

**ALIEN FISH SPECIES *OREOCHROMIS NILOTICUS* (LINNAEUS, 1757)
AS A POWERFUL INVADER IN THE LOWER
STRETCH OF THE YAMUNA RIVER**

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ABSTRACT : Tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus* is a non-native fish species in the India. The fish sample was obtained at random during the months of March 2007 to February 2008 from the lower stretch of the Yamuna river at Allahabad. Preliminary information was generated on the size composition and exploitation structure of *O. niloticus* from the Yamuna river. The samples of *O. niloticus* were found varying from 105-495 mm size groups. The maximum exploitation was recorded in 241-270 mm size group (16.57%) and minimum in 451-480 mm size group (0.39%). The female population was more exploited than male. Overall middle size groups were maximum exploited. The exploitation was systematic in all size groups except between 301-330 to 331-360 mm size groups. The size composition and exploitation structure indicated *O. niloticus* as a powerful invader in the Yamuna river. Oxygen level was poor in mostly months and current velocity also poor.

Key Words: *Oreochromis niloticus*, Yamuna river, invader, exploitation structure, Allahabad, population.