

ORGANISMS LIVING IN LAKE BIWA AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROBLEMS. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF FISHERIES.

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More than 50 fish species inhabit in Lake Biwa. The local fishermen catch about a half of the species in large quantities and the annual landing reaches approximately 3,000 tons.

In spite of much indication of pollution in recent years the yield has been little changed both in quality and quantity. For instance, the catch of honmoroko (*Gnathopogon caeruleus*) which pass the cold months in the deepest part of the lake has been unchanged and the fishing ground still keeps its value. Even ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis*), well known as a clear water dweller, shows no indication of reduction as far as the yield is concerned.

Although the catch records have been long unchanged, recently new problems which are possibly related to pollution appeared. One of the problems is a bacterial disease infesting ayu. The disease caused marked mortality of ayu in the pre-spawning season in some years, and moreover it is a practical sense among the fishermen that disinfection is necessary as transporting the alive fish. It is also pointed out that some spawning sites have been losing by deterioration of the environment.