



Fish Conservation



Helping communities to conserve and take ownership of their fish stocks in Lake Malawi

Big fish = more money and food - Small fish = less money and food

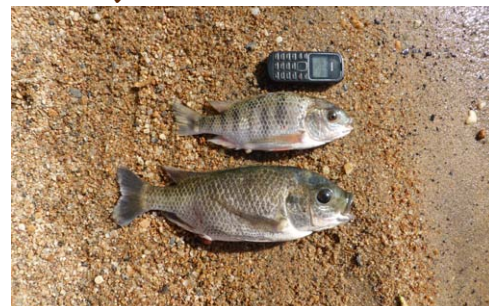
The problem – Fish stocks have decreased by 90% in the last 20 years



Over the years, the number of fishermen has increased dramatically, and net lengths have increased from 100 metres to over 3,000 metres



Baby fish are regularly caught with mosquito nets

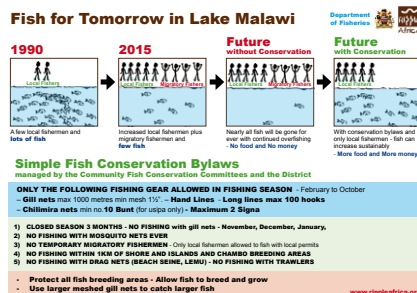


Many fishermen are using small mesh nets which catch small immature fish

The solution – Community fish conservation – Community ownership



Fish conservation committees are established and made aware of the problems and solutions and are encouraged to take ownership



- 1 - Three month closed season
- 2 - No fishing with mosquito nets
- 3 - No migratory fishermen allowed to fish

Chambo fish conservation



All fishing with mosquito nets is illegal and nets are confiscated by the conservation committees



Fishing near chambo breeding areas is prohibited so that baby chambo can grow to an adult size



The conservation committees and communities now protect and even feed their baby chambo



Fishermen are encouraged to use larger meshed gill nets and now catch bigger fish and make more money

Usipa fish conservation



Usipa are often caught with huge chillimera nets made from hundreds of mosquito nets which catch everything



When the baby usipa are dried there is very little food and fishermen earn less money



Fishermen must now use a minimum No. 10 bunt net which catches the larger usipa fish



Bigger usipa means more food and more money for fishermen and fish traders