

BANGLADESH COUNTRY PRESENTATION

Policy Directions in fisheries, coastal & Marine Environment & ICM in BOBLME Countries

Arun Chandra Barman

**Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock, Bangladesh**

Location of the country and the Fisheries Research Institute



Status of Coastal Resources in Bangladesh

- Coastal area 2.30 million ha, coastline 710 km along the Bay of Bengal and EEZ 200 miles
- The marine fisheries sector has been recognized as an important part of the economy of Bangladesh.
- Fish production from Bay of Bengal (BoB) marginally increased over the last 10 years but its relative share in fisheries production has declined.
- Bangladesh's coastal waters contain diverse fisheries resources, with 475 species
- The majority of the commercially targeted stocks are reported to be over-exploited and there were significant declines in catches during last decades.

Issues and Problems of BoB Ecosystem

- ❑ **Causes of habitat & ecosystem degradation**
 - Flood control and drainage irrigation (FCDI) activities
 - Construction of coastal embankment to protect land from saline water
 - Destruction of mangrove-forests
 - Human Settlements
 - Indiscriminate fishing
 - Expansion of commercial shrimp fishery
 - Salinization due to reduction in freshwater flow
 - Siltation and sea level rise etc.

Issues and Problems of BoB Ecosystem (Con'td)

- ❑ **Pollution**
 - Municipal wastes
 - Industrial pollution:
 - Ship breaking activities
 - Sea based pollution
- ❑ **Natural disaster**
- ❑ **Global warming and sea level rise**

Sustainable Management and Livelihood Approach

- Institutional capacity building to enhance research and development activities.
- Feasibility survey (assessment) of inshore and offshore fishery resources
- to explore under exploited fishes (mackerel, tuna, etc.).
- Develop community based integrated management policy for artisanal fisheries.
- Determination of maximum sustainable yield for different species of fish.

Sustainable Management and Livelihood Approach (Con'td)

- Coordinated research on oceanography, stock assessment, experimental fishing, survey of fishing, spawning and nursery grounds with the participation of all stakeholder.
- Banning on destructive fishing gears and development of environment friendly sustainable fishing mechanisms.
- Development of breeding and culture technology of important euohaline fish species.

Sustainable Management and Livelihood Approach (Con'td)

- Ensured utilization of underutilized and unutilized discard species and other valuable items (like sea weed, shell, ornamental species).
- Appropriate plan for management of shared stock and ecosystem.
- Consequence of global warming and sea level rise and its impact on food security and livelihood of millions of coastal fishers.

Management and Development Issues

- Outdated fisheries management, regulation and rules
- Low level of monitoring, control and surveillance
- Fisheries and ecosystem management
- Resource allocation and access rights
- Co-management of small-scale fisheries
- Fisheries research

Changes to legal instruments, policies, strategies, plans, related to fisheries, environment, coastal and marine resources

- The Marine Fisheries Ordinance, 1983
- The Marine Fisheries Rules, 1983
- Key management measures related to fisheries in Bay of Bengal
 - Limiting the fishing days for industrial trawlers
 - Measure to limit discard of bi-catch
 - Control of mesh size
 - Depth zone restriction of 40 m
 - Declaration of hilsa sanctuary
 - Restrictions on industrial trawler license
 - Encouragement to fish beyond 500 m isobaths of EEZ
 - Restriction on post larvae collection
 - Ban on throwing any fish into the sea
 - Declaration of marine reserve

Changes to legal instruments, policies, strategies, and plans, related to fisheries, environment, and coastal and marine resources (Con'td)

- The Environmental Conservation Act, 1995
- Other key legal instruments / policies
 - The Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974 and the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Rules, 1977
 - The Bangladesh Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1983
 - Bangladesh Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing
 - Bangladesh Coastal Zone Policy- 2005

Activities underway to improve regional, national and local fisheries management, resource conservation and critical habitat protection

- Fisheries management in the Sundarbans
- Protection of coastal breeding and nursery areas
- Integrated coastal resource management
- Conservation of marine biological resources

Activities relating to the mitigation of land-based pollution affecting the Bay of Bengal area

- Pollutants discharged from ship breaking and their impacts
- Other sources of pollutants
- Changes to national data collection strategies and/or activities (DoF, NGOs, Private Sectors, Ministry of Environment, ministry of Agriculture, etc

Conclusion

- ✓ Strengthening capacity of BOBP-IGO
 - Marine resource management becoming a challenging job, where every year after new issues and threats are emerging.
 - To deal with all these priority issues, BOBP would have to increase its man power particularly by including subject matter specialists, technologists and secretarial staffs, as well.
 - Increased amount of fund from the member countries and financial assistance
 - from the donor agencies may provide additional support.

