AMARAH Marsh Area Travel Routes: **VARIETIES OF TRADITIONAL BOATS** Rare Occasional Frequent **PASSENGER TRAVEL** decorative patterns REED reflect status and power paneling made of GATHERING wood or plant fibers Popular for passanger travel and can often fit AND GOODS up to 20 people per boat WETLAND **GUFFA PRODUCTS MESHOUF** circular, corcle design boat flat bottomed canoe, used for hunting and transport GHARRAF Permanent Marsh dismantled after coated in a layer of tar for one long downstream protection and waterproofing Seasonal/Temporary Marsh journey **Permanent Water** REED BUNDLE KELEK versatile rafts used for cargo transport, No Historical ZAIMA fishing, or as ferries Information Available NASIRIYA simple canoe, made of long reed bundles AL-QUARNA ABU SABAYA The Southern Marshes Today Marsh extent prior to draining (1970) ECH-CHIBAYISH HUWAIR 25km Hor il Hamma 3904 Facebook users follow a page titled "The Iraqi Maritime Heritage of Huwair", dedicated to sharing the traditional craft of Huwair boat building and travel. The page was started in 2019, and features posts, photos, and videos from people THE WETLAND WAY OF LIFE participating in the craft. Traditional Aquatic Travel Routes in the • BASRA Southern Marshes of Iraq **BASRA** The southern marshes of Iraq were once host to a unique way of life, a culture where all Since the days of early travel and abundant wetlands, the Southern Marshes of Iraq have experienced extreme **CHIBAYISH** trade and transport relied on the existence of an abundant wetland and riparian destruction and attack from various forces. In 1993, the Iraqi government, led by Saddam Hussein, prevented The port city of Basra is a major center environment. Anthropologist SM Salim wrote in his ethnography of the previously inflow of water to the Marshes by diverting the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Additionally, upstream dams on the In the 1950s Chibayish had a populafor shipping and transportation. Exports undocumented area that "the only communication between the main village of Chibayrivers in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq continue to prevent the full potential of water flow from reaching the Marshes. tion less than 11,000, made up of of corn, millet, wheat, and livestock exit ish, along the Euphrates River Delta, and the outside world is by water." groups from 9 different clans. Today the region through the Persian Gulf and Despite continuous destruction of the marshes there are remaining elements of resiliance as groups shed light Chibayish is home to over 36,000 canals along the Shat il-Arab River. The wetland marshes sustained the livelihoods of these communities by providing on the traditional passages that the Marsh dwellers once traveled. Local people have begun to share boat residents, and continues to experience Basra also serves as the major port for water levels that were high enough for travel (although some travel was seasonal, while building knowledge and tradition with younger generations and those who never learned the practice. The urban sprawl and population growth. Irag's oil transportation, out of the city's other routes were possible year-round). Beyond the transportation value of the marshes graphic above visualizes the trade routes as told by anthropologist SM Salim in his ethnography, "Marsh Rivers drain Al-Basrah Oil Terminal. and river system, the communities along the Euphrates gathered marsh grasses (reeds) Dwellers of the Euphrates Delta." Marsh and river areas are approximations as estimated through satellite south into the to serve as the foundation for their various handmade boats. imagery and georeferencing of maps provided in the ethnography. Persian Gulf