

## **Settlement Formation Patterns and the Economies of Artisanal Fishing Communities of Coastal Nigeria**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Artisanal fishermen provide about 90 percent of the total fish protein requirement of most West African countries. Even though artisanal fishing is their permanent jobs, they tend to live in temporary structural communities in response to "hostile" environmental conditions. They depend on immediate environmental permissions for their daily life support. They do not enjoy healthy facilities such as safe water and sanitation, electricity and quality education. Their residential forms are subject to tidal and flooding regimes. The productivity patterns and the general lifestyles of these fishermen respond to these inadequacies and the temporary nature of their settlement patterns. Apart from the varied cultural diversities and value systems of these fishermen, a major effect on the economic life of these communities is the frequent formation of settlement patterns.*

*The study is therefore an investigation into the problem of stabilization of artisanal fishing communities within the prevailing environmental conditions to achieve economic prosperity. It will also explore the use of potential resources within the communities such as existing cultural associations and beliefs to achieve the goal of the study.*

**Keywords:** *settlement, economy, artisanal fishing, coastal communities, Nigeria*