

STUDY ON THE FISH AND FISHERY RESOURCES OF THE RAPTI RIVER

**A Dissertation Submitted in the Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for Master's Degree in Zoology
(Fish and Fisheries)**

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Abstract

The present study deals with the status ,distribution pattern of fish and socioeconomic condition of fishermen of the Rapti River.A total of 59 species belonging to 38 genera,19 families and 7 orders.Among them 48 species were collected from station I(Manahari),51 species from station II(Sauraha) and 53 species from station III(Jagatpur). The most common species are Cyprinids. The highest estimated catch was recorded in June and lowest in January. The physico-chemical and biological parameters have been studied in relation to the distribution, abundance and frequency occurrence of ichthyofauna in Rapti River. Water quality analysis of Rapti river revealed that dissolved oxygen was of the optimum level.The river is providing with runs,pools and riffles showing the different fish habitats. The fish population in the river is decreasing due to different human activities and natural calamities such as heavy flooding and erosion.

This investigation also includes the socio-economic status of fishermen, which is found to be very poor.The study showed that about 105 fisherman families inhabiting around Rapti River are very poor and about 95% of them are illiterate.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------|---|
| APHA | American Public Health Association |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora Species |
| BOD | Biological Oxygen Demand |
| DO | Dissolved Oxygen |
| EDTA | Ethylene Diamine Tetra Acetic Acid |
| FDD | Fisheries Development Division |
| IUCN | International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources |
| CNP | Chitwan National Park |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |
| °C | Degree Centigrade |
| mg/l | Milligram Per Liter |
| ml | Meter per second |
| cm | Centimeter |
| km | Kilometer |
| m | Milliliter |
| m/s | Meter |
| PPM | Parts Per Million |