

## **FACTOR PRODUCTIVITY IN ARTISANAL FISHERY PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA**

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### **Abstract**

Nigeria has very low per capita consumption of animal protein when compared to some countries of the world. To redress this, research into the investment opportunity in the fisheries subsector, reputed to be nutritionally superior to livestock in animal protein content, should be emphasized. Investment and development in the artisanal fishery subsector which is the commanding height in the domestic fish production in the country should be given top priority. The study looked at factor productivity in artisanal fishery production in Edo State of Nigeria. Data collected with aid of structured questionnaire from 275 artisanal fisher-folks selected using multistage sampling technique were analysed using descriptive statistics and stochastic frontier production function analysis. Results showed that the fisher-folks were mainly males, ageing, highly experienced, maintained large family sizes, belonged to cooperatives and had less educated. Resources in Artisanal fishery production were efficiently allocated with the overall productivity measured by the return-to-scale of 0.629 but the estimates of the value marginal product (VMP) of the resources, showed that the given optimization condition was never attained in the allocation and utilization of fishing inputs. The VMP of each of the inputs was found to be less than their unit prices. The efficiency analysis showed the existence of inefficiency effects in artisanal fishery production as the technical efficiency of the fisher-folks varied significantly with average Technical Efficiency of 0.86.