

Fish Biodiversity Assemblages and Fishing Gears Used at Chinadi Beel in Narsingdi District of Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

The present survey disclosed the available fish biodiversity and the gears used for fishing in the Chinadi beel, Narsingdi, Bangladesh, for a certain period. Data was collected through face to face conversations using a well-structured questionnaire and cross-checked. About 51 species of fish under 7 orders and 19 families were found. The dominant order was found jointly for Cypriniformes (29.41%) and Siluriformes (29.41%). About 39 least concern (75%), 5 vulnerable (9.62%), 6 near threatened (11.54%), and 1 not evaluated (1.92%) species were observed. Fifteen different types of fishing gears (8 major categories) are used for fishing by the fishermen, of which seine net was the most leading gear. Most of the gears are banned for a period due to its unauthorized mesh size. The price of fishing gears was ranged from 250-1,00,000 Tk, of which the highest price was for seine net. The uppermost catch per unit effort (CPUE) was found for ber jal that was 15-18 kg/day. Most of the fishing gear was operated throughout the year, but limited in the dry season. However, the variety of fish abundance and species diversity is declining day by day in this beel. To protect the fish diversity of the Chinadi beel, it is recommended to establish effective fishery management practices, monitoring overfishing, and awareness of fishermen is highly recommended.

Highlights

- ① The beel has a rich fish biodiversity and important for fisheries resources in the middle-east part of Bangladesh. About 51 species of fish under 7 orders and 19 families were found. Fifteen fishing gears (8 major categories) are used for fishing by the fishermen.
- ② Now-a-days, biodiversity of fish was decreased due to over fishing, water pollution, heavy siltation, rapid urbanization and intervention of human.

Keywords: Fish biodiversity, Gears, Fishermen, Chinadi beel

Bangladesh is a riverine country immensely gifted with many inland water resources like rivers, beels, haors, baors, floodplains, canals, and many humanmade lakes. Bangladesh's inland water bodies are enriched with 265 species of freshwater finfishes approximately (Hemal *et al.* 2017; Rahman

2005). In Bangladesh, there is a proverb– “rice and fish makes the Bengali people” that highlight

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the importance of fish food. Moreover, fish alone contribute more than 63% of animal protein, as well as diverse essential vitamins and minerals in this community (Majumdar and Rashid 2017; Majumdar *et al.* 2016; Shovon *et al.* 2017). Over the last decades, ecosystems of water bodies have deteriorated from intense anthropogenic activities resulting in loss of habitat and destruction and so, huge quantity of fish fauna have become remarkably endangered in all types of freshwater bodies. Freshwater fishes of all types of waterbodies are one the most threatened taxonomic groups due to extreme sensitivity to the qualitative and quantitative variation of aquatic habits (Darwall and Vié 2005). Up to the present moment, around 54 fish species from freshwater have been marked as threatened species in Bangladesh by IUCN (2020). Due to extreme change in freshwater ecology and massive destruction of natural habitats most of the wild fish species have seriously declining day by day in Bangladesh (Hossain *et al.* 2012). All these findings undoubtedly imply the necessity of water body specific biodiversity studies which is prerequisite to evaluate the current status for the implication of sustainable management to safe the fisheries resources (Imteazzaman and Galib 2013). However, limited number of research conducted on biodiversity status of different water bodies in this country (Ahmed *et al.* 2004; Galib *et al.* 2009; Hossain *et al.* 2009; Hossain *et al.* 2012; Imteazzaman and Galib 2013; Mohsin and Haque 2009; Mohsin *et al.* 2009; Rahman *et al.* 2012; Saha and Hossain 2002; Shahjahan *et al.* 2001; Sheikh *et al.* 2018; Zafar *et al.* 2007).

Besides the major flood plains of the river Padma, Meghna and Jamuna, there are thousands of large and small sizes beels present in Bangladesh. Among them, Chinadi beel is located in Dulalpur union, eight kilometers west of Shibpur Upazila in Narsingdi district of Dhaka division ($24^{\circ}03'40.2''N$ latitudes and $90^{\circ}40'07.2''E$ longitudes) and 550 bighas (16,500 decimals) in size. The beel is significantly well-known in Narsingdi district of Bangladesh for its natural sceneries, fish production and also as a source of income for local fisherman. A large number of fisherman families are completely depending on the Chinadi beel resources and they use various types of fishing crafts and gears for marketable utilization of the Chinadi beel fishery

assets. However, there is no record found on the fish fauna diversity status of the Chinadi beel. Therefore, the aim of this investigation is to provide information on the present fish fauna biodiversity status and the fishing gears used by the fishermen for fishing in the beel.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area and duration

The existing study was performed in the Chinadi beel located at Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi district connected to Shitalakshya river (Fig. 1). The geographical location of the experimental area is $24^{\circ}03'40.2''N$ latitudes and $90^{\circ}40'07.2''E$ longitudes. The investigation was conducted for a time of 12 months from July to June. Data was collected personally through face to face interviews using well-structured questionnaire and cross-check (Fig. 2).

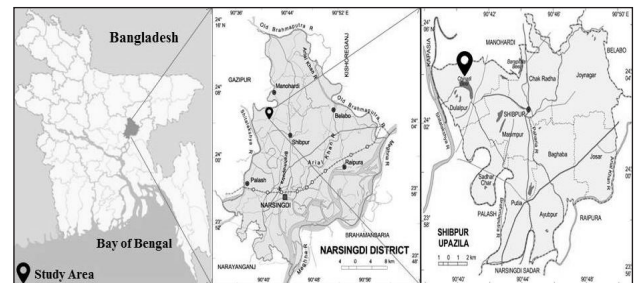


Fig. 1: Geographical location of the study area

Collection of primary data

A well-structured questionnaire with two parts namely fish diversity and fishing gears used for fishing was designed and data were collected through face to face interview with local fishermen. Sampling method (simple random) with questionnaire interviews was surveyed with 110 fishermen in the Chinadi beel area to collect the data. The interview with fishermen was completed at their residence and/or beel spots during fishing.

Study on fishing gears

Fishing gears operated at Chinadi beel by fishermen were studied by direct physical observation. A measuring scale was used as a tool to measure mesh size of existing fishing gears. Direct observation was conducted to record data on fishing gear like shape and mesh size (cm) of fishing gears. Information

about the price of fishing gear, species catch by individual gear, catch per unit effort (CPUE)/day and operation period of individual fishing gear were collected through interviewing with fishermen.

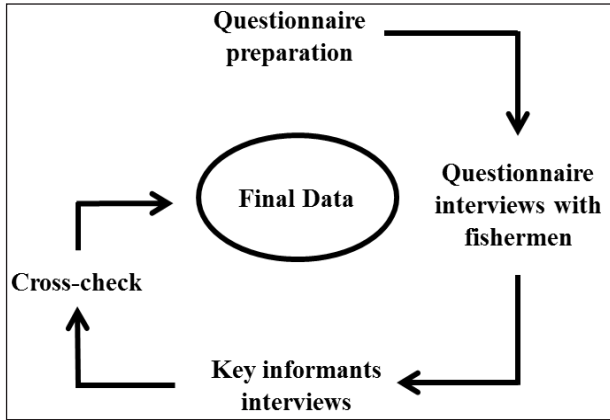


Fig. 2: Data collection methods from fishermen and finalization after cross-check

Fish biodiversity study

Freshly caught unsorted samples of different gears were collected and then sorted species wise with the help of fisher’s. Local name of each individual freshly samples were recorded from the fishermen.

Secondary data

After regular field study, the primary data were compared with the available secondary data to make a precise and composite picture of the present study area. Books, journals, Upazila Fisheries Officer (UFO) etc. were used to modify, cross-check and accurate the information. The collected gears were assorted under various major classes followed by Ahmed (1971). Fish samples captured by different gears were identified and then taxonomically characteristics followed by Talwar and Jhingran (1991) and Rahman (2000). Scientific name and English name were studied with the help of Froese and Pauly (2016).

Data processing and analysis

All the data were accumulated to analyze the findings. Tabular technique was applied by using simple statistical tools such as percentages and averages. For processing and analyzing the data “Microsoft Excel-2013” was used. After processing and calculating the data carefully, the most agreeable data was written to a final sheet from which is

classified to reveal the results of the investigation. As a final point, based on the data type, it was illustrated in textual, tabular and graphical format to make the present findings easily understandable.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Chinadi beel is a beel close to the Shitalakshya River where water level of the beel varying from different months that is ranged within minimum 1 ft to maximum 10 ft in depth. The maximum depth of water was noted during September where the beel became dry in winter season (February to April). In Bangladesh, about 260 freshwater fish species were recorded belonging to 55 families (Majumdar 2017; Rahman 1998). In compliance with the statement of the local fishermen as well as other people of that area, about 15 years ago this beel was abundant with various types of freshwater fishes but now the diversity of fish fauna is decreasing day by day.

Fish Biodiversity

In this study depicts existence of total 51 species in 19 families under 7 orders (Table 1). Both Cypriniformes (29.41%) and Siluriformes (29.41%) found as dominant order followed by Perciformes (27.45%), Synbranchiformes (5.88%), Osteoglossiformes (3.92%), Clupeiformes (1.96%) and Cyprinodontiformes (1.92%). Fishes of Clupeiformes and Cyprinodontiformes orders were rarely found in the study area (Fig. 3).

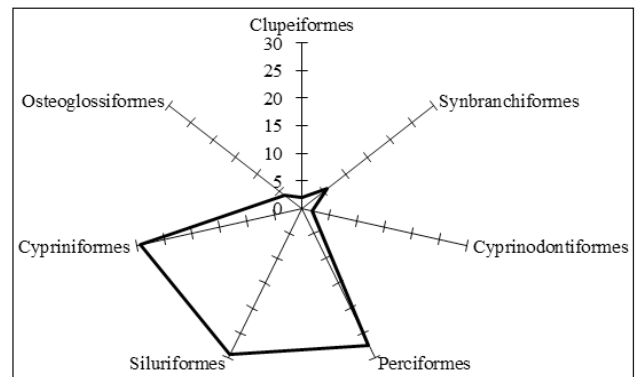


Fig. 3: Fish species percentage on the basis of order in the Chinadi beel

In previous, there has not been studied about Chinadi beel and so far. But it was reported that a total 47 fish species were found in BSKB beel (Rahman 2000) and total of 40 species of fish in Chanda beel (Ehshan *et al.* 2000) which was less than

**Table 1:** Systematic position of fish species with their local name, english name and scientific name, and IUCN conservation fish status in Chinadi Beel at Narsingdi district, Bangladesh

Order	Family	Local name	English name	Species	IUCN conservation status	
					GL	BD
Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Katol	Catla	<i>Gibelion catla</i>	LC	LC
		Silver carp	Silver carp	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	NT	NA
		Bighead carp	Bighead carp	<i>Hypophthalmichthys nobilis</i>	DD	NA
		Ruhu	Ruhu carp	<i>Labeo rohita</i>	LC	LC
		Mrigal	Mrigal	<i>Cirrhinus cirrhosus</i>	LC	NT
		Grass carp	Grass carp	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>	LC	NA
		Common carp	Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	VU	NA
		Mola	Mola carplet	<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i>	LC	LC
		Darkina	Flying barb	<i>Esomus danricus</i>	LC	LC
		Bata	Bata labeo	<i>Labeo bata</i>	LC	LC
		Kalibaus	Orange fin labeo	<i>Labeo calbasu</i>	LC	LC
		Gonia	Kuria labeo	<i>Labeo gonius</i>	LC	NT
		Tit punti	Ticto barb	<i>Pethia ticto</i>	LC	VU
		Teriputi	Onespot barb	<i>Puntius terio</i>	LC	LC
Rajputi	Java barb	<i>Barbonymus gonionotus</i>	LC	NA		
Cyprinodontiformes	Aplocheilidae	Kanpona	Blue panchax	<i>Aplocheilus panchax</i>	LC	LC
Siluriformes	Clariidae	Magur	Air breathing catfish	<i>Clarias batrachus</i>	LC	LC
	Heteropneustidae	Shing	Stringing catfish	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>	LC	LC
	Pangasiidae	Pangas	Yellow tail catfish	<i>Pangasius pangasius</i>	LC	EN
	Siluridae	Boal	Freshwater shark	<i>Wallogo attu</i>	VU	VU
		Kani Pabda	Pabo catfish	<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i>	NT	EN
		Pabda	Pabda catfish	<i>Ompok pabda</i>	NT	EN
		Baghair	Dwarf goonch	<i>Bagarius bagarius</i>	NT	CR
	Schilbeidae	Baspata	Jamuna aila	<i>Ailia coila</i>	NT	LC
		Garua	Garua bachua	<i>Clupisoma garua</i>	LC	EN
	Bagridae	Rita maach	Rita	<i>Rita rita</i>	LC	EN
		Tengra	Striped river catfish	<i>Mystus vittatus</i>	LC	LC
		Gulsha tengra	Tengra mystus	<i>Mystus tengra</i>	LC	LC
		Aor	Long-whiskered catfish	<i>Sperata aor</i>	LC	VU
		Gang tenga	Gangetic tengra	<i>Mystus cavasius</i>	LC	NT
Guizza aor		Giant river-catfish	<i>Sperata seenghala</i>	LC	VU	
Perciformes	Ambessdae	Ranga chanda	Indian glassy fish	<i>Chanda ranga</i>	LC	NA
		Nama chanda	Elongate glass perchlet	<i>Chanda nama</i>	LC	LC
	Anabantidae	Koi	Climbing perch	<i>Anabas testudineus</i>	LC	LC
	Belontiidae	Kholisha	Striped gourami	<i>Trichogaster fasciata</i>	LC	LC
	Channidae	Gozar	Great snakehead	<i>Channa marulius</i>	LC	EN
		Shol	Snakehead murrel	<i>Channa striata</i>	LC	LC
		Gachua	Walking snakehead	<i>Channa orientalis</i>	VU	LC
		Taki	Spotted snakehead	<i>Channa punctata</i>	LC	LC
	Cichlidae	Tilapia	Mozambique tilapia	<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>	VU	NA
		Nilotica	Nile tilapia	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>	LC	NA
	Gobiidae	Bele	Tank goby	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i>	LC	LC
	Nandidae	Napit koi	Badis	<i>Badis badis</i>	LC	NT
		Meni	Gangetic leaf-fish	<i>Nandus nandus</i>	LC	NT
	Osphronemidae	Kholisha	Banded gourami	<i>Colisa fasciata</i>	LC	LC

Clupeiformes	Clupeidae	Chapila	Ganges River Gizzard Shad	<i>Gonialosa manmina</i>	LC	LC
		Kachki	Ganges river sprat	<i>Corica soborna</i>	LC	LC
Osteoglossiformes	Notoptetidae	Chital	Humped featherback	<i>Chitala chitala</i>	NT	EN
		Foli	Grey featherback	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i>	LC	VU
Synbranchiformes	Mastacembelidae	Tara baim	Striped spiny eel	<i>Macrogathus aculeatus</i>	NE	NT
		Sal baim	Tire track eel	<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i>	LC	EN
		Kuchia	Cuchia	<i>Monopterusuchia</i>	VU	VU

*GL= Global; BD = Bangladesh; LC = Least concern; EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable; NT = Near threatened; NE = Not evaluated; NA = Not available; DD = Data deficient; CR = Critically endangered.

our study. Chakraborty and Mirza (2007) found 70 fish species from the Gharia beel. Halim *et al.* (2017) noted that in Kafrikhal beel about 54 species of the fish fauna were reported. It is revealed in another study that 68 fish species were recorded in water bodies of Itna, Kishoregonj (Sakawat 2002).

Haroon *et al.* (2002) recorded 92 of species finfish as well as prawns from Sylhet-Mymensingh sub basins. Mohsin *et al.* (2014) described approximately 53 fish species (under 10 orders, 28 families and 47 genera) identified and collected from the Andharmanik River of Patuakhali district in where Perciformes (18 species) was found as the dominant order of fishes followed by Siluriformes (12 species) as well as Clupeiformes (9 species). Hossain *et al.* (2009) and Ahmed *et al.* (2004) identified about 114 fish species (under 29 families) and 52 fish species from Chalan beel (Natore-Pabna-Sirajganj) and Shakla beel (Brahmanbaria), respectively. Kostori *et al.* (2011) investigated that 82 small indigenous species (SIS) were contained in 22 families, 10 orders and 46 genera and that the dominant order Cypriniformes (42.68%) comprises 35 species which is parallel to our study.

In the Chinadi beel, about 39 least concern (75%), 5 vulnerable (9.62%), 6 near threatened (11.54%) and 1 not evaluated (1.92%) species were observed according to the IUCN conservation status of global (IUCN 2015) during the study period (Fig. 4; Table 1). It was remarkable that there was no species found during the study which were globally endangered by the IUCN conservation status (IUCN 2015). According to the IUCN conservation status of Bangladesh (IUCN 2015), about 23 least concern (44.23%), 8 endangered (15.38%), 5 vulnerable (11.54%), 6 near threatened (11.54%), 8 not available (15.38%) and 1 critically endangered (1.92%) species were observed throughout the study time (Fig. 4; Table 1). Because of over exploitation of fisheries

assets in the beel, these species are also decreasing day by day. Fish biodiversity are declining day by day because of rapid urbanization, over fishing, unawareness of fishermen, use of destructive fishing gear, etc.

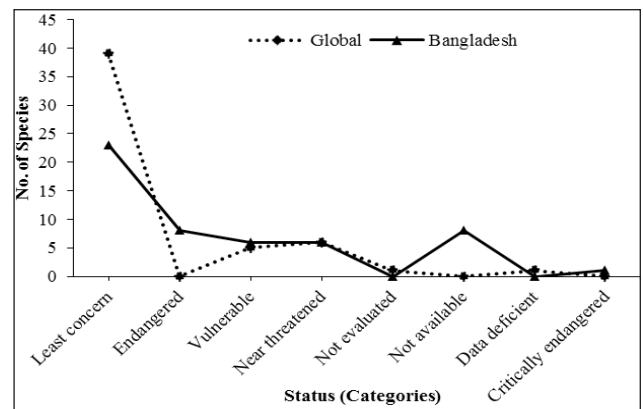


Fig. 4: IUCN conservational status (%) of available fish species in the Chinadi beel

About 44 non-resident species fish and resident species identified from Pirla beel under Netrokona district in which 30 were common, 9 rare and 5 highly endangered (Siddique 2001). Ahsan (2008) identified 105 fish species from Chalan beel where 6 species were found as critically endangered, 14 vulnerable, 25 endangered, and 45 threatened. Halim *et al.* (2017) recorded a total of 54 fish species from the Kafrikhal beel including 10 endangered and 7 critically endangered. Mohsin *et al.* (2014) observed 5 vulnerable, 3 endangered, and 2 critically endangered species in their study area. In here, Galib *et al.* (2013) documented 6 critically endangered, 10 endangered and 10 vulnerable fish species from the Jamuna. Rahman *et al.* (2015) detailed 2 critically endangered, 7 endangered and 7 vulnerable fish species from Rabnabad channel that was similar to our results. Small indigenous fishes (SIS) were also abundant in the different wetlands such as rivers, ponds, canals, beels, jheels, streams,



etc. in Bangladesh at a certain time in the past (Ahsan 2008; IUCN 2020; Rahman 2005). But now-a-days, these SIS species are going to be disappeared despite of their limited ability to reproduce naturally due to environmental degradation as well as habitat degradation. Destruction of fish habitat by establishment of high roads, drainage, embankments and over exploration with destructive fishing gear, have been marked as causes to destroy our fishery resources (Ali 1997; IUCN 2020).

According to IUCN (2015), 18 threatened fishes were found in the Chalan beel in which 8 vulnerable (12%), 8 endangered (12%) and 2 critically endangered (3%). Joadder *et al.* (2015) revealed that 72% of the total fish species were listed as least concern based on the IUCN Global conservation status. Among the identified fishes, there is no species found under threatened condition based on the Global conservation aspects. Whereas, those fishes were recorded as threatened fishes in Bangladesh, occupying either least concern or near threatened in the Global aspects. For example, in Bangladesh *Chitala chitala* and *Ompok pabda* were considered endangered but globally it was categorized as near threatened species. The objective of IUCN red list is to help the international community to follow up the species availability and also helps to control species extinction by suggesting the significance of conservation issues to the public as well as policy makers (Alam *et al.* 2013).

Fishing gears

The fishery of the Chinadi beel is multispecies and multigear in nature. Fishermen use numerous types of fishing gears for fishing based on seasons and water depth of the beel. Variation in net types, lengths as well as mesh sizes of the net varying based on the fishermen choice, economic conditions of the persons involved in fishing practices and also the abundance of fish.

A total of eight (8) types of gears were found during the survey used by the fishers. Categorization of different fishing gear with their shape, mesh size, major species caught, price, catch per unit effort (CPUE) and operation period in the beel are showed in Table 2. About 15 various types of fishing gear were classified under 8 major classes and these were gill net (current *jal*, *chandi jal*, *sutar jal*), seine net (*ber jal*, *indian net jal*), lift net (*dharma jal*, *khora*

jal), push net (*thela jal*, *moia jal*), cast net (*jhaki jal* traps (*pangus chai*, *anta*, *chhara barshi*), hook and line (*chingri barshi*) and wounding gear (*koach*) (Table 2). In Chinadi beel, the fishermen used different types of fishing gear (Fig. 5). Based on the usage, the seine net was found as the most usable gear by the fishermen constituting 35.45% followed by gill net (23.64%) among total gear type.

The fishermen also used lift net (11.82%), push net (6.36%), cast net (10.91%), traps (4.55%), hooks and line (4.55%) and wounding gear (2.73%). The result stated that the seine net was highly preferable gear by the fishermen. In Fig. 6, it was demonstrated that the maximum number of fish species was caught by using seine net followed by gill net, lift net, cast net, push net, traps, hooks and line and wounding gear. In Table 2, different shapes fishing gear used during fishing with their respective mesh size, major species caught, price, CPUE as well as operating period at Chinadi Beel, where a total of eight (8) types of gears were noticed to be used by the fishermen during fishing in the beel. There was no previous study of gears in Chinadi beel was established and thus it was impossible to compare our findings with previous one. Major categories of gears include nets, traps and hooks.

Netting, spearing, trapping, angling, and fishing are the mostly used fishing techniques maintained Bangladesh (Dewan and Mazid 1994). Adjacent to many researcher such as Alam *et al.* (2009); Alam *et al.* (1997); Aksomboon (1994); Chakrabarty *et al.* (1959); Das *et al.* (2003); Dewan and Mazid (1994); Khaled (1985); Rahman *et al.* (1993), studied on the different fishing techniques performed in beels and riveres during fishing. However, Flowra *et al.* (2011) and Rahman *et al.* (2015) who acknowledged 16 different gears under 7 categorizes that supported the present findings. Nonetheless Rahman *et al.* (2016) and Jaman *et al.* (2019) found total seven and eighteen major types of fishing gears defined in the Payra River, respectively. Rahman *et al.* (2017) also revealed 19 distinct types of gear under 9 major classes in Agunmukha River. Furthermore, Miah *et al.* (2010) recorded about six types of fishing nets from Shitalakshya River. Siddiq *et al.* (2013) conducted a study on Dogger beel and mentioned 5 types of fishing nets (*ber jal*, *jakhi jal*, *current jal*, *dharma jal*, and *thela jal*), 3 fishing traps (*unta chai*, *bitte chai* and *icha chai*), 2 hooks (*chara borshi* and

Table 2: Different fishing gear with their mesh size, shape, price, and major species caught, CPUE and operating period in Chinadi Beel at Narsingdi district, Bangladesh

Gear type	Local name (Net shape)	Mesh size (cm)	Status	Construction cost (BDT/net)	Major species caught	CPUE (kg/ effort)	Fishing ef- fort/day	Operating period
Seine net	Ber jal (Rectangular Shape)	2.30-5.00	Illegal	About 1,00,000	<i>Gibelion catla</i> , <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> , <i>Labeo rohita</i> , <i>Cirrhinus cirrhosus</i> , <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> , <i>Puntius terio</i>	15-18	02	Over the year
	Indian net jal (Conical Shape)	<2.00	Legal	<12,000	<i>Labeo rohita</i> , <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> , <i>Mystus vittatus</i> , <i>Pethia ticto</i> , <i>Monopterusuchia</i>	12-13	03	October- February
Gill net	Current jal (Rectangular Shape)	3.00	Illegal	3,500-6,000	<i>Puntius terio</i> , <i>Mystus tengra</i> , <i>Glossogobius giuris</i> , <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> , <i>Anabas testudineus</i>	8-10	01	Over the year
	Chandi jal (Rectangular Shape)	5.00	Legal	12,000-13,000	<i>Labeo rohita</i> , <i>Hypophthalmichthys nobilis</i> , <i>Gibelion catla</i> , <i>Barbonymus gonionotus</i>	<14	02	Over the year
	Sutar jal (Rectangular Shape)	5-6	Legal	3,500-6,500	<i>Gibelion catla</i> , <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> , <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> , <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> , <i>Pangasius pangasius</i>	10-12	02	August- October, January-March
Lift net	Dharma jal (Square Shape)	0.25-1.5	Illegal	<7,000	<i>Labeo gonius</i> , <i>Puntius terio</i> , <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> , <i>Mystus vittatus</i> , <i>Anabas testudineus</i>	01-1.5	05	June-October
	Khora jal (Square Shape)	0.75-1.5	Illegal	9,000-10,000	<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> , <i>Labeo bata</i> , <i>Trichogaster fasciata</i> , <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>	01-02	04	August- November
Push net	Thela jal (Triangular Shape)	0.25-0.50	Illegal	1,500-2,500	<i>Trichogaster fasciata</i> , <i>Channa punctata</i> , <i>Anabas testudineus</i> , <i>Mystus vittatus</i> , <i>Pethia ticto</i>	01-1.5	8-10	Over the year
	Moia jal (Rectangular Shape)	0.5-1	Illegal	1,500-4,000	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> , <i>Notopterus notopterus</i> , <i>Sperata aor</i> , <i>Glossogobius giuris</i>	01	7-8	Over the year
Cast net	Jhaki jal (Conical Shape)	0.5-0.75	Legal	2,000-4,500	<i>Puntius terio</i> , <i>Ompok pabda</i> , <i>Ailia coila</i> , <i>Rita rita</i> , <i>Corica soborna</i>	<1.50	13-15	Over the year
Traps	Pangus chai (Drum-Shape)	Mouth Opening: 15 cm	Illegal	<500	<i>Pangasius pangasius</i> , <i>Macroganathus aculeatus</i> , <i>Monopterusuchia</i>	<01	02	January-March
	Anta (Rectangular Shape)	Mouth Opening: 15 cm	Illegal	500-600	<i>Barbonymus gonionotus</i> , <i>Labeo gonius</i> , <i>Anabas testudineus</i>	0.5-1.0	02	February-April, September
Hook and line	Chingri barshi	—	Legal	300	<i>Pethia ticto</i> , <i>Puntius terio</i> , <i>Colisa fasciata</i> , <i>Channa marulius</i>	<1.0	—	October- December
	Chhara barshi	—	Legal	<300	<i>Wallogo attu</i> , <i>Pangasius pangasius</i> , <i>Sperata aor</i> , <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>	<1.0-1.50	—	Over the year
Wounding gear	Koach	—	Illegal	<250	<i>Channa punctata</i> , <i>Channa striata</i> , <i>Anabas testudineus</i> , <i>Colisa fasciata</i>	<1.0	—	Over the year

*Jal= Fishing net; BDT= Bangladeshi Taka (currency); CPUE= Catch Per Unit Effort.

chip borshi) and 2 spears (teta with hooks teta and without hooks).

In Table 2, fishing gears of different shapes such as rectangular shape (ber jal, current jal, chandi jal, sutar jal, moia jal, anta), conical shape (Indian net jal, jhaki

jal), square shape (dharma jal, khora jal), triangular shape (thela jal) and drum-shape (pangas chai). The mesh size was ranged from 0.25 to 6.00, found in 5 types fishing gear (net) in these study (Table 2). Due to destructive nature of some fishing gear, most

of the gears were banned (illegal) by departmental authority to save the fish diversity. Only Indian net *jal*, *chandi jal*, *sutar jal*, *jhaki jal*, *chingri barshi* and *chhara barshi* were announced as legal gear by the authority. In the present study, the price of fishing gears were ranged from 250-1,00,000 Tk (Table 2). The highest price was observed in case of seine net (*ber jal*: about 1,00,000 Tk) followed by *chandi jal* (12,000-13,000 Tk), Indian net *jal* (<12,000 Tk), *khora jal* (9,000-10,000 Tk), *dharma jal* (<7,000 Tk), *sutar jal* (3,500-6,500 Tk), current *jal* (3,500-6,000 Tk), *jhaki jal* (2,000-4,500 Tk), *moia jal* (1,500-4,000 Tk), *thela jal* (1,500-2,500 Tk), *anta* (500-600 Tk), *pangus chai* (<500 Tk), *chingri barshi* (300 Tk), *chhara barshi* (<300 Tk) and the lowest price was for *koach* (<250 Tk) (Table 2). This investigation recorded that maximum amount of species caught by seine net (*ber jal*, Indian net *jal*) and few amount by wounding gear.

The maximum CPUE was recorded for *ber jal* 15-18 kg/day where the CPUE of *chandi jal*, Indian net *jal*, *sutar jal*, current *jal*, *khora jal*, *dharma jal*, *thela jal*, *jhaki jal* and *moia jal* was found <14, 12-13, 10-12, 8-10, 1-2, 01-1.5, 01-1.5, <1.50, and 1 kg/day, respectively which was fewer than seine net and greater than any other gear (traps, hooks and line, wounding gears) used in the Chinadi beel. Maximum fishing efforts per day were correlated with the highest catch composition of any fishing gear. Table 2 represents the highest fishing effort done by those fishing gears which are easy to handle and require less fishermen such as *jhaki jal*, *thela jal*, *moia jal*, *dharma jal* and *khora jal*. The fishermen percentage (Fig. 5) and number of species caught (Fig. 6) in the Chinadi beel using different types of fishing gear. Seine net is the highly preferable and effective fishing gear in the beel area. From Ramnabad River, Ali *et al.* (2015) noticed the maximum utilization of seine net (60%) and gill net (20%), additionally the lesser utilization were found in lift net (0.6%), cast net (1.2%), push net (1.8%) and trap (0.6%).

Most of the fishing gears in this study are illegal due to its mesh size and destructive behavior of fish biodiversity (Table 2). Rahman *et al.* (2017) found the highest mesh size for gill net (10 cm) and the lowest size push net (0.5 cm) in the Agunmukha River, this study was close to our findings. The highest price was observed in case of *ber jal* due to its demand, supply rate and its catching effort and the lowest price was for wounding gear (Table

2). The highest CPUE was in *ber jal* depending on its massive dimension and mesh size. On the other hand, the highest fishing effort was in *jhaki jal* due to its maximum use (Table 2). These values were higher than the findings of Rahman *et al.* (2017). However, most of the fishermen caught fish species by using *jhaki jal*, *thela jal* and current *jal* to bring their livelihood. Fishermen caught fish throughout the year but comparative higher amount fish was caught during dry season (January to March) which was agreed with Miah *et al.* (2010). Accordance with DoF (2018), the cost of fishing gears were ranged from 150-1,50,000 Tk and the findings were similar to the present study.

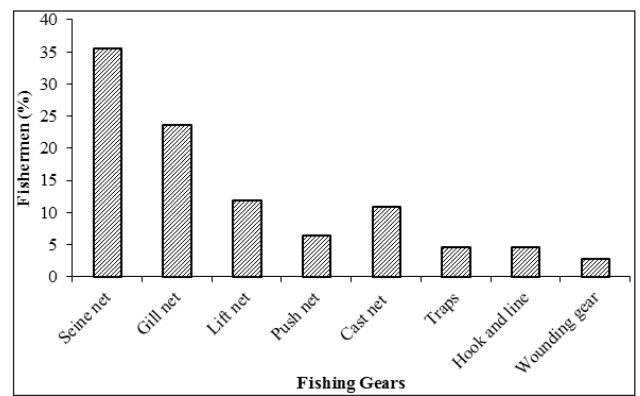


Fig. 5: Fishing gear used by fishermen in the beel

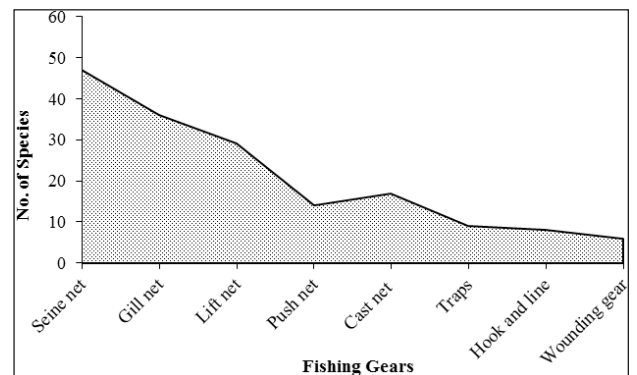


Fig. 6: Number of species caught by fishing gear in the Chinadi beel

Generally fish was caught throughout the year using different fishing gears. It was found that February, March and April are dry season and therefore limited numbers of fishing gear are used here. Mainly lift nets, traps, hooks, and lines were used during the dry season (Table 2). The fish biodiversity is decreasing rapidly day by day. Biodiversity management strategies should be taken to prevent illegal fishing, seizing of destructive fishing gears



and also protecting potential breeding habitats. Mass awareness must be required to protect the threatened fish species from being extinct from this wetland; also fishermen and by protecting various fish fauna resources. It is recommended to strong implementation of all conservation guidelines and acts to stop illegal catching practices and pollution in the beel.

CONCLUSION

The present investigation revealed that the fish biodiversity availability and the fishing gears used for fishing in the Chinadi beel. The beel has a rich fish biodiversity and important for fisheries resources in the middle-east part of Bangladesh. None Governmental as well as private survey has not been performed about the estimation of fish fauna biodiversity and fishing gears used for fishing of Chinadi beel. But now-a-days, biodiversity of fish was decreased due to over fishing, water pollution, heavy siltation, rapid urbanization and intervention of human. All these causes have been generated a high impact on ecology and ecosystem of beel. However, the water quality of the beel is also deteriorating day by day resulting in decreasing of availability of fish species and other aquatic biodiversity occur gradually. Extensive research on biodiversity and fishing gears are much crucial to know the variations of biodiversity and livelihood of the fishermen community for their development and sustainable fishery management. For fish species diversity protection of Chinadi Beel the Community Based Fisheries Management system and sustainable fisheries management practices must be acquainted among the fishermen.

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