

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL REVIEW

In spite of the fact that Egypt has a vast fishery resources , marine and inland fisheries, the annual maximum fish production not exceed 370 thousand ton (Table 1). This fish production is not sufficient to satisfy the strong demand of the growing population of Egypt. Year by year the fish imports of Egypt increase and consequently the costs paid increase. In 1990, Egypt paid about \$ 50 million for fish imports and since the fish prices have gone up by at least 10 times. In 1995, the fish imports of Egypt reached 120 thousand ton and their costs reached about \$ 100 million.

The Egyptian fish production comes from five main resources ; Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, lakes, Nile and fish farms. A look at the Egyptian fish production through the last fifteen years (1980 - 1994) proved that the inland waters (lakes, Nile and fish farms) constitute the great part of fish production in Egypt where they contributed about 75% of the total landing while the marine fisheries of Egypt (Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea) contributed only about 25% (Table 1).

The Egyptian Red Sea sector is about 1080 Km starting at Suez in the north and ending at Mersa Halayeb in the south. During the last fifteen years, the mean fish production from this extensive shoreline was estimated to be 30.9 thousand ton (10.8% of the total annual fish