

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

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Case Study Name:	Management of Inland Open Water Fisheries Resources of Bangladesh: Issues and Options		
Authors:	Hossain, Md. M., Islam, Md. A., Ridgway, S., and Matsuishi, T.		
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Region:	South Asia		
Country:	Bangladesh		
Ecosystem Type:	Open water		
Social Characteristics:	indigenous community		
Scale of Study:	Community, regional		
Resource Type:	Fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	Research driven-project		
Community Based Work:	Resource management		
Keywords:	Bangladesh; Community based fisheries management; Inland fisheries; Fisheries policy; Resources degradation		

Summary:

Despite the possession of a highly productive inland water area of about 45,000 km², the continuing decrease in fish catch increasingly threatens the livelihoods of more than 12 million fishers in Bangladesh. The government's open access and leasing policies have been identified as the principal causes of catch decline. Conflicting demands on the inland aquatic area also accelerate drastically the destruction of aquatic resources. Barriers to the access of fishers in the management of inland fisheries resources and over exploitation by the relatively wealthier non-fisher population are reducing the options for sustaining the livelihoods of fishery dependent communities. The government has pursued a range of initiatives to arrest this continued decline but none has appeared to be appropriate. In this study we investigated the present fisheries management crisis of Bangladesh and justified the opportunities for existing fisheries management to evolve towards community based fisheries management (CBFM) to support the sustainable use of fisheries resources in future.