported catch and taxa 1963 | Total catch (lower stretches of river) | Mann (1969) |  |
| 1964 | Total catch (lower stretches of river) | Mann (1969) |  |
| 1965 | Total catch (lower stretches of river) | Mann (1969) |  |
|  | 1966 | Total catch (lower stretches of river) | Mann (1969) |
|  | 2007-2009 Total catch | Kenya Fisheries Service (2007; 2008; 2009) |  |
|  | $2010-2017$ | Total catch \& taxonomic breakdown | Kenya Fisheries Service (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017) |
| Number of fishers | 2016 | Number of licenced fishers | Kenya Fisheries Service (2016) |

Table S8. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches for the Turkwel Dam from 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | Description | Sources |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Reported catch and taxa | $2013-2017$ | Total catch \& taxonomic breakdown | Kenya Fisheries Service $(2013,2016,2017)$ |
| Other | 1990 | Dam construction completed | Renshaw et al. (1998) |

Table S9. Anchor points used for reconstructing catches for water bodies assigned to the 'Rivers' category for 1950 to 2017

| Item | Year(s) | River | Description | Source |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reported catch and taxa | 1955 | Nyanzan ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Total catch | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1966b) |
|  | 1959 | Sondu-Miriu | Total catch | Whitehead (1959) |
|  | 1959 | Kuja | Total catch | Whitehead (1959) |
|  | 1959 | Nzoia | Total catch | Whitehead (1959) |
|  | 1960 | Athi-Sabaki | Total catch (lower river section) | Whitehead (1960) |
|  | 1964 | Nyanzan ${ }^{\text {A }}$ | Total catch | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1966b) |
|  | 1964 | Ewaso- Ngiro | Total catch | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1966b) |
|  | 1965 | Ewaso- Ngiro | Total catch | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (1966b) |
|  | 1986 | Malewa | Total catch | Nzioka et al. (2017) |
|  | 1986 | Sondu-Miriu | Total catch (lower river section) | Ochumba and Manyala (1992) |
|  | 1987 | Malewar | Total catch | Nzioka et al. (2017) |
|  | 1987 | Sondu-Miriu | Total catch (lower river section) | Ochumba and Manyala (1992) |
|  | 1990 | Ewaso-Ngiro | Total catch (wetland section) | Christopher Aura (KeFS, unpubl. data) |
|  | 2017 | Sondu-Miriu | Catch equivalent to 2017 subsistence levels | Julius Manyala (Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University, pers. obs.) |
| Number of fishers | 1992 | Sondu-Miriu | Number of fishers | Ochumba and Manyala (1992) |

[^0]Table S10. Total reconstructed catches (tonnes, Mg) for Kenya's freshwater fisheries from 1950 to 2017, separated by water body category and fishing sector

|  | Lake Victoria |  | Lakes, dams and TRD |  | Rivers |  | Reconstructed total | FAO reported |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year | Artisanal | Subsistence | Artisanal | Subsistence | Artisanal | Subsistence |  |  |
| 1950 | 22875 | 4533 | 571 | 222 | 1319 | 1319 | 30838 | 15000 |
| 1951 | 22882 | 4734 | 594 | 229 | 1395 | 1395 | 31227 | 15000 |
| 1952 | 22889 | 4955 | 584 | 237 | 1471 | 1471 | 31605 | 15000 |
| 1953 | 22895 | 5519 | 593 | 245 | 1547 | 1547 | 32343 | 15200 |
| 1954 | 22902 | 4443 | 651 | 252 | 1623 | 1623 | 31490 | 13500 |
| 1955 | 22909 | 4559 | 628 | 260 | 1699 | 1699 | 31749 | 27400 |
| 1956 | 22916 | 4674 | 665 | 267 | 1662 | 1662 | 31841 | 29900 |
| 1957 | 24853 | 4869 | 741 | 275 | 1625 | 1625 | 33983 | 21000 |
| 1958 | 24548 | 5063 | 818 | 282 | 1588 | 1588 | 33881 | 17400 |
| 1959 | 20057 | 4751 | 995 | 289 | 1551 | 1551 | 29189 | 18300 |
| 1960 | 13865 | 4438 | 1183 | 296 | 1402 | 1402 | 22579 | 8300 |
| 1961 | 9333 | 4123 | 1365 | 303 | 1253 | 1253 | 17623 | 8400 |
| 1962 | 4801 | 3806 | 1548 | 332 | 1103 | 1103 | 12686 | 13200 |
| 1963 | 12459 | 4843 | 2577 | 374 | 953 | 953 | 22150 | 15600 |
| 1964 | 13500 | 5142 | 2433 | 512 | 806 | 806 | 23219 | 15800 |
| 1965 | 14625 | 5449 | 2718 | 573 | 794 | 794 | 24945 | 17600 |
| 1966 | 17100 | 5905 | 3696 | 641 | 778 | 778 | 30171 | 21300 |
| 1967 | 17717 | 6153 | 3978 | 819 | 763 | 763 | 31461 | 21300 |
| 1968 | 16561 | 6203 | 4063 | 700 | 748 | 748 | 30294 | 22100 |
| 1969 | 19583 | 6714 | 6061 | 897 | 733 | 733 | 36040 | 25200 |
| 1970 | 18671 | 6787 | 7785 | 948 | 718 | 718 | 36910 | 25800 |
| 1971 | 16933 | 6767 | 5440 | 969 | 703 | 703 | 32765 | 21300 |
| 1972 | 18115 | 6658 | 5403 | 809 | 688 | 688 | 33577 | 22300 |
| 1973 | 18897 | 6503 | 6303 | 904 | 673 | 673 | 35138 | 25000 |
| 1974 | 19318 | 7117 | 7204 | 854 | 659 | 659 | 36962 | 25165 |
| 1975 | 18652 | 7608 | 5919 | 913 | 644 | 644 | 35498 | 22810 |
| 1976 | 21013 | 8427 | 6340 | 1078 | 629 | 629 | 39203 | 36852 |
| 1977 | 21740 | 9058 | 17364 | 1249 | 614 | 614 | 51717 | 38403 |
| 1978 | 26778 | 10147 | 17791 | 1601 | 599 | 599 | 58603 | 41726 |
| 1979 | 34309 | 11456 | 16288 | 1950 | 584 | 584 | 66269 | 47628 |
| 1980 | 30171 | 11249 | 15106 | 2653 | 569 | 569 | 61422 | 42101 |
| 1981 | 42394 | 12445 | 12783 | 2644 | 554 | 554 | 72487 | 51305 |
| 1982 | 67793 | 15285 | 14261 | 2647 | 539 | 539 | 102183 | 73897 |
| 1983 | 85688 | 16809 | 13298 | 2123 | 523 | 523 | 120180 | 90956 |
| 1984 | 79867 | 16369 | 11202 | 1079 | 508 | 508 | 110843 | 84798 |
| 1985 | 98527 | 18840 | 9928 | 913 | 493 | 493 | 130593 | 99647 |
| 1986 | 114706 | 20235 | 10062 | 907 | 487 | 487 | 148208 | 113465 |
| 1987 | 125999 | 20778 | 8586 | 899 | 459 | 459 | 158468 | 124180 |
| 1988 | 139305 | 20928 | 6991 | 719 | 446 | 446 | 170085 | 129819 |
| 1989 | 151084 | 24575 | 4261 | 750 | 433 | 433 | 182750 | 137989 |
| 1990 | 207613 | 30326 | 6069 | 783 | 419 | 419 | 246808 | 190993 |
| 1991 | 202559 | 32114 | 3865 | 816 | 408 | 408 | 241312 | 190305 |
| 1992 | 168379 | 26966 | 2652 | 850 | 396 | 396 | 200748 | 155644 |
| 1993 | 194629 | 29254 | 3888 | 884 | 385 | 385 | 230500 | 176435 |
| 1994 | 215952 | 31403 | 3862 | 919 | 374 | 374 | 253925 | 198805 |
| 1995 | 203006 | 31812 | 4882 | 954 | 362 | 362 | 242388 | 187241 |
| 1996 | 186048 | 29913 | 5740 | 1164 | 351 | 351 | 224545 | 174692 |
| 1997 | 169821 | 28486 | 5610 | 1072 | 339 | 339 | 206640 | 154955 |
| 1998 | 178510 | 29224 | 12630 | 1206 | 328 | 328 | 223311 | 165992 |
| 1999 | 225860 | 35180 | 8463 | 2253 | 316 | 316 | 273462 | 198653 |
| 2000 | 216044 | 34293 | 3969 | 2326 | 305 | 305 | 258211 | 210343 |
| 2001 | 171052 | 28998 | 5279 | 2475 | 293 | 293 | 209302 | 156763 |
| 2002 | 132484 | 32597 | 5396 | 2565 | 282 | 282 | 174568 | 137792 |
| 2003 | 122032 | 31424 | 4949 | 2751 | 270 | 270 | 162649 | 113221 |
| 2004 | 132721 | 26540 | 11717 | 2792 | 259 | 259 | 175169 | 119093 |
| 2005 | 153591 | 28990 | 4509 | 2812 | 248 | 248 | 191288 | 140199 |
| 2006 | 165899 | 32716 | 6819 | 1261 | 236 | 236 | 208105 | 151729 |
| 2007 | 136051 | 29539 | 7885 | 2789 | 225 | 225 | 177572 | 124327 |
| 2008 | 129504 | 28168 | 10178 | 1234 | 213 | 213 | 170592 | 127097 |
| 2009 | 127101 | 27892 | 11894 | 2793 | 202 | 202 | 171173 | 128036 |
| 2010 | 130740 | 28155 | 8742 | 2764 | 190 | 190 | 171757 | 131943 |
| 2011 | 155300 | 30885 | 5712 | 2796 | 179 | 179 | 195067 | 174356 |
| 2012 | 138570 | 28663 | 4436 | 2800 | 167 | 167 | 174814 | 150131 |
| 2013 | 145243 | 29390 | 6301 | 2799 | 156 | 156 | 184060 | 154257 |
| 2014 | 149915 | 29702 | 7087 | 2799 | 144 | 144 | 189853 | 159212 |
| 2015 | 128704 | 27835 | 14126 | 2798 | 133 | 133 | 173810 | 156468 |
| 2016 | 115515 | 26913 | 9649 | 2797 | 121 | 121 | 155128 | 127238 |
| 2017 | 109254 | 26236 | 6766 | 2793 | 110 | 110 | 145360 | 98579 |
| Total | 6031324 | 1192532 | 431850 | 91657 | 43745 | 43745 | 7871884 | 5966140 |

Table S11. Data reliability (uncertainty) scores separated by category and fishing sector
CWMS, catch weighted mean score

| Time period | Lake Victoria |  |  |  | Lakes, dams and Tana River Delta Artisanal <br> Subsistence |  |  |  | Rivers |  |  |  | Total reconstructed |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Artisanal |  | Subsistence |  |  |  |  |  | Arti |  | Subsi | nce |  |  |
|  | Score | $\pm \%$ | Score | $\pm \%$ | Score | $\pm \%$ | Score | $\pm \%$ | Score | $\pm \%$ | Score | $\pm \%$ | CWMS | $\pm \%$ |
| 1950-1969 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 50 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 30 | 1 | 30 | 1.7 | 34 |
| 1970-1989 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 50 | 2 | 30 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 2.5 | 27 |
| 1990-2009 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 50 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 2.7 | 25 |
| 2010-2017 | 3 | 20 | 1 | 50 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 2.7 | 25 |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2.6 | 26 |

## Methods

## Filling in reported baseline gaps

## Lakes, dams and the Tana River Delta

Catches for Turkwel Dam and Tana River Dams fisheries was assumed to be 0 tonnes $(\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{Mg})$ in the year before the first dam being constructed on these rivers, so as to account for the enhancement of fisheries that dam construction on rivers in Kenya is known to produce (Mann 1969). The years of dam completion were 1968 for the Tana River Dams (Mann 1969) and 1991 for Turkwel Dam (Renshaw et al. 1998). Catches were then linearly interpolated from 0 t in 1967 (for the Tana River Dams) and 1990 (for Turkwel Dam) to earliest available catch anchor points (Tables S6, S8). As no information was identified for the state of the fisheries in these rivers before initial dam construction, catches were not estimated for these fisheries before these dates to remain conservative. Several other dams were constructed on the Tana River following the construction of the first dam in 1968, and although these may have influenced catches, no information could be identified to help quantify these changes. This should be a focus of future research.

The commercial fishery of Lake Naivasha began in 1959 (Table S3), therefore baseline catches were assumed to be 0 t from 1950 to 1958 . Catches were linearly interpolated from 0 t in 1958 to the earliest catch anchor point to complete the catch time series. Thus, the only reconstructed catches for Lake Naivasha before 1959 were subsistence catches from fisher-households.

## Rivers

The only data anchor point for the Athi-Sabaki river was for the lower portion of the river for 1959 (Table S9). Owing to the lack of information and to remain conservative, it was assumed that catches from the AthiSabaki river peaked in 1959. The lower portion of the Athi-Sabaki river is in the same province as the Tana River Delta (TRD). Thus, catches from the TRD were used as a proxy to estimate catches for the Athi-Sabaki river as no other information was available. The rate of decline of TRD catches from their peak in 1966 to 2017 was $1.5 \%$ year $^{-1}$. This value was used to produce a time series of catches for the Athi-Sabaki river from 1959 to 2017 based on the 1959 catch anchor point.

Fisheries data for the Sondu-Miriu river were not available after 1987, however, catches were known to be equivalent to subsistence levels in 2017 (Julius Manyala, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, pers. comm.). The number of fishers was available for 1992, which was used to estimate the
number of fishers in 2017 based on human population density changes in the Kisumu and Homa Bay counties (Table 1). Total subsistence catch for 2017 was estimated using the number of fishers, the average number of people per household and the $73 \mathrm{~kg}^{\text {year }}{ }^{-1}$ fish consumption rate for people in fisher-households from Kolding (1989). Catches were then linearly interpolated from the 1987 catch anchor point to the 2017 value to produce a completed catch time series.

Fisheries data for the Malewa, Kuja, Ewaso-Ngiro and Nzoia rivers were not available after 1990 (Table S9). The Kuja and Nzoia rivers are in the same province as the Sondu-Miriu river and are of comparable length. Owing to the lack of information, changes in catch from the Sondu-Miriu was used as a proxy for estimating catches for the Kuja and Nzoia Rivers after 1990. Changes in catch from the Sondu-Miriu were also used as a proxy to estimate catch for the Ewaso-Ngiro and Malewa rivers, as the lengths of these rivers are closer to that of the length of the Sondu-Miriu, as opposed to the Tana River for which catch data are available after 1990. The rate of decline in catches from the Sondu-Miriu river from 1959 to 2017 was derived (assuming conservatively that the 1959 anchor point was the peak of catch), which gave a rate of decline of $\sim 1.5 \%$ per year. This rate of decline was applied to the latest (i.e. closest to 2017) anchor point for each river and used to produce a full time series of catch to 2017.

All catch estimates produced for water bodies in the 'Rivers' category using these methods resulted in declining catches from the earlier anchor points to 2017, therefore these are likely minimum estimates.

## Catch totals and taxonomic composition of catch

Reported catches and the taxonomic composition of catches fluctuated greatly from year to year for many water bodies, without following a distinct long-term trend of decline or increase. This was assumed to be the result of water level fluctuations in these water bodies, which is often a major predictor of freshwater fisheries catches (Gownaris et al. 2016). No continuous water-level data spanning 1950-2017 were available for any water bodies examined in this study. To account for this natural variability in water level, the ratio of consecutive five year mean catches to population density was used to approximately estimate catches back to 1950 using changes in population density as a proxy. This resulted in 'smoother', average catch times series than likely occurred. For example, if the earliest (i.e. closest to 1950) catch anchor points available for a water body were from 1965 to 1969, the catch to population density ratio would be calculated for each of these five years and then the mean ratio over these five years would be derived. This 5 -year mean ratio would be used to estimate catches from 1950 to 1964 based on the changes in population density in the province or county in which the particular water body is located. Several water bodies did not have five consecutive years of catch anchor points available for this purpose, in these cases, two, three or four-year catch to population density ratios were derived and used instead. To account for the intra-annual variability in taxonomic composition, the five-year mean of the taxonomic composition proportion for each species was calculated, where sufficient data were available, and then applied to all catches preceding it back to 1950.

The marbled lungfish (Protopterus aethiopicus) was introduced into Lake Baringo in 1975 and first appeared in catches in 1984 (Kimani et al. 2018). The proportion of catches from Lake Baringo that this species accounted for was assumed to be $0 \%$ in 1983 and increased linearly to the next anchor point in 1992. The introductions of

Nile perch and Nile tilapia into Lake Victoria are accounted for in reported data. No taxonomic compositions of catches were available for water bodies in the 'Rivers' category, therefore all catches were categorised as 'Freshwater fishes not elsewhere included.' Detailed studies on the taxonomic composition of catches in various freshwater systems besides Lake Victoria are urgently needed for Kenya.

## Quantifying fully unreported catch components

## Fisher-household catches

First, a time series of licenced fishers was produced for all nine water bodies by linearly interpolating between anchor points (Tables S1-S7). Several water bodies only had data available from the 1990s to 2017, therefore, to estimate the number of fishers back to 1950, it was assumed that the number of fishers would change at the rate of change of population density for the county or province in which these water bodies were located. Second, the total number of people in fisher-households associated with each water body from 1950 to 2017 was estimated by multiplying the annual average household size by the number of licenced fishers for each year. Population density and average annual household sizes were taken from historical Kenyan censuses (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 1957, 1967, 1974, 1982, 1994, 2002, 2012, 2019), with figures from each census year linearly interpolated to create a full time-series from 1950 to 2017. Average household sizes were not available for certain provinces or counties for earlier periods, therefore the earliest available numbers were used, and assumed to be constant for all years back to 1950 .

## Illegal catches

The 1958 anchor point for Lake Victoria (Lake Victoria Fisheries Service 1959) included catch from illegal gear, which was not included in any other total baseline catch anchor points for Lake Victoria. To account for this and to remain conservative, it was assumed that this catch included the $25 \%$ illegal unreported catch applied to all taxa from Lake Victoria catches from 1950 to 1982. To estimate the 'reported' portion of catch for this year, the total original figure of 25488 t was divided by 1.25 , giving a baseline catch of $\sim 20390 \mathrm{t}$ from legal operations and $\sim 5098 \mathrm{t}$ from illegal and unreported operations for 1958. Linear interpolation was performed between this 'legal' catch for 1958 and the closest 1948 and 1961 anchor points to complete the time series.

## Bait catches

Based on the method used in Mkumbo and Mlaponi (2007), it was assumed that bait catches were proportional to the number of longline hooks in Kenya's portion of Lake Victoria, with number of longline hooks from 2000 to 2016 taken from Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (2017). Thus, the number of longline hooks reported for Kenya's portion of Lake Victoria from 2000 to 2016 (Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization 2017) was used to estimate unreported bait catches from 2000 to 2016. There were no longline hook data available for 2017, and thus it was assumed that the proportion of bait catch to total reported catch remained the same from 2016 to 2017. Longline hook data were only available for Tanzania's portion of Lake Victoria from 1992 to 2000, thus the ratio of longline hooks in Kenya's portion of Lake Victoria to those in Tanzania's portion of Lake Victoria for 2000 was used to estimate the number of hooks over this period. Owing to a lack of information and to remain conservative, it was assumed that the longline Nile perch fishery began in 1981 (i.e.
unreported bait catches were 0 in 1980), as this was when reported Nile perch catches first saw a major increase (Greboval and Fryd 1993). To complete the bait-catch time series from 1981 to 2017, linear interpolation was used to estimate catch between 1981 and 1992, and any other years from 1992 to 2016 where there were no longline hook data available.

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[^0]:    ${ }^{A}$ Includes the Kuja, Sondu-Miriu a nd Nzoia rivers

