

LENGTH-WEIGHT RELATIONSHIP AND CONDITION FACTOR OF CLARIAS GARIOPINUS (BURCHELL, 1822) IN ZOBE RESERVOIR

Sadauki, M.A., Bichi, A.H and Geidam, M.B

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources,
Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Katsina, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The length-weight relationship as a vital fishery management gadget that devised to estimates mean weight at specific length in a given set in order to assess a comparative wellbeing of a fish population. In this study length-weight relationship and Fulcon's condition factor of Clarias gariepinus in Zobe reservoir were evaluated. A total of 90 fish obtained from three landing sites were sampled monthly for 6 months. Length and weight of sampled fish were measured with standard methods. Results shown that, fish population consisted of 47 males and 43 females. The length-weight regression analysis showed that the b-values of 2.80, 2.89 and 2.85 exhibited negative allometric growth in males, females and combined sex respectively. The significant linear relationships "r" of 0.97, 0.96 and 0.96 were recorded in both males, females and combined sex. The condition factor "K" reported is the same for the male, female and combined 1.04, 1.04 and 1.04 respectively. In this study condition factors "K" values recorded were greater than 1, showed that the male and female C. gariepinus from Zobe Reservoir were stable. The condition factors of entire sampled fish species were within the appropriate recommended range for gravid tropical freshwater fish species. The drag nets and Malian traps were used with the assistance local fisher folks captured the fish. In addition consideration should be given to the type of gears and mesh sizes used, fish life stages in the water bodies in order to avoid indiscriminate fishing.

KEYWORDS

Allometric growth, Condition factor, African catfish, Zobe reservoir.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fish is among the inexpensive, commonly obtainable animal protein's sources. In term of nutrients composition, its quality made it became a choice for human consumption (Afolabi *et al.*, 2020). Besides landings from captured fisheries, aquaculture production has provided fish species for human consumption among other uses (Afolabi *et al.*, 2020). In Africa, African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus*, is one of the commercially important fish species which has enjoyed aquaculture development (Nazia *et al.*, 2014; Sadauki *et al.*, 2022a). This fish species is widely distributed in African water bodies, ranging from swamps to streams, rivers and lakes (Akinsanya and Otubanjo, 2006; Sadauki *et al.*, 2022b). The widespread occurrence of *Clarias gariepinus* in inland waters has been ascribed to their abilities to utilize several varieties of items as food, can with stand different degree of environmental conditions, fast growth rate, high fecundity rate, ease of artificial spawning and good marketable value are among the characteristics that made them desirable (Greenwood, 1966; Uedeme-Naa and Nwafili, 2017; Afolabi *et al.*, 2020).

Due to its higher commercial value, it became fish of an aquaculture and capture fisheries importance (FAO, 2012). These characteristics, along with moderately low input costs, have made this fish species a popularly cultured freshwater fish in tropical and subtropical countries (Uedeme-Naa and Nwafili, 2017).

African catfish had been established as a very important freshwater candidate for aquaculture in Nigeria, they are most cultured fish species due to its capability to withstand a several degree of harsh weather conditions, rapid growth rate, high rate of fecundity, easy spawn artificially and can fetch worthy market price (Sadauki *et al.*, 2022a). Fish palatability and nutritional values had caused rises in demand for consumption in the rural areas and cities in Nigeria (Afolabi *et al.*, 2020). Thus, an intensity of artisanal fishing is alarming.

Therefore, for fishery resources to effectively manage, fish species and among other inhabitants, needs significant awareness of length-weight relationship (Dan-kishiya, 2013). This relationship is very vital as it allows assessment of average fish weight in the given length group; estimate the well-being of individuals and determine the variation between separate unit of fish stocks that are of the same species (Beyer, 1987; King, 2007; Getso *et al.*, 2017). Also, this relationship is useful in fisheries management for comparative growth studies (Dan-kishiya, 2013). Length-weight relationship provides valuable data on the aquatic medium and also aquatic ecosystems modelling (Kulbicki *et al.*, 2005). Furthermore, the importance of condition factor in determination and comparison of living condition, fatness or wellbeing of fish species has been reported (Ahmed *et al.*, 2011). Condition factor is a useful index for monitoring of feeding intensity, age and growth rates in fish (Ndimele *et al.*, 2010). It is strongly influenced by both biotic and abiotic environmental factors and can be used to assess the status of an aquatic ecosystem (Anene, 2005).

A valuable for the investigation of aquatic organisms is the data on the quantitative aspect such as length-weight relationship and condition factors. The data can be used to estimate weight from length estimates made in the yield assessment. The condition factor “K” is used to measure the physiological state of the fish in relation to its health. When comparing two populations living in different feeding densities and climate’s conditions, it also provides distinct data (Suleiman *et al.*, 2017). Reservoirs are very large natural or artificial water bodies that provide habitat and food for many fish species (Atobatele and Ugwumba, 2008). Many of these reservoirs were constructed as a result of societal need for portable and industrial water sources, irrigation, fish production and recreational activities (Mustapha, 2011).

Zobe Reservoir is a man-made lake that serves as a source of water source for uses in the surrounding communities. Hence, knowledge of country’s fish fauna is of utmost importance in determining its ecosystem as well to understand its productivity. There is little information on the Length-weight of *C. gariepinus* population in the reservoir. This study assessed the length-weight relationship and condition factors (K) of *C. gariepinus* in Zobe reservoir with the view of bridging the information gap on the condition of the fish inhabiting the Reservoir.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Study Area

Zobe reservoir, situated in Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area of Katsina State, is located between latitude 12°20’34.62”N and 12°23’27.48” N and between longitude 7°27’57.12”E to and 7°34’47.68”E. Zobe reservoir was constructed on River Karaduwa and extends to about 7 km long and a surface of about 4,500ha.

Zobe reservoir consists of two tributaries, the River Karaduwa and River Gada, while River Gada empties River Karaduwa. The Dam was built on River Karaduwa and extends to about 2.7 km long and a surface of about 4, 500ha. Yearly rainfall in the area differs from 600-700mm; mean annual temperature is about 25°C (Adediji, 2005, Sadauki et al., 2022b)

2.2. Sample Collections

For the purpose of this study, three landing sites selected around the reservoir were Raddawa, Makera, and Tabobi. Samples of African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus*, were collected monthly from each landing site for period of (6) months. Five (5) samples were collected from each of the three sample sites (15) monthly with the assistance of local fishermen who used their drag nets and traps for fish capture. The fish samples were transported alive to the Biology Laboratory, Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State, in a plastic container filled with water for identification. Fish samples from each location were identified using the description of Teugels (1986). The standard length of sampled fish was measured using a meter rule, while the weight was measured using a top loading sensitive weighing balance system (GT4100 model). Morphometric measurements such as body weight, total length and standard length were taken following the method of Teugels (1998) for morphometrical identification of *Clarias* species.

2.3. Measurement of Length-Weight

Precision the length–weight relationship of *Clarias gariepinus* was determined by Le-Cren (1951)

Thus, $W=aL^b$

Where; W = Fish's weight in g,
L = Fish's length in cm,
a = constant value, and
b = an exponent.

The values of constants a and b were calculated using least square linear regression to give: $\log W = \log a + b \log L$

2.4. Condition Factor's Determination

The condition factor “K” was determined for each sampled fish, using the normal formula used by Froese (2006). The ratio of the length to the weight of the fish was determined as the function of the fish weight.

Condition Factor “K” = $\frac{W \times 100}{L^3}$

Where K as Condition factor;

W = Weight of fish in grams; and L = Length in cm

3. RESULTS

A population of 90 *Clarias gariepinus* was collected from a Zobe reservoir, 47 of which were males and 43 were females. The length-weight relationships analysis of the sampled *Clarias* is shown in Table 1. The estimated value of ‘b’ of the female samples was 2.89, that of the male samples were 2.80 while the combined ‘b’ value of male and female samples was 2.85. Analysis of both males and females samples carryout separately and combined revealed that all the species had a negative allometric growth pattern as shown in table 1.

Therefore, *Clarias gariepinus* follow the cube law, showed positive correlation between total length and the body weight and the relationships were highly significant ($P < 0.05$) with ‘r’ values greater than 0.90 for all the catfish species obtained from Zobe reservoir shown in Table 1. There was strong correlation between the fish’s length and weight as shown in Table 1. The K value obtained was 1.04 for male sample, 1.04 for female samples and 1.04 for combined sexes respectively.

Table 2 results showed the means values of length (cm) and weight (g) of male, female and combined *Clarias gariepinus* obtained from Zobe Reservoir. The mean length and weight of the male samples were 954.44 ± 20.31 cm and 4413.43 ± 93.91 g, respectively. Also, the females had 522.58 ± 12.16 cm length and 1396.56 ± 32.48 g weight, while the combined samples had mean length of 1476.98 ± 16.43 cm and weight of 5809.99 ± 64.56 g. The values of condition factor “K” ranged from 1.04, 0.56 and 1.36 for males samples, 1.04, 0.47 and 1.33 for females samples respectively with 1.04, 0.47 and 1.36 for combined samples of *C. gariepinus* as shown in Table 3.

The length-weight relationship for male, female and combined is graphically represented by figures 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Similarly condition factor average, minimum and maximum values for male, female and combined sexes were represented in figures 4, 5 and 6.

Table 1: Length-Weight Relationship and Condition Factor of *Clarias gariepinus* in Zobe reservoir

	Mean condition	$W = aL^b N$	A	B	r	
		factor (K)				
Male	1.04	-1.77L ^{2.80}	47	-1.77	2.80	0.97
Female	1.04	-1.85L ^{2.89}	43	-1.85	2.89	0.96
Combined	1.04	-1.81L ^{2.85}	90	-1.81	2.85	0.96

N= Number of samples, a = Intercept/regression constant, b = Gradient/regression coefficient, r = Correlation co-efficient, K = Condition factor

Table 2: Length and Weight of *Clarias gariepinus* Samples in Zobe reservoir

	Length(cm)	Weight(g)
Male	954.44 ± 20.31	4413.43 ± 93.91
Female	522.58 ± 12.16	1396.56 ± 32.48
Combined	1476.98 ± 16.43	5809.99 ± 64.56

Table 3: Condition Factors of *Clarias gariepinus* in Zobe Reservoir

	Male	Female	Combined
Zobe	Average 1.043	Average 1.044	Average 1.044
	Maximum 1.367	Maximum 1.330	Maximum 1.367
	Minimum 0.560	Minimum 0.478	Minimum 0.478

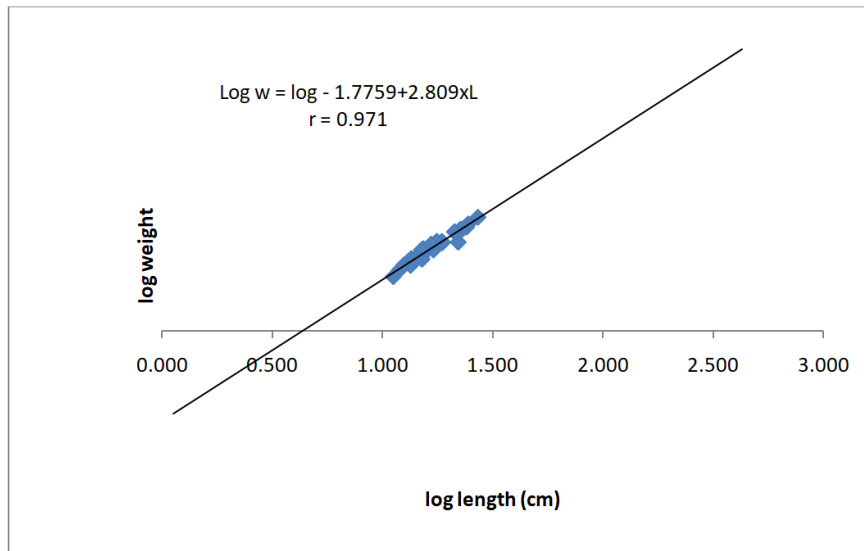


Figure 1: Length-weight relationship of male *Clarias gariepinus* in Zobe reservoir

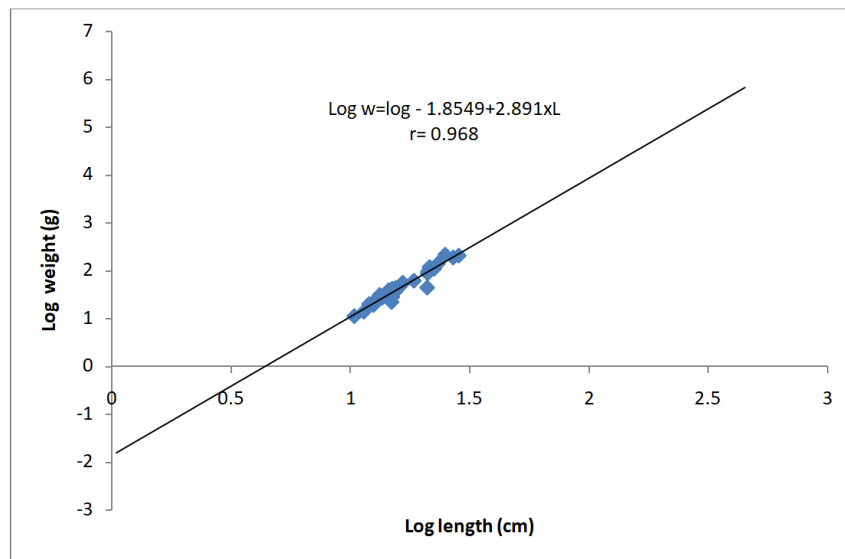


Figure 2: Length-weight relationship of female *Clarias gariepinus* in Zobe reservoir

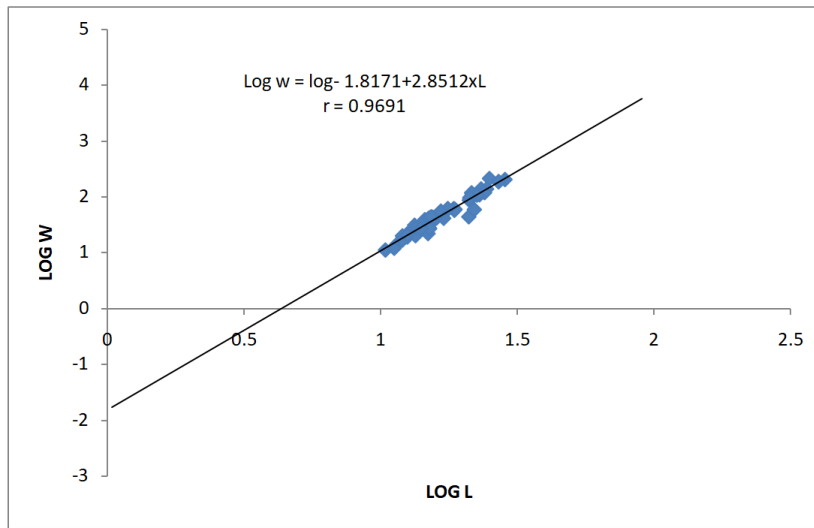


Figure 3: Length-weight relationship of male and female *Clarias gariepinus* in reservoir

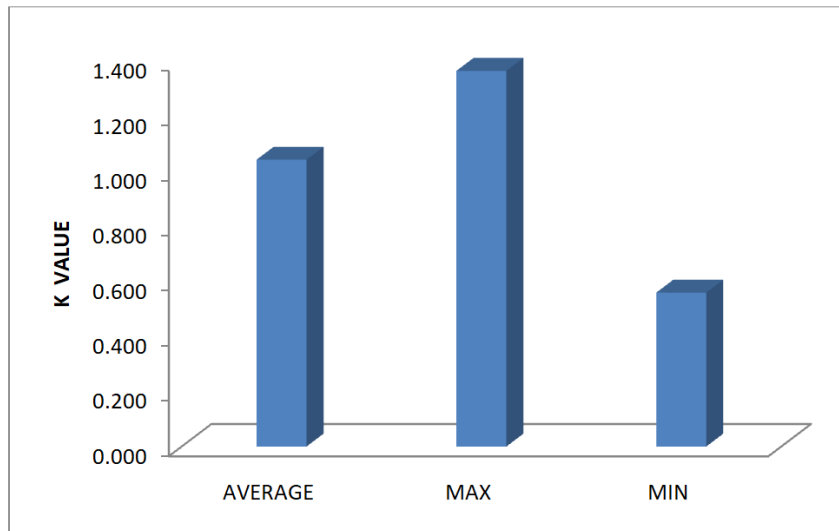


Figure 4: Condition factor of male *Clarias gariepinus* in Zobe reservoir

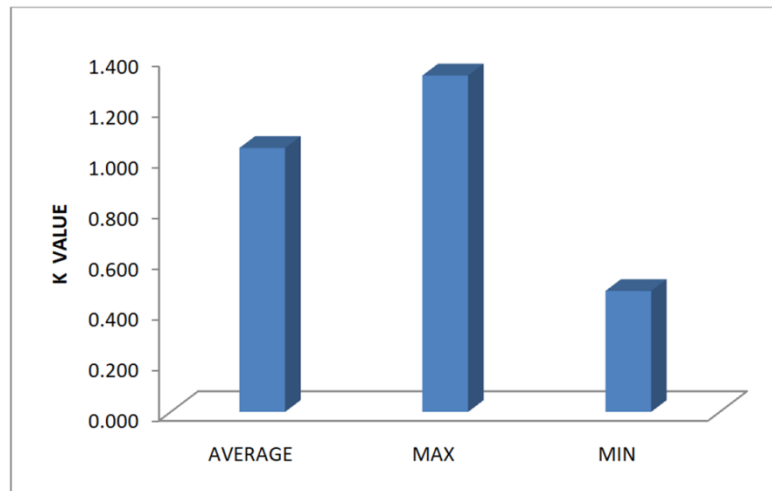


Figure 5: Condition factor of female *Clarias gariepinus* in Zobe reservoir

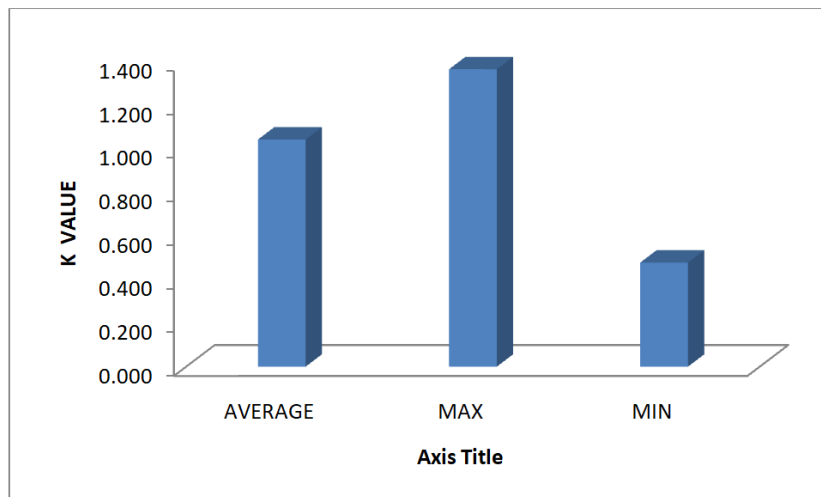


Figure 6: Condition factors of male and female *Clarias gariepinus* in Zobe reservoir.

4. DISCUSSION

The results of length-weight relationship of *Clarias gariepinus* obtained from Zobe Reservoir revealed allometric pattern of growth. *Clarias gariepinus* “b” values was less than 3.0, indicating a negative allometric growth increase, which meant that the fish weight increased at a slower rate than the cube of the body length. This agrees with the study of Kumolu-Johnson and Ndimele (2011) which reported similar growth for *Clarias gariepinus* in Ologe Lagoon, Lagos. Negative allometric growth pattern in freshwater fishes has also been reported in studies such as Imam *et al.* (2010), Ibrahim *et al.* (2012), Dan-kishiya (2013), Getsoet *et al.* (2017) and Dan-kishiya *et al.* (2018). The fish’s weight is determined by length’s function (Zafar *et al.*, 2003; Odedeyiet *al.*, 2007). This study was related with documented researches from inland water bodies in Nigeria. Noticeable among fish length-weight encompasses the outcomes of Abubakar (2006) at Lake Geriyoand Peter and Diyaware(2014), in their study length-weight, fecundity and condition factor of *Clarias gariepinus* at Luhu Reservoir. Also, the allometric growth pattern experimented observations was similar to evaluation of length-weight relationship of fish species in Ebonyi River (Udeet *al.* 2011).

The fish species growth pattern is determined by the “b” values in length-weight relationships. A typical fish with a dimensional consistency and the isometric of “b” value would be 3.0. This value has been observed only occasionally. A ‘b’ value greater or less than 3.0 indicates allometric pattern of growth. A ‘b’ value less than 3.0 indicates that the fish became lighter (negative allometric) while a ‘b’ greater than 3.0 indicates that the fish became heavier (positive allometric) for a given length (Zafar *et al.*, 2003; Odedeyi *et al.*, 2007). Negative allometric growth was also observed for *C. gariepinus* in water body (Dan-Kishiya, 2013 and Atama *et al.*, 2013). The coefficient of determination (r) for length-weight relationship for *Clarias gariepinus* was 0.97 for the male samples, 0.96 for the female and 0.96 for the combined sexes in Zobe reservoir, indicating that the length increased with increase in weight of fish at the reservoir. This is in agreement with past findings (Laleye, 2006).

4.1. Condition Factor “K”

When the “K” value is less than 1.0, the fish is considered not to be in good physiological condition and when value is greater than 1.0 the fish is considered to be in good physiological state.

All fish species sampled in different sampling sites of the present study had condition factors greater or equal to 1 and “K” value obtained for male (1.04) female (1.04) and combined sex (1.04) samples met the criteria recommended by Ujjania *et al.*, (2012) which states that a condition factor greater or equal to one indicates a good level of feeding and appropriate environmental conditions. The condition factors “K” of the species of fish in this study were similar to what was obtained in other tropical water bodies. The condition factors “K” of the species of fish in freshwater fishes has been reported (Dan-kishiya *et al.*, 2018; Dan-kishiya, 2013; Ibrahim *et al.*, 2012). In Nigeria, Oso and Iwalaye (2016) reported a ranged of K values of 1.02-1.52 and 1.06-2.02. Iman *et al.* (2010) reported a ranged of K values of 0.93 and 3.40 in Wasai Reservoir in Kano, while, in Lagos’ Ologe Lagoon, Kumolu-Johnson and Ndimele (2011) also obtained a “K” value of between 0.91 and 8.46 from Ologe Lagoon in Lagos. But Ibrahim *et al.* (2012) recorded a mean “K” value of 1.98 ± 0.35 in Kontagora Reservoir in Niger State. While Ahmed *et al.* (2011) recorded a “K” value range of 0.506 and 3.415. The “K” values documented in this study are less than the range of 2.9 and 4.8 recommended for mature freshwater fish by Bagenal and Tesch, (1978).

5. CONCLUSION

The results obtained on the *C. gariepinus* obtained from Zobe Reservoir in Dutsin-Ma Local Government Area of Katsina State, showed that they exhibited negative allometric growth. The “K” values obtained also indicated that the fish samples were in a good state of health in the water body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Lastly, additional researches cover the aspects of physicochemical parameters of water, nourishment richness, length-weight relationship and condition factor of other fish species and stock assessments are recommended to be carried out in Zobe reservoir hence as to make available additional significant scientific evidence.

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