Biodiversity loss on the Tonlé Sap

In a 1999 study by Puy Lim and colleagues, fish catches around the Great Lake, Tonlé Sap river and the transitional zone between the lake and the river were studied by fishing zone from 1995 to 1997. One hundred and twenty species of fish, belonging to 26 families and nine different orders were recorded. Compared to previous studies (1936–1976), only 53% of families, 32% of genera and 54% of species were collected. In other words, large numbers of fish observed in catches between 1936 and 1976 disappeared between 1995 and 1997, representing a major biodiversity loss for the lake. The researchers suggest that possible reasons for this decline include, amongst others, sampling errors, overfishing and modification of the floodplain by deforestation.


Want more information? Contact the corresponding author at plim@ensat.fr. Find the full abstract at www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/ 0990744

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