

Biodiversity of Fish in Wular Lake (Ramsar Site), Kashmir, India

**Syed Talia Mushtaq, Syed Aalia Mushtaq, Masood-ul-Hassan Balkhi,
Adnan Abubakr, Zaib Hafiz, Nafhat-ul-Arab**

*Faculty of Fisheries, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Kashmir,
Rangil, Ganderbal-190006, India
E-mail: syed.taliamushtaq@gmail.com*

Abstract—*In order to assess the diversity of fish species, an investigation was carried out at five different sites of Wular Lake, for a period of one year from December, 2014 to November, 2015. During the entire study period, a total of 750 fishes were sampled. Cyprinidae was observed to be the most dominant family followed by Cobitidae. The study revealed that there was a drastic decline in the native Schizothoracines due to the introduction of exotic common carp, pollution and other anthropogenic disturbances. Keeping in view the progressively worse situation, there is an urgent need to take remedial steps to conserve the endangered native fish fauna of the lake in order to preserve its biodiversity from further ecological degradation.*

Keywords: *Diversity, Cyprinidae, Schizothoracines, Exotic, Endangered.*