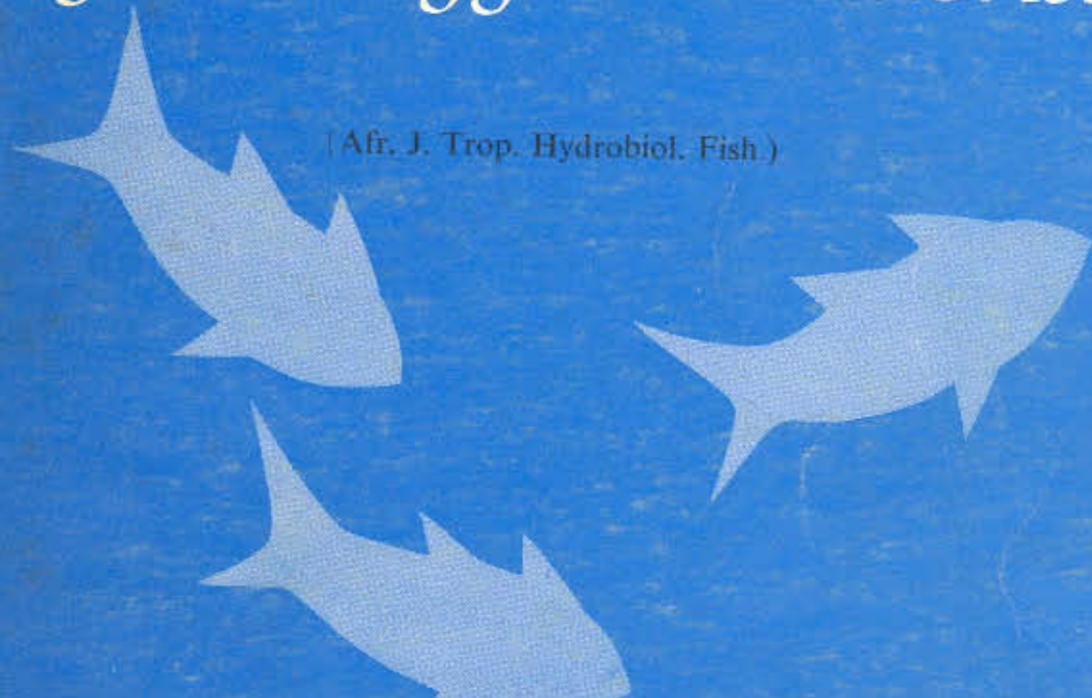


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The African Journal of Tropical Hydrobiology and Fisheries will only accept original and well supported ideas on techniques, methodology and research findings from scientists, fishery officers, fishery economists and sociologists.

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# Notes and Comments

## IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR MARINE BIOLOGY IN EAST AFRICA

In 1967 the then University College of Dar es Salaam built a small laboratory on the shore at Kunduchi, 16 km from the main campus and 24 km north of Dar es Salaam. This was used for undergraduate field courses, and as a base for staff from the University to carry out research. It soon became apparent that the urgent need for studies of the marine environment in the East African area, and the lack of existing facilities, necessitated the development of the Kunduchi Marine Biology Station into a research establishment with its own staff of full time scientists. This operation began in 1970: necessary structural modifications have been made to the building, staff have been recruited, and the Station has been equipped with an adequate range of field and laboratory apparatus. A varied programme of research is now actively under way.

The Marine Station has an area of 290 square metres, and shares some additional accommodation with the adjacent Fisheries Institute. It contains offices, a small library, laboratories, stores and a workshop, and is partly air conditioned. The usual services are available, as well as an open sea water circulation to supply a series of large aquarium tanks. Small boats, out-board motors and a four wheel drive vehicle are available for field work. A programme for future development has been drawn up, which includes the provision of living accommodation for a number of permanent and visiting workers, an upgraded sea water system, and additional laboratory space.

A wide variety of littoral and sublittoral habitats can be reached from the Station. Sandy beaches, rocky shores and creek mangrove are accessible on foot, while coastal mangrove, muddy shores and more extensive rocky areas can be reached by road. Visiting the nearby reefs and islands involves only a short boat trip, and here coral reefs, together with rocky and sandy shores, are found. As yet the sublittoral environment has been little explored. The continental shelf is 15 km wide off Kunduchi, so the immediate area is relatively shallow. The tides are of the semi-diurnal type, with a small diurnal inequality: the mean range is 3.14 m at spring tides and 1.13 m at neap tides. The mean surface temperature of the sea varies from 25°C in September to 29°C in March.

The present establishment of the Marine Biology Station consists of three scientists and a supporting staff of seven, as well as three current postgraduate research students. An increase in these numbers is anticipated, which will enable the Station to operate a broad based research programme embracing all the major fields of marine biology, and serve as a centre for the training of local personnel. Visiting workers will always be welcome at Kunduchi provided that space is available: enquiries should be addressed to the Head of the Zoology Department.

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