

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

**Sudan University of Science and Technology**  
**College of Graduate Studies**

**Implementing the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points  
(HACCP) System in Fish Markets in Khartoum State, Sudan**

تطبيق نظام تحليل المخاطر ونقاط المراقبة الحرجة في اسواق الاسماك بولاية الخرطوم،  
السودان

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of Philosophy in Food Safety

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# الآية

قاله تعالى :

{ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا  
يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انشُرُوا فَانشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا  
مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾ }

سورة المجادلة الآية (11)

## **Dedication**

To my father

To my mother

To my brothers and sisters

To all persons who support me

**Hisham**

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Firstly, thanks for almighty God whom without his help this work could not have been done, a lot of respect to my supervisor Prof. Mohamed Abdulsalam for his constant support, valuable guidance and encouragement during the preparation of this research.

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## Abstract

This study was carried out to isolate and identify the bacteria which contaminate the fish market in Khartoum state which may cause food poisoning. The total number of swab samples was 240, Central market 120 sample and 120 samples from Almorda market. The swab samples were collected randomly in two these fish market from different sites of the fish, workers hands, deportation cars, Porters and Aldrdaqat, Alnnazafin and Equiepmnt, Wholesaler and Retailer. Therefore, this work was carried out to detect some bacterial microorganisms from fish market such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella spp* and *Escherichia coli*. Also the questionnaires was done were filled by 50 workers responders, 25 respondents Central market and 25 respondents from Almorda market. Isolation and identification of bacteria were done by using different biochemical tests. The Total Viable count (TVC) of isolated bacteria was from Central market in Fish  $2.59 \pm 0.08 \log_{10} \text{CFU /cm}^2$ , and Almorda market in Wholesaler  $2.50 \pm 0.10 \log_{10} \text{CFU /cm}^2$ . It's found in Almorda market the highest percentage of *Salmonella species* was (80.9%), followed by *Escherichia coli* (70%) in Central market and then *Staphylococcus aureus* (41%) from Central market difference significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ). The results of food hygiene practices, all workers never used prevention to reduce the contamination (84%), also they did not knowing (56%), the transmission of fish diseases and they (96%) use ice or refrigerator and sawdust as preservation materials, while their attitudes in health status (88%) for continuous investment difference significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ). The all data in this study were statistically analyzed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS) Computer Software Version 11.5. Pathogenic bacteria of public health importance in fresh fish and found in two fish markets and revealed the problem of Knowledge, Attitude of Food Safety Practice of Food Handlers of workers of fish markets. From this study, education program for proper food safety hygiene and improvement of preservation and handling must be applied.

## ملخص الدراسة

اجريت هذه الدراسة للتعرف علي البكتريا التي تلوث الاسماك في اسواق الاسماك في ولاية الخرطوم والتي قد تتسبب في التسمم الغذائي. وكان العدد الاجمالي للعينات 240 مسحة ، 120 مسحة من السوق المركزي، 120 مسحة من سوق المورد. وجمعت العينات عشوائياً من الأسماك، ايادي العاملين، سيارات الترحيل ، الحمالون و الدرداقات، النظافين وادواتهم، تجار الجملة وتجار التجزئة. واسهتدفت الدراسة الأنواع التالية :

*Staphylococcus aureus, Salmonella spp and Escherichia coli*

وفي الجزء الثاني من هذه الدراسة لمعرفة سلوك العاملين في اسواق الاسماك بين مجموعة من العاملين 50 عامل: 25 عامل في السوق المركزي و25 عامل في سوق المورد. بعد الجمع تم عزل وتعريف انواع البكتريا باستخدام إختبارات كيميائية مختلفة. وتم جمع معلومات الدراسة عن طريق الاستبيان عن طريق اخذ العينة العشوائية للعاملين في اسواق الاسماك.

من هذه الدراسة أنه وجد أن العدد البكتيري في عدة اماكن مختلفة في السوق ولقد وجد ان الاسماك في السوق المركزي  $2.59 \pm 0.08 \log_{10} \text{CFU} / \text{cm}^2$  وفي المورد في منطقة تاجر الجملة

$2.50 \pm 0.10 \log_{10} \text{CFU} / \text{cm}^2$ . وجد ايضا ان اكبر نسبة من *Salmonella spp* (80%) في

سوق المورد يليها *Escherichia coli* (70%) في السوق المركزي ثم *Staphylococcus aureus*

(41%) في السوق المركزي . كما اظهرت النتائج ان هناك اختلاف احصائي ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) بين

السوقين. وقد اوضحت نتائج الدراسة : ان كل الردود للممارسات الصحية الوقائية لتقليل التلوث ان جميع

العاملين لا يستخدمون الاجراءات الوقائية لتقليل التلوث (84%) ، وايضا جميع العاملين لا يعلمون شئ

عن الامراض المنقولة بواسطة الاسماك الملوثة (56%) ولكن اغلب العاملين (96%) يستخدمون الثلج ،

الثلاجات ونشارة الخشب في حفظ الاسماك ، بالنسبة للمواقف الصحية (88%) الصحة العامة مهمة

لاستمرار التاجر في السوق. كما اوضحت الدراسة ان هنالك اختلاف احصائي ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) بين السوقين. تم تحليل جميع البيانات في هذه الدراسة إحصائيا باستخدام برنامج الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية (SPSS) برامج الكمبيوتر النسخة 11.5. و قد أكدت النتائج أيضا وجود البكتيريا المسببة للأمراض ذات الأهمية في الصحة العامة في الاسماك الطازجة في السوقين. كما اظهرت ايضا ان هنالك مشكلة في صحة وسلامة الغذاء في اسواق الاسماك. التوصية من هذه الدراسة هي تقديم برنامج تعليمي لنظافة أمثل وتحسين وسائل حفظ الاسماك وطرق التداول. وان يتم تدريب وتنقيف العاملين بسلامة الغذاء واتباع الممارسات الصحية السليمة اثناء تداول الاسماك في اسواق الاسماك.

# **Chapter One**

## Chapter one

### 1.0

### Introduction

Fish are the most numerous of vertebrate, with at least 20,000 known species and more than 58% are found in marine environment (Thurman *et al*, 1984). Fish are one of the most important sources of animal protein available in the tropics and has been widely accepted as a good source of protein and other vital nutrients for the maintenance of a healthy body (Andrew, 2001). Fish meats are very important sources of proteins, minerals, vitamin ...etc. However, fish meat spoil more quickly than other muscle foods, particularly when poor handled and such spoilage is primarily bacterial in nature; about 30% of landed fish are lost through microbial activity alone (Ghaly *et al.*, 2010). Developing countries captured 50% of the world harvest and a large proportion of the catch are consumed internally (FAO, 1985). In the Sudan fish distributed over an area that amount to 100,000 km of fresh water and 760 km of marine, the total sustainable production amount estimated to be about 114,100 tonnes/year and human consumption is estimated at only 1.4 kg/ year (Meske, 1985). Freshness is the most important criteria for judging the quality with the pH of 7 (Rodriquez-Jerez *et al.*, 2004). These characteristics make the seafood as a suitable living and proliferation place for bacteria under unhygienic storage conditions. This may harmful for human health by causing infection and intoxication (Liston, 1980). Contamination of fish with microorganism reflected environment pollution (Adeyemo, 2003). Contamination of fish from enteric bacteria of human and animal origin may also be responsible for various food spoilages (Geldreich *et al.*, 1966). Consumer's greatest concern is the quality and safety of food they eat. To achieve these, it is important to popularize good hygienic practices. The post-harvest handling of catch is the most important step in the production of a high quality finished product (Balasubramaniam *et al*, 2009). Sudan fishery in general

depending on traditional fishery (Khalid, *et al* 2008). In Sudan fresh fish transported chilled or refrigerated (FAO, 2002). Ice storage has been the most widely used method for the preservation of fresh fish on sea and on land. After being caught, fishes are placed in fish boxes or mixed with crushed ice and kept in fish carrying crates during trips between the fishing grounds and fish piers or markets. In cold regions, thick layers of slime containing a high bacterial load of diverse organisms often accumulate on the bottom of fish holds. In warm weather or in tropical areas, fish holds are usually filled with an ice water mixture that also accumulates fish secretions. The bacterial flora in ice melt from fish containers is important for economic reasons and for fish quality control (Chen and Chai, 1982). Proper preservation begins at the moment the fish is harvested from the water. Fish should be chilled quickly to the temperature of melting ice soon after capturing and maintained at that temperature, but micro-organisms found in fish from cold water can easily adapt to the low temperature of ice (Shewan, 1977). Food handlers play an important role in food safety and in the transmission of food poisoning, because they may introduce pathogens into foods during production, processing, distribution and even presentation (Angelio *et al.*, 2000). An understanding of food safety procedures and potential factors that cause food born illness is very important for all food handlers (Cohen *et al*, 2001). Bacteria have been found to cause disease subsequently leading to low production rate of fish. Most of these bacteria that cause diseases are considered to be saprophytic in nature. These bacteria only become pathogens when they are physiologically unbalanced, nutritionally deficient, or there are other stressors such as poor water quality and overstocking, which allow opportunistic bacterial infections to proceed (Egbere *et al.*, 2008). Conscious of the requirements of the importing countries and the regulations for production and placing on the market of fishery products, the processing sector has undertaken all necessary precautions through safety management systems to ensure seafood safety and quality. The production and processing industries are responsible for the

production of good quality and safe seafood using own check mechanisms which based on HACCP principles. The production is consumer oriented and most of their production is meant for export. Production practices, including hygiene and sanitation are controlled and monitored accordingly by the industry. However, the inspection body carries out checks for insight verification and on implementation of the regulations (Directorate of Fisheries, 2003).

### **1.1 Objectives:**

- To isolation and identification contamination bacteria in fresh fish in different markets in Khartoum state.
- To assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the fresh fish markets in the Khartoum state.
- To evaluate the hygienic handling of fish and various materials used for fish preservation and transportation including, ice, cars, equipments etc.



## **Chapter Two**

## Chapter Two

### 2.0 Literature Review

Important attributes makes the commodity readily susceptible to microbial attack particularly bacteria. Fish flesh naturally contains very low levels of carbohydrates and these are further depleted during the death struggle of the fish (Adams and Tobias., 1999). Fish and fishery products are highly perishable food, and its quick perishability has been the main hurdle in its preservation (Okoro *et al.*, 2010; Dewi *et al.*, 2011; Musa *et al.*, 2010). Is most important source of high quality protein, providing approximately 16% of the animal protein consumed by the world's population (FAO, 1997). In Africa, fish supplies 17% of protein and it is one of the cheapest sources of protein in Africa (Claucas and Ward, 1996). The microbiological diversity of fresh fish muscle depends on the fishing grounds and environmental factors around it (Cahill, 1990). Nutritionally, fish is a very important source of easily digestible, high quality protein, vitamins and fats not obtainable in such high concentrations elsewhere. Nonetheless, fish is a highly perishable foodstuff and spoils very fast unless appropriate preservation and processing techniques are applied. In addition, fish as any other foodstuff pose the risk of becoming unsafe due to hazards or contamination along the food chain. Fish in their natural environment is relatively safe food but food-borne disease and illness may occur due to infections or intoxications. These food safety hazards are closely linked to hygiene, sanitation, processing or preparation operations and marketing of fish. Thus, there is the element of risk in consumption of processed fish (Ahmed, 1991). Fish are susceptible to a wide variety of bacterial pathogens. The organisms especially bacteria are already present on the skin and in the alimentary tract of the living seafood's such as fish (Ampofo and Clerk, 2010). The bacteria are transmitted by fish that have made contact with other diseased fish. Bacterial fish disease and infections are very common and are one of the most difficult health problems to deal with (Douglas,

2007). Recent investigations indicate that the fish caught in unpolluted waters carry only a few micro-organisms on their surfaces and in the gut. Most of the bacterial contamination found on the landed fish appears to be related to the handling practice of the fish and bacterial growth during storage (Elinor *et al.* 1985). It has been suggested that the type of micro-organisms that are found associated with particular fish depends on its habitat (Claucas and Ward, 1996). The bacterial pathogens associated with fish have been classified as indigenous and non-indigenous (Kvenberg, 1991). Pathogenic and potentially pathogenic bacteria associated with fish and shellfish include *mycobacteria*, *Streptococcus iniae*, *Vibrio vulnificus*, *Vibrio spp.*, *aeromonads*, *Salmonella spp.* and others (Lipp and Rose, 1997; Zlotkin *et al.*, 1998; Chattopadhyay, 2000). Much variation exists in the patterns of spoilage of fish species. From the small amount work published on spoilage characteristics of fresh waterfish it appears that they have longer shelf lives on ice than those from marine water (Disney 1976, Shewan, 1977 in Gelman *et al.* 1990). Several studies have demonstrated many bacteria species encountered in different fish which are potentially pathogenic under certain conditions as reported for *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica*, *Streptococcus sp* (Wiklund *et al.*, 1994). It has been highlighted that fish consumption can be an important avenue for human pathogenic bacteria and other food borne diseases exposure to man (Christopher *et al.*, 2009). Human infections caused by pathogens transmitted from fish or the aquatic environment are quite common depending on the season, patients' contact with fish and related environment, dietary habits and the immune system status of the exposed individual. They are often bacterial species facultatively pathogenic for both fish and man and may be isolated from fish without apparent symptoms of disease. The infection source may be fish kept either for food or as a hobby (Acha and Szyfres, 2003). Pathogens from fish can be transmitted to humans through both active and passive contact and may cause food borne diseases such as, dysentery, typhoid, fever, salmonellosis and cholera. The practice of livestock-fish farming

needs to be placed in perspective with the likely health risks (FAO, 2003). The non-indigenous contamination of the fish or the habitat and examples include *Escherichia coli*, *Clostridium botulinum*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Listeria monocytogens* and *Salmonella*. The indigenous bacterial pathogens are found naturally living in the fish's habitat for example *Vibrio* species and *Aeromonas* species (Rodricks, 1991). Pathogenic and potentially pathogenic bacteria associated with fish and shellfish include *Mycobacterium*, *Streptococcus spp.*, *Vibrio spp.*, *Aeromonas spp.*, *Salmonella spp.* and others (Lipp and Ross, 1997). *E. coli* is a classic example of enteric bacteria causing gastroenteritis. *E. coli* including other coliforms and bacteria as *Staphylococcus spp.* and sometimes enterococci are commonly used as indices of hazardous conditions during processing of fish. Such organisms should not be present on fresh-caught fish (Chattopadhyay, 2000). The contamination of food of fish origin with pathogenic *E. coli* probably occurs during handling of fish and during the production process (Ayulo *et al.*, 1994; Asai *et al.*, 1999). Fish and shellfish appear to be passive carriers of *salmonella*, demonstrate no clinical disease and can excrete *Salmonella spp.* without apparent trouble. The contamination of this organism derives from terrestrial sources and fish may serve as a vector for *Salmonella spp.* (Metz, 1980; Minette, 1986; Chattopadhyay, 2000). The use of different kinds of livestock manure in fish production may increase the level of pathogenic bacteria causing a public health risk to the rural community (Musaiger and Souza, 2008). Fish spoilage is a complex process in which physical, chemical and microbiological mechanisms are implicated (Hozbor *et al.*, 2006). Some reports on the storage quality of frozen/chilled tilapia were still not comprehensive on spoilage mechanism and quality assessment (Arannilewa *et al.*, 2005). The fresh water or rivers and lakes have a complex flora of microorganisms which include genuinely aquatic species as well as component introduced from terrestrial, animal and plant sources. The speed with which a product spoils is also related to the initial microbial load on the product: the

higher the count, the sooner spoilage occurs. Shell fish such as Tilapia have a particular large pool of nitrogenous extractives and are even more prone to rapid spoilage, a factor which accounts for the common practice of keeping them alive until immediately prior to consumption (Adams *et al.*, 1999). The scale of human activities determinative effect on coastal waters. Many shell fish used for food out particles from large volume of waters. If these waters have been contaminated with sewage, there is always the risk that enteric organisms from infected individuals may be present and concentrated by the filter feeding activities of shell fish (Adams *et al.*, 1999). Also during handling of the commodity, the natural flora of the environment may be contaminated with organisms associated with man such as members of the *Enterobacteriaceae* and *Staphylococcus aureus* which can grow well at 30-37°C (Miceal *et al.*, 2007). Bacterial contamination in food often results in food spoilage as well as life-threatening health hazards like food poisoning (Prescott *et al.*, 1999). Their high water content, bacteria flora able to live at low temperatures and its high enzymatic activity, mainly autolytic, are responsible of the susceptibility of fish muscle. Among these changes, lipid oxidation is one of the most important. It leads to rancid flavours and reduces the shelf-life of fish products especially during storage (Flick and Martin, 1992). However fish are susceptible to a wide variety of bacterial pathogens, most of which are capable of causing disease and are considered by some to be saprophytic in nature (Lipp and Ross, 1997). Contamination of these seafoods is usually through the fecal-oral route. Fecal contaminated water and unsanitary handling by food handlers are the most common causes of contamination (Walderhaug, 1992). Most seafood is still extracted from a wide population, and the fishermen are hunters with no influence on handling of their prey before it is caught (Adebayo-Tayo *et al.*, 2012). Treatment of products with chlorinated water reduces populations of pathogenic and other microorganisms on fresh products but cannot eliminate them. Reduction of risk for human illness associated with raw products can be

better achieved through controlling points of potential contamination in the field; during harvesting, processing or distribution or in retail markets, food-service facilities, or the home (Phpp, 1997). The use of ice for chilling is still one of the most important methods of preserving fish, though ice merely slows down microbial activity since fish can support a population of cold-tolerant bacteria (Liston 1982; Alberto *et al.* 1988). These bacteria are predominantly at the surface of the fish but secrete enzymes into the tissues, bringing about a complex series of chemical changes (Shewan, 1977). USFDA (2007) recommends that seafood be purchased only from reputable sources. These recommendations include: be wary, for example, of vendors selling fish out of the back of their pick-up trucks. buy only fresh seafood that is refrigerated or properly iced, do not buy cooked seafood, such as shrimp, crabs or smoked fish if displayed in the same case as raw fish. Cross-contamination can be occur, do not buy frozen seafood if the packages are open, torn or crushed on the edges, avoid packages that are above the frost line in the store's freezer. If the package cover is transparent, look for signs of frost or ice crystals. This could mean that the fish has either been stored for a long time or thawed and refrozen. Put seafood on ice, in the refrigerator or in the freezer, immediately after buying it. Recreational fishers who plan to eat their catch should follow state and local government advisories about fishing areas and eating fish from certain areas (USFDA, 2007). Usually, the bacteria inhabit the gill, skin and intestines during the life span of the fish without attacking the muscles and the later will only be possible when the fish died. When fish is preserved by icing the rate of bacterial penetration into the flesh muscle is much slower. It was reported that the number of bacteria in fish caught in temperate waters can develop even when in ice, while in tropical water they grow slowly for one or two weeks in icing preservation (Nguyen, 2005). There have been several reports on the health risks associated with the consumption of processed seafood, ranging from allergic reactions, stomach and intestinal cancerous growths, a general degeneration of peripheral cellular tissues,

to gradual breakdown of the digestive and excretive systems in a statistically high percentage of people examined. Few of these reports however, have looked at the likely risks from a microbiological food safety point of view (Edema *et al.*, 2005). The microbiological diversity of fresh fish muscle depends on the fishing grounds and environmental factors around it (Cahill, 1990). It has been suggested that the type of micro-organisms that are found associated with particular fish depends on its habitat (Claucas and Ward, 1996). The bacterial pathogens associated with fish have been classified as indigenous and non-indigenous (Kvenberg, 1991). The bacteria from fish only become pathogens when fish are physiologically unbalanced, nutritionally deficient, or there are other stressors, i.e., poor water quality, overstocking, which allow opportunistic bacterial infections to prevail (Austin, 2011). One of the risks involved in livestock integrated fish farming is possible transfer of pathogens between livestock and humans. Previous research has shown that, different kinds of livestock manure are contaminated with pathogenic bacteria such as *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Pseudomonas*, *Vibrio*, *Streptococcus*, and *E. coli* (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2006). The microbial association with fish compromises safety and the quality for human consumption; particularly critical is when the micro-organisms are opportunistic and / or pathogenic in nature (Mhango *et al.*, 2010). The health of fish is dependent on the quality of water. Enteric bacteria such as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella spp.* and *Vibrio spp.* are likely to accumulate in fish found in waters polluted with human wastes, located in polluted areas where hygienic standards are not maintained or in fish ponds supplied with water from polluted rivers. Therefore microbial quality of farmed fish is largely determined by the quality of water in which they are farmed (Fafioye, 2011). The speed of spoilage is related to the initial bacterial load: the higher the count, the sooner spoilage occurs (Adam and Tobaias 1999). Spoilage bacteria differ somewhat for freshwater and marine fish and for temperate and tropical water fish. Storage and processing conditions also affect microbial growth (Doyle,

2007). During handling and storage, quality deterioration of fresh fish rapidly occurs and limits the shelf life of the product (Sallam, 2007; Adebayo-Tayo *et al.*, 2012d). Kvenberg,(1991) and Rodrick,(1991) classified bacteria pathogen of fish into two: the indigenous bacteria, those living naturally in fish and its habitat and nonindigenous bacteria, which are contaminant of fish or its habitat. Many bacteria that are potential spoilers abound in the surface slime, gill and intestine of live fish but the natural defenses prevent invasion while the fish is alive. Multiplication and invasion occurs soon after death of fish. Contamination of fish from enteric bacteria of human and animal origin may also be responsible for various food spoilages (Emikpe *et al.*, 2011). (Agbolagba and Uwagbai, 2011). Agbolagba and Iyeru (1998) reported that improper smoking and unhygienic handling of smoked fish results in high microbial infestation and that storage temperature close to 37°C are ideal for the growth of pathogenic bacteria. They also stated that high humidity and high to moderate temperature support mould growth in stored food. Moulds produce mycotoxins some of which are carcinogenic while fungal groups may cause mycoses and allergies in man. The WHO (2006) has acknowledged that although interventions such as increased education and awareness about safe food handling practices are necessary, they are insufficient bases for personal action to get us the behavioral impact we desire as our end-goals. Essentially, achieving behavior change in relation to food safety implies encouraging individuals to assess their prevailing knowledge and practices, supporting safe and hygienic practices and, when necessary, providing incentives to facilitate the adoption of new, hygienic and healthy practices (WHO 2006; Ehiri and Morris 1996; Foster and Kaferstein 1985). Food safety, an increasingly important public health issue (WHO, 2004), refers to the conditions and practices that preserve the quality of food to prevent contamination microbes or toxic chemicals resulting in food borne illness. Food can be already contaminated with microbes, during the packaging process or mishandled, improbably cooked or stored (Medeiros *et al.*, 2004). People most often get



infected as follows (Acha and Szyfres, 2003), through contact with infected fish while handling them, water or other constituents of fish life environment; the following cases of transmissions have been recorded so far; after injury by cleaning aquarium with bare hands (Alinovi *et al.*, 1993), through processing fish in the food industry and preparation of dishes (Notermans and Hoornstra, 2000) orally by consumption infected fish or related products or food contaminated with water or other constituents of water environment. Apart from factors relating to the living environment (exposure), the development of an infectious disease is markedly affected by internal factors such as the physiological status of consumer, particularly by immunosuppression and stress as in the case of HIV/AIDS (Von Reyn *et al.*, 1996). Therefore, food handlers' food safety knowledge is critical when attempting to improve food safety and hygiene practices. However, it is noted that knowledge alone is not sufficient. Several studies have found food handlers fail to implement appropriate practices despite having the requisite food safety knowledge (Clayton, *et al.*, 2002; Subratty, *et al.*, 2004). Subratty *et al.*, (2004) found that food vendors are quite aware of hygiene conditions; however, they do not translate their knowledge into practice. Food borne diseases are responsible for the majority of mortality and morbidity worldwide with up to 30% of population in industrialized countries suffering from foodborne illness annually (WHO, 2014). For more than a century, hand washing has been recognized as an essential component in the prevention of the spread of microbial infection (Fendler *et al.*, 1998). Poor personal hygiene, including inadequate hand washing among food handlers, is a common practice that contributes to foodborne illness in retail establishments (De Waal, 1996; Lynch, *et al.*, 2003; Food and Drug Administration, 2004). Numerous studies have highlighted the need for food safety training and education for food handlers, due to lack of knowledge on microbiological food hazards, optimal food storage temperatures, risks of cross contamination and the importance of personal hygiene (Bas *et al.*, 2006; Mudey *et al.*, 2010; Nuchprayoon, *et al.*,

2009). According to Higgins (2007), anyone who work in food safety sooner or later discover that one of the most valuable tools for prevention is simply reading about and understanding how past outbreak have occurred. Using major and frequently famous or at least newsworthy outbreaks, Phyllis (2007) illustrate critical factors come together to produce tragic and largely preventable results modern microbes often team up with old practice, short sighted decision or current consumer tend to produce an outbreak. Bacteria may be found on the skin, chitinous shell, gills as well as the intestinal tracts of fish or shellfish. Human infections that may be caused by fish bacteria include food poisoning and gastroenteritis. Consumption of fish is responsible for 5-8% of food-borne disease outbreaks. The risk to public health arises if toxigenic strains multiply to high number during improper handling and storage leading to auto-enzymatic action and bacterial degradation. The microbial population of the ice obviously has a bearing on public health. The investigation of the microorganisms in the drainage of fish holds can provide clues for the improvement of sanitation in fishing boats, the optimization of fish processing, and the extension of fish shelf life (Chal and Levin, 1975). The less developed countries capture 50% of the world harvest and a large proportion of the catch are consumed internally (FAO, 1985). Disease cause economic losses not only from mortality but also treatment expenses, postponement or loss of the opportunity to sell the fish and contraction of zoonotic diseases by the handler and final consumer of the affected fish. Contamination of hands and surfaces during cleaning and evisceration of fish is a common route of pathogen infection through contamination of other food (Buras, 1993). Fish and Shellfish not only transmit disease to man but are themselves subject to many diseases and capable of transmitting many of the established food borne microbial infections and intoxications (FAO/WHO, 1974). The HACCP system was introduced in 1971 during the National Food Protection Conference. Seafood processors must keep in mind that HACCP does not replace GMPs or guard against fraudulent practices (Russell *et al.*, 2004).

# **Chapter Three**

## **Chapter Three**

### **3.0 Material and Methods**

#### **3.1 Area of survey**

This survey was conducted to assess the effect of personal hygiene microbial contamination of fishes before and after landing in Central market and Almorda market fish markets in Khartoum state from June 2014 to March 2016.

#### **3.2 Sampling**

A total of 240 swab samples were randomly collected (120 samples) from Central market and Almorda market (120 samples) from different site (Deportation cars, Porters and Aldrdaqat, Alnnazafin and Equiepmnt, Wholesaler, Retailer, Fish in every market).

#### **3.3 Bacteriology**

The swab samples (240 samples) were transported under ice in an ice box to microbiology laboratory of collage of Veterinary Medicine, Sudan University, within two hours. All swab samples were kept frozen before processed for bacterial diagnosis within 72 hours after collection.

##### **3.3.1 Bacteria and culture media**

The samples were streaked on blood agar, nutrient agar and macConkey agar and incubator at 37°C for 24 hrs. All culture and media were prepared according Oxoid (2006).

###### **3.3.1.1 Solid Media**

###### **3.3.1.1.1 Blood agar**

The prepare blood agar, the base medium used to make a selective medium. Preparing a batch of blood agar plates, a few plates should be prepared first to make sure the blood were sterile. Sterilization by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes. When the agar cooled to 50°C, add of sterile blood aseptically and mix

gently but well. Avoiding formation of air bubbles. The media Dispensed aseptically in 15 ml amounts in sterile Petri dishes and Stored at 2–8°C, preferably in sealed plastic bags to prevent loss of moisture.

#### **3.3.1.1.2 MacConkey agar**

It is differentiated media and usually used at a concentration of 5.2 g in every 100 ml distilled water. Sterilized by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes. Then the medium cooled to 50–55° C, mixed well and dispensed aseptically in sterile Petri dishes (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.1.1.3 Nutrient agar**

Nutrient agar prepared at a concentration of 2.8 g in every 100 ml distilled water (concentration may vary depending on manufacturer). Sterilization by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.1.1.4 Modified New York City (MNYC)**

The media was prepared by mixing 2.5 ml sterile 10% w/v saponin solution with 50 ml sterile blood (human, bovine, or horse but not sheep). Sterilization of spooning solution by autoclaving at 115°C for 10 minutes dissolving of the GC agar base and yeast extract powder in the water by heating to 100 C°. Sterilization by autoclaving at 121° C for 15 minutes. Allow to cool to 50–55C° and then added aseptically the sterile saponin lyzed blood, the glucose solution, and the antibiotic supplement. Mixing well after each addition. Avoiding formation air bubbles (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.1.1.5 Xylose lysine deoxycholate (XLD) agar**

This selective medium recommended for the isolation of salmonellae and particularly shigellae from faecal specimens. The medium prepared at a concentration of 5.3 g in every 100 ml distilled water. Heating the medium with care no overheating or autoclaving. As soon as the medium cooled to about 55°C, mixed well, and dispensed aseptically in sterile Petri dishes (Cheesbrough, 2000).

### **3.3.2. Pure cultures**

Pure cultures produced for identification and sensitivity testing. The colonial appearances and changes in the media made by colonies may provide valuable identification information (Cheesbrough, 2000).

### **3.3.3 Gram stain**

The Gram staining reaction was used to help identify pathogens in specimens and cultures by their Gram reaction (Gram positive or Gram negative) and morphology. Pus cells were also identified in Gram smears. Following staining with a triphenyl methane basic dye such as crystal violet and treatment with iodine, the dye-iodine complex is easily removed from the more permeable cell wall of Gram negative bacteria but not from the less permeable cell wall of Gram positive bacteria. (Cheesbrough, 2000).

### **3.3.4 Biochemical tests**

#### **3.3.4.1 Urease test**

The test organism was cultured in a medium which contained urea and the indicator phenol red. Incubated at 35–37°C (preferably in a water bath for a quicker result) for up to 4 hours or overnight. Red/purple colour Positive urease test Yellow/orange Negative urease test (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.4.2 Indole test**

The test organism was cultured in a medium which contained tryptophan. Indole production was detected by Kovac's or Ehrlich's reagent full slop. This reaction with the Indole to produce a red coloured Examination for a red colour in the surface layer within 10 minutes was considered a positive test (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.4.3 Citrate utilization test**

The tested Organism in Simmon's citrate agar cultured slopes in the medium. Using a sterile straight wire, first streak or the slope with a saline suspension of

the test organism and then stab the bottom. Incubating at 35°C for 48 hours. Changing of the medium to bright blue on the Simon's agar indicated a positive citrate test and No change in colour of Negative citrate test of medium. (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.4.4 Oxidase test**

Preparation of 10 ml Tetramethyl-p phenylenediamine, 0.1 g of dihydrochloride was added 10 ml D.W. it is a piece of filter paper was soaked with a few drops of oxidase reagent. A colony of the test organism was then smeared on the filter paper. Positive test was deep purple colour. (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.4.5 Kligler iron agar (KIA)**

the medium different organisms, prepared from ready to use dehydrated powder. The medium was used at a concentration of 5.5 g in every 100 ml distilled water and bubbles in the medium indicated gas production from glucose fermentation. Gas was production of fermentation of lactose and glucose (dextrose) and the production of hydrogen sulphide . Organism that can fermented glucose produced a red slant. (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.4.6 Motility**

The movement of small motile bacteria must be distinguished from the on-the-spot vibratory movement (Brownian movement) which is shown by all microorganisms and particles when suspended in a fluid. True bacterial motility is the ability of an organism to move itself in different directions or a single direction. (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.4.7 Catalase test**

These organism was bringing into contact with hydrogen peroxide. Bubbles of oxygen were released if the organism was a catalase producer. Active bubbling was Positive catalase test, No bubbles were a Negative catalase test. (Cheesbrough 2000).

#### **3.3.4.8 Coagulase test**

Free coagulase which converted fibrinogen to fibrin by activating a coagulase-reacting factor present in plasma. Free coagulase was detected by clotting in the bound coagulase (clumping factor) which converted fibrinogen directly to fibrin without requiring a coagulase reacting factor. It can be detected by the clumping of bacterial cells in the test. ( Cheesbrough 2000).

#### **3.3.5 Isolation and Identification Procedures**

Isolated bacteria were identified based on morphological characteristics, Gram's stain reaction and biochemical test. Result were confirmed using manual for determinative bacteriology Identification media: These include media to which substrates or chemicals are added to help identify bacteria isolated on primary cultures. Organisms are mainly identified by a change in the colour of the medium and or the production of gas. (Cheesbrough, 2000).

#### **3.3.6 Total viable count**

The total viable count (TVCs) of the isolated microorganism was carried out according to the method of Harrigan (1998), aseptically the appropriate serial dilutions of both parts of fishes were spread on poured counting agar, plates Baird-Parker agar and Potato Dextrose Agar for counting of total viable bacteria count. All inoculated plates were incubated at 37 °C for 24-48 hours except Potato dextrose agar palates, which were incubated for 72 hours at 25 °C as described by (Harrigan, 1998).



### **3.4 Questionnaire**

Questionnaires were filled by 50 workers in Two fish markets in Khartoum state. Each Questionnaire was comprised three distinct parts: food hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices. In the knowledge part, there were close-ended questions emphasizing personal hygiene. Each question was provided by three possible answers (true, false and don not know ). Subsequent part of the questionnaire was dealing with the attitudes of the responders about various hygiene measures for food safety. The handlers were asked to indicate their level of agreement to the statements using a three-point rating scale (agree, disagree and no idea). Practices of food workers assessed by their self-reported hygienic behaviors in the last part of the questionnaire . In this part question were provided with five-point rating scale (never, rarely, sometimes, often and always). Although the questionnaire was intended to be self-administered, some illiterate workers needed help in filling it.

### **3.5 Statistical analysis**

Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS software for windows, version 11.5. Descriptive statistics crosstabulation were provided and spearman's correlations coefficient was used to test the association between knowledge, attitudes and practices scores. P-value less than 0.05 were considered as statistically significant.

# **Chapter Four**

## Chapter Four

### 4.0

### Result

The mean and standard error of total viable count (TVC), of bacteria on two fish markets were 2.39 log<sub>10</sub> CFU/cm<sup>2</sup> in the Almorda market and in central market 2.48 log<sub>10</sub> CFU/cm<sup>2</sup>, over all mean 3.94. Both fish markets showed high significant difference ( $P < 0.001$ ) in Table 1. The mean and standard deviation of total viable count of bacteria in Almorda market deportation cars 2.43 ± 0.14, porters and Aldrdaqat 2.29 ± 0.09, alnnazafin and equipment 2.44 ± 0.11, Wholesaler 2.50 ± 0.10, Retailer 2.48 ± 0.09 and Fish in every market 2.25 ± 0.13. Bacterial contamination was found in all places of sampling of the market, which Significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) (Table 2).

As shown in Table 3 mean and standard deviation of total viable count of bacteria on Place of sampling of Central market Deportation cars 2.37 ± 0.19, porters and Aldrdaqat 2.43 ± 0.18, Alnnazafin and Equipement 2.47 ± 0.15, Wholesaler 2.54 ± 0.08, Retailer 2.51 ± 0.21 and Fish in every market 2.59 ± 0.08. The Significant difference was high ( $P < 0.001$ ) of overall mean between place of sampling fish markets.

In table 4 deportation cars in both fish markets were significantly difference ( $P < 0.05$ ). Where as Wholesaler in two fish markets were showed no significant difference.

Table 5 showed the types of bacteria isolated from two fish markets. The high rate of contaminated of *E. coli* was 70 % in Central market, while *Salmonella species* 80 % in Almorda market.

The results of the questions regarding food safety and hygiene practices were shown in Table 9. The questions were divided into personal hygiene practices Overall (84.0%) of participants 'never' using mask during work in Almorda market. Implemented personal hygiene practices expected of food handlers. More

than half of the respondents (96.0%) they always wearing gloves during work in Central market.

The results at the questions regarding food safety knowledge were presented in Table 10. The knowledge was evaluated in relation to disease transmitted by fish contamination and regulations for food safety and workers' health. The majority of participants selected the false answer or identified that they did not know the answer for most of the food safety topics (56%) in Almorda market and answer (96%) to using ice or refrigerator reducing fish spoilage, using sawdust to save fish the participants selected the true (68%). The data relating to participants' attitudes to food safety were shown in Table 11. It Participants believed food safety was an important responsibility in their job. the majority disagreeing with this survey or did not awareness of food safety.

#### 4.1 Bacterial Viable Count

**Table (1): Over all mean and standard Error of Total viable count of bacteria on two fish markets in Khartoum state.**

n.o	Area	(CFU/cm <sup>2</sup> ) Log10	Sig.
1	Almorda market	2.39	*
2	Central market	2.48	*
3	Over all mean	3.94	***
4	S.E	0.002	NS

**S.E:** Stand Error. **Sig:** Significance. \*: Significant difference at level ( $P < 0.05$ ).

\*\*\*: Hig significant difference at  $P$  value of  $<0.001$ . NS. Not significant ( $P > 0.05$ ).

**Table (2): Mean and Standard deviation of Total viable count of bacteria on Place of sampling of Almorda market in Khartoum state.**

No	Place of sampling	Std. Deviation	(CFU/cm <sup>2</sup> ) Log10	Sig.
1	Deportation cars	± 0.14	2.43	**
2	porters and Aldrdaqat	± 0.09	2.29	
3	Alnnazafin and Equiepmnt	± 0.11	2.44	
4	Wholesaler	± 0.10	2.50	
5	Retailer	± 0.09	2.48	
6	Fish in every market	± 0.13	2.25	

**Sig:** Significance. \*\*: significant difference at  $P$  value of  $<0.05$

**Table (3): Mean and Standard deviation of Total viable count of bacteria on Place of sampling of Central market in Khartoum state.**

<b>N.o</b>	<b>Place of sampling</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>	<b>(CFU/cm2) Log10</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Deportation cars</b>	$\pm 0.19$	2.37	***
<b>2</b>	<b>porters and Aldrdaqat</b>	$\pm 0.18$	2.43	
<b>3</b>	<b>Alnnazafin and Equiepmnt</b>	$\pm 0.15$	2.47	
<b>4</b>	<b>Wholesaler</b>	$\pm 0.08$	2.54	
<b>5</b>	<b>Retailer</b>	$\pm 0.21$	2.51	
<b>6</b>	<b>Fish in every market</b>	$\pm 0.08$	2.59	

**Sig:** Significance

\*\*\* : Hig significant difference at **P** value of <0.001

**Table (4): Comparison of mean total viable count of bacteria (log<sub>10</sub> CFU/cm<sup>2</sup>) ± Standard deviation at different Place of sampling of fish markets in Khartoum state.**

N.o	Place of sampling	(CFU/cm <sup>2</sup> ) Log <sub>10</sub> ± std deviation		Sig
		Almorda market	Central market	
1	Deportation cars	2.43 ± 0.14	2.37 ± 0.19	*
2	porters and Aldrdaqat	2.29 ± 0.09	2.43 ± 0.18	*
3	Alnnazafin and Equiepmnt	2.44 ± 0.11	2.47 ± 0.15	NS
4	Wholesaler	2.50 ± 0.10	2.54 ± 0.08	NS
5	Retailer	2.48 ± 0.09	2.51 ± 0.21	NS
6	Fish in every market	2.25 ± 0.13	2.59 ± 0.08	*

**Sig:** Significance. \* Significant difference at level ( $P < 0.05$ ). **NS.** Not significant ( $P > 0.05$ )

**Table (5): Bacteria isolated and identified (N %) at two fish markets in Khartoum state.**

N.o	Area	<i>Escherichia coli</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>		<i>Staphylococcus</i>	
		Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
1	Almorda market	40 %	60%	20%	80%	61%	39%
2	Central market	30%	70%	48%	52%	59%	41%

## 4.2 Biochemical reactions of bacteria

**Table (6): Biochemical reactions of *Salmonella* spp. isolated from the fish samples collected from the fish markets**

Test/substrate	Results		<i>Salmonella</i> spp. reaction
	Positive	Negative	
Urease	No color change	Change to pink	-
Indole	color change	No color change	+
Hydrogen sulphide	Blackening	No blackening	+
Citrate	Chang color and turbid medium	No chang color and turbid medium	+
Kliger iron agar (KIA)	color change	No color change	+
Catalase	Release of oxygen bubbles	No release of oxygen bubbles	+
Oxidation fermentation	Fermentative (F)	Oxidative (O)	F
Motility	Turbidity	No turbidity	+
Oxidase	Color on reagent paper	No color on reagent paper	-

KEY: + Positive  
- Negative



**Table (7): Biochemical reactions of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from the fish samples collected from the fish markets**

Test/substrate	Results		<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> . reaction
	Positive	Negative	
Urease	No color change	Change to pink	-
Indole	color change	No color change	-
Hydrogen sulphide	Blackening	No blackening	+
Citrate	Chang color and turbid medium	No chang color and turbid medium	-
Kliger iron agar (KIA)	color change	No color change	+
Catalase	Release of oxygen bubbles	No release of oxygen bubbles	+
Oxidation fermentation	Fermentative (F)	Oxidative (O)	F
Motility	Turbidity	No turbidity	-
Oxidase	Color on reagent paper	No color on reagent paper	-

KEY: + Positive  
- Negative

**Table (8): Biochemical reactions of *Escherichia coli* isolated from the fish samples collected from the fish markets**

Test/substrate	Results		<i>Escherichia coli</i> . reaction
	Positive	Negative	
Urease	No color change	Change to pink	-
Indole	color change	No color change	+
Hydrogen sulphide	Blackening	No blackening	-
Citrate	Chang color and turbid medium	No chang color and turbid medium	-
Kliger iron agar (KIA)	color change	No color change	+
Catalase	Release of oxygen bubbles	No release of oxygen bubbles	+
Oxidation fermentation	Fermentative (F)	Oxidative (O)	F
Motility	Turbidity	No turbidity	+
Oxidase	Color on reagent paper	No color on reagent paper	-

KEY: + Positive  
- Negative

**Table(9): Responses for assessment of respondent's food hygienic practices of food workers in fish markets in Khartoum state.**

Statements	Area	Responses,					Sig
		Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	P-value
Do you use gloves during work?	Central market	4.0%	0%	0%	0%	96.0%	.000
	Almorda market	76.0%	16.0%	4.0%	0%	4.0%	
Do you wash your hands before using gloves?	Central market	36.0%	24.0%	8.0%	4.0%	28.0%	.33
	Almorda market	48.0%	20.0%	20.0%	4.0%	8.0%	
Do you wear apron during work?	Central market	44.0%	16.0%	12.0%	4.0%	24.0%	.35
	Almorda market	56.0%	16.0%	20.0%	4.0%	4.0%	
Do you use mask during work?	Central market	68.0%	8.0%	4.0%	4.0%	16.0%	.22
	Almorda market	84.0%	12.0%	.0%	4.0%	.0%	
Do you use cap during work?	Central market	48.0%	4.0%	36.0%	8.0%	4.0%	.01
	Almorda market	68.0%	24.0%	4.0%	.0%	4.0%	
Do you wash your hands before you touch raw meat?	Central market	20.0%	12.0%	24.0%	.0%	44.0%	.04
	Almorda market	20.0%	20.0%	48.0%	4.0%	8.0%	
Do you wash your hands after you touch raw meat?	Central market	8.0%	8.0%	4.0%	0%	80.0%	.46
	Almorda market	12.0%	4.0%	16.0%	0%	68.0%	
Do you eat or drink in your work place?	Central market	48.0%	.0%	24.0%	4.0%	24.0%	.05
	Almorda market	32.0%	12.0%	4.0%	4.0%	48.0%	
Do you smoke in your work place?	Central market	52.0%	4.0%	12.0%	8.0%	24.0%	.10
	Almorda market	28.0%	24.0%	4.0%	4.0%	40.0%	

**Table (10): Food safety knowledge in fish markets in Khartoum state.**

Statements	Area	Responses, n (%)			Sig P-value
		True	False	Do not know	
Typhoid can be transmitted by fish contamination	Central market	4.0%	52.0%	44.0%	1.00
	Almorda market	4.0%	52.0%	44.0%	
Diarrhea can be transmitted by fish contamination	Central market	20.0%	52.0%	28.0%	.09
	Almorda market	4.0%	44.0%	52.0%	
AIDS can be transmitted by fish contamination	Central market	0%	52.0%	48.0%	.57
	Almorda market	0%	44.0%	56.0%	
Jaundice can be transmitted by fish contamination	Central market	0%	52.0%	48.0%	.57
	Almorda market	0%	44.0%	56.0%	
Abortion in pregnant women may be induced by food borne disease	Central market	.0%	56.0%	44.0%	.59
	Almorda market	4.0%	52.0%	44.0%	
bacteria is among the causes fish spoilage	Central market	48.0%	36.0%	16.0%	.51
	Almorda market	64.0%	24.0%	12.0%	
Remember the fish well with ice or use the refrigerator reduces fish spoilage	Central market	96.0%	4.0%	.0%	1.00
	Almorda market	96.0%	4.0%	.0%	
Use sawdust to save the fish increases pollution and fish contamination	Central market	68.0%	32.0%	.0%	.76
	Almorda market	64.0%	36.0%	.0%	

**Table (11): Food safety attitudes of food workers in fish markets in Khartoum state.**

Statements	Area	Responses			Sig P-value
		Agree	Disagree	No idea	
Using gloves is important in reducing risk of food contamination	Central market	52.0%	48.0%	.0%	.59
	Almorda market	48.0%	48.0%	4.0%	
Using apron is important in reducing risk of food contamination	Central market	52.0%	48.0%	.0%	.23
	Almorda market	36.0%	56.0%	8.0%	
Using masks is important in reducing risk of food contamination	Central market	52.0%	48.0%	.0%	.09
	Almorda market	24.0%	72.0%	4.0%	
Using caps is important in reducing risk of food contamination	Central market	48.0%	52.0%	.0%	.00
	Almorda market	8.0%	92.0%	.0%	
Food hygiene training for workers in fish markets is an important issue in reducing risk of food contamination	Central market	88.0%	4.0%	8.0%	.00
	Almorda market	80.0%	.0%	20.0%	
Health status of the workers should be evaluated in fish markets	Central market	88.0%	4.0%	8.0%	.30
	Almorda market	80.0%	.0%	20.0%	
Food borne illnesses can have deleterious health and economic effects on the society	Central market	36.0%	56.0%	8.0%	.07
	Almorda market	12.0%	64.0%	24.0%	

# **Chapter Five**

## Chapter Five

### 5.0

### Discussion

This is the first study on the microbial quality of market fishes in Central market and Almorda market, Khartoum state Sudan.

The result from this research shows that the bacterial load varies in the three segments of the fishes analyzed, since the markets and in the stages of production was found by the proportions of the overall mean and standard error of total viable count of bacteria on two fish markets (Table1) and high rates bacterial contamination in the transportation to a direct sales of retailers of (Table 1). These results are agreed results of (FAO, 1983). Generally sterile immediately after catching, however, it may become contaminated with different microorganisms during subsequent handling as these microorganisms can penetrate from skin and the gut to the flesh. The microbiological diversity of fresh fish muscle depends on the fishing grounds and environmental factors around it (Cahill, 1990). These results showed (Table 2) total viable count of bacteria at different Places of sampling and in Almorda market the bacterial contamination all stages of the market, which led a significant difference at level ( $P < 0.05$ ) and this in agreement with Disease breaks out in fish tank very quickly and having the first identification of the type of disease before the action take place. The bacteria are transmitted by contact with other diseased fish. Bacterial fish disease and infections are very common and are one of the most difficult health problems to deal with (Douglas, 2007). It has been suggested that the type of micro-organisms that are found associated with particular fish depends on its habitat (Clauca and Ward, 1996). The quality of fish continuously changes during different stages from harvesting to marketing. After death, the fish has to cross rigor mortis and the body of fish acts as a suitable medium for the growth and multiplication of bacteria. and this in agreement with our results

(Table 3) with Jayasinghe (2006) investigated the quality of tap water, sea water, ice, fish surface and landing centre and found them contaminated by fecal bacteria like *E. coli* and *Salmonella sp* and this in agreement with our results (Table 3). Spencer (1959) emphasized on the sanitation of fish boxes and has made investigations on their quantitative and qualitative bacteriological studies. Comparison of total viable count of bacteria at different Place of sampling of fish markets (Table 4) showed highest contamination and this was in agreement with fish flesh (FAO,1983). These results in agreement with some reports on the storage quality of frozen/chilled tilapia were still not comprehensive on spoilage mechanism and quality assessment (Arannilewa *et al.*, 2005). The Percentage of bacteria isolated from two fish markets (Table 5) in these results indicated unhygienic condition and high contamination both places. The isolating of *Staphylococcus aureus* in this results may be due to improper handling, improper storage and cross contamination. In the high incidence of *Staph aureus* in the examined samples could indicate unhygienic conditions because the product contamination could be the result of a combination of improper handling, improper storage and cross contamination (Simon and Sanjev, 2007). *Salmonellosis* can manifest in a number of disease syndromes including gastroenteritis, bacteremia, typhoid fever and focal infections (Darwin and Miller, 1999). Most fish related food borne illness are traced to *Salmonella*, *Staphylococcus spp.*, *Escherichia coli.*, *Vibrio parahemolyticus*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Clostridium botulinum E* and *Enteroviruses* (Center for food safety and nutrition, 2001). Hess (1934), Kiser (1944), Ingram (1958) and Redfort (1932) who have reported that bacterial multiplication occurred in frozen fish, although the speed of development might be strikingly altered. Some bacteria suffer death while freezing however, freezing and storage under frozen conditions have virtually no action on bacterial spores and yeasts. Ingram (1951), Lochhead and Jones (1938), Lund and Halvorson (1951), Gunderson and Rose (1948) and Hartsell (1951) stated that freezing did not appear to have practically



any effect on the cultural or other characteristics of most psychrophilic bacteria after thawing. They have also reported that frozen fish spoil quickly than slow frozen fish. Chistyakov and Noskova (1955) have observed that some micro-organisms have adapted to freezing temperature.

The questionnaire included three part of the practical extent of the workers and their knowledge, attitudes and hygienic practices of workers (Table 9). These results disagree with consumer's greatest concern is the quality and safety of food they eat. To achieve these, it is important to popularize good hygienic practices. The post-harvesting and handling of catching is the most important step in the production of a high quality finished product (Balasubramaniam *et al.*, 2009). The observation through the answers especially knowledge were varied in preventive operations to reduce pollution. For practice, the reducing or increasing to limit pollution most of answers were false. These results demonstrate the lack of knowledge of the health and food safety for workers in the fish markets (Table 10). These results agreed with (Poyoung, 2007) food handlers which are not attend food hygiene training programs as in another study in which food handlers were negligent or lacked food sanitation and hygiene training. This result was similar to the results of (Wilcock *et al.*, 2004) who found that there was an association between knowledge and current practice. It was also mentioned that awareness of food handlers would improve their practice. All employees agreed that diseases of borne contamination unrelated to the fishing grounds but transmitted by fish contamination such as Typhoid, Diarrhea, AIDS, Jaundice, abortion in pregnant women may be induced by food borne disease (Table 10). Pathogens from fish can be transmitted to humans through both active and passive contact and may cause food borne diseases such as, dysentery, typhoid, fever, salmonellosis and cholera. The practice of livestock-fish farming needs to be placed in perspective with the likely health risks (FAO, 2003). One of the risks involved in livestock integrated fish farming is possible transfer of pathogens between livestock and humans. Previous study showed that different kinds of

livestock manure are contaminated with pathogenic bacteria such as *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Pseudomonas*, *Vibrio*, *Streptococcus*, and *E. coli species* (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2006). Well of fish with good ice or using the refrigerator reduces fish spoilage rot and this is not knowing by all workers in the field and also they agreed that the bacteria increase pollution and lack of sawdust to save the good fish (Table 10). It is believed that many consumers do not adhere to safety guidelines of prompting refrigeration after purchasing perishable foods, separation of raw and ready to eat foods, proper dairy storage, keeping perishable foods at or below 4°C and following the correct procedures when thawing frozen foods (Li Cohen *et al.*, 2002). Another part of the questionnaire the attitudes of food workers in fish markets and their answers are sandwiched between agree or disagree, or no idea such as using gloves, apron, masks, caps are important in reducing risk of food contamination (Table 11). Food hygiene training for workers in fish markets is an important issue in reducing risk of food contamination. In addition, Kraus (1995) suggested that attitude was an important psychological factor which could predict food safety behavior. Health status of the workers should be evaluated in fish markets, food borne illnesses can have deleterious health and economic effects on the society. Behaviors such as these help to determine the food safety attitude of consumers and can also contribute to an understanding of their actual food safety behavior (Redmond and Griffith, 2003).

## **5.1. Conclusion**

This study showed that food handlers had less understanding of the risk of microbial and chemical contamination of food or did not they know how to manage the increase contamination. Food handlers should be attended proper training in the basic principles of food safety and rules of personal hygiene in order to improve their practices in food handling. Food handlers should pay attention to the importance of cross contamination, cleaning raw material, and the factors determining the growth of pathogenic organisms in food and indicated that food safety education must be applied in this target group.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

- 1 Do not use traditional methods of display gabions and use plastic utensils.
- 2 Do not display fish products on the ground and exposed to direct sunlight.
- 3 Improving the means of storage central refrigerators to maintain quality of the fish.
- 4 Proper processing, storage, and handling procedures should be cultivated.
- 5 Training and qualification of workers in the field of fish in the health and food safety.
- 6 More studies should be done in this topic.

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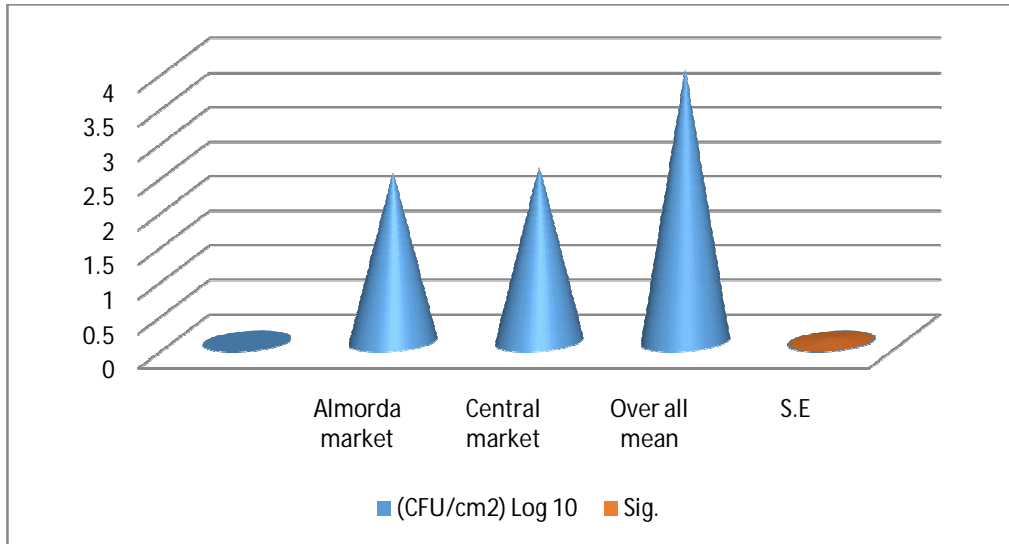
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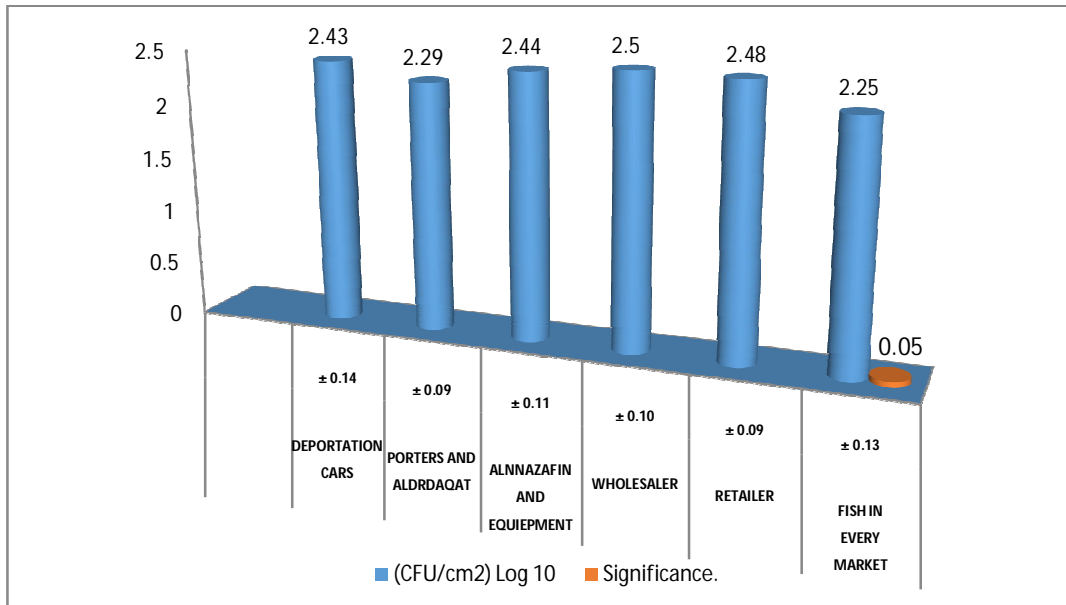
## 5.4

## Appendix

### 5.4.1 Appendix 1: Chart of bacteria

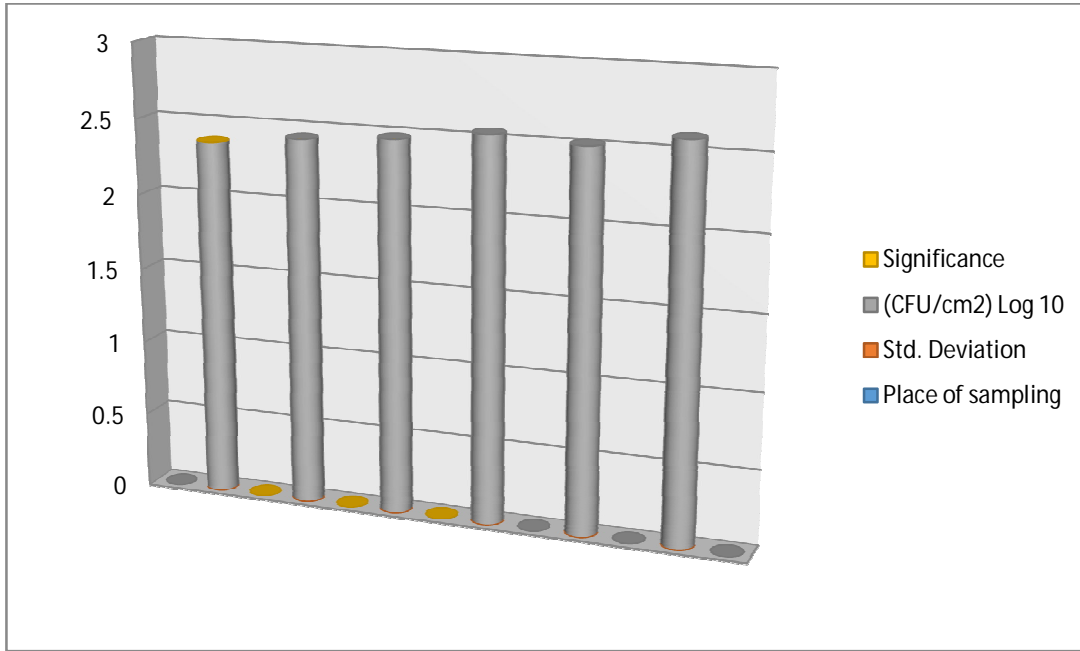


**Fig.1. Over all mean and standard Error of Total viable count of bacteria on two fish markets.**

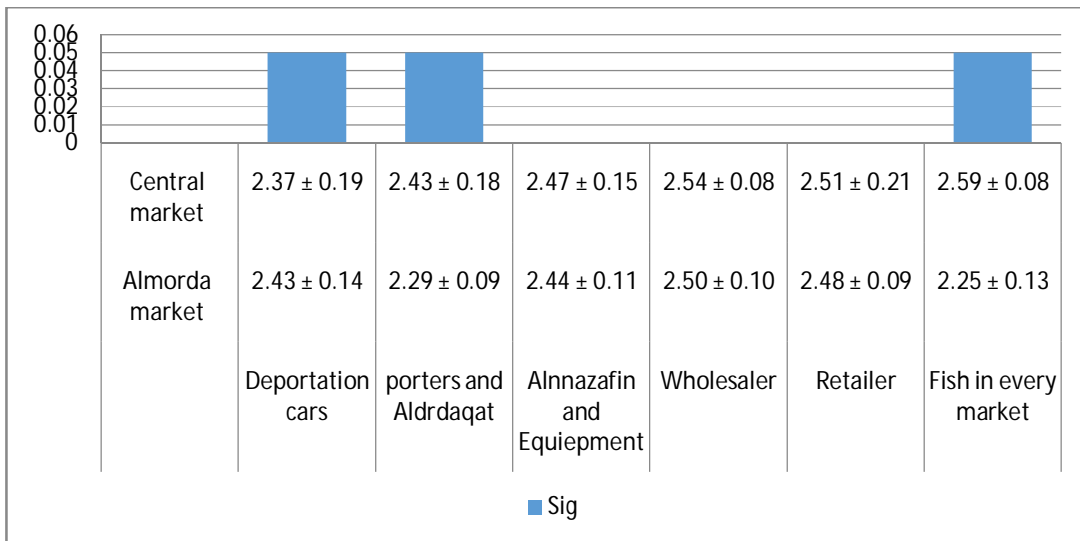


**Fig.2. Mean and Standard deviation of Total viable count of bacteria on Place of sampling of Almorda market**

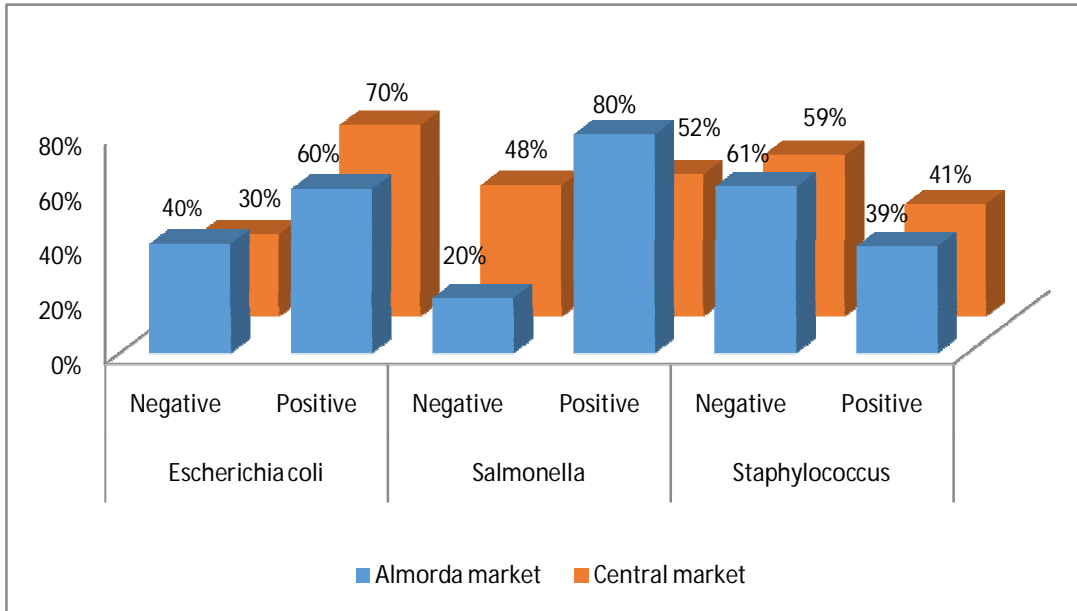




**Fig.3. Mean and Standard deviation of Total viable count of bacteria on Place of sampling of Central market**



**Fig.4. Comparison of mean total viable count of bacteria (log<sub>10</sub> CFU/cm<sub>2</sub>) ± Standard deviation at different Place of sampling of fish markets**



**Fig.5. Bacteria isolated and identified (N %) at two fish markets**

#### 5.4.2 Appendix 2 : Growth of bacteria



**Fig.6: Growth of *Salmonella spp***



**Fig.7: Growth of *Escherichia coli***



**Fig.8: Growth of *Staphylococcus aureus***

**5.4.3 Appendix 3 : Summary of questions and responses for assessment of respondent’s Food safety knowledge , hygienic practices and attitudes of food workers in fish markets in Khartoum state**

**Table (1): Food hygienic practices of food workers in fish markets:**

Statements	Responses,				
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Do you use gloves during work?					
Do you wash your hands before using gloves?					
Do you wear apron during work?					
Do you use mask during work?					
Do you use cap during work?					
Do you wash your hands before you touch raw meat?					
Do you wash your hands after you touch raw meat?					
Do you wash your hands after rest time when you come back to work?					
Do you eat or drink in your work place?					
Do you smoke in your work place?					

**Table (2): Food safety knowledge in fish markets:**

Statements	Responses, n (%)		
	True	False	Do not know
Typhoid can be transmitted by fish contamination			
Diarrhea can be transmitted by fish contamination			
AIDS can be transmitted by fish contamination			
Jaundice can be transmitted by fish contamination			
Statements	Responses, n (%)		
	True	false	Do not know
Abortion in pregnant women may be induced by food borne disease			
bacteria is among the food borne pathogens			
Remember the fish well with ice or use the refrigerator reduces fish contamination			
Use sawdust to save the fish increases pollution and corruption fishes			

**Table (3): Food safety attitudes of food workers in fish markets**

Statements	Responses		
	Agree	Disagree	No idea
Using gloves is important in reducing risk of food contamination			
Using apron is important in reducing risk of food contamination			
Using masks is important in reducing risk of food contamination			
Using caps is important in reducing risk of food contamination			
Food hygiene training for workers in fish markets is an important issue in reducing risk of food contamination			
Health status of the workers should be evaluated in fish markets			
Food borne illnesses can have deleterious health and economic effects on the society			