

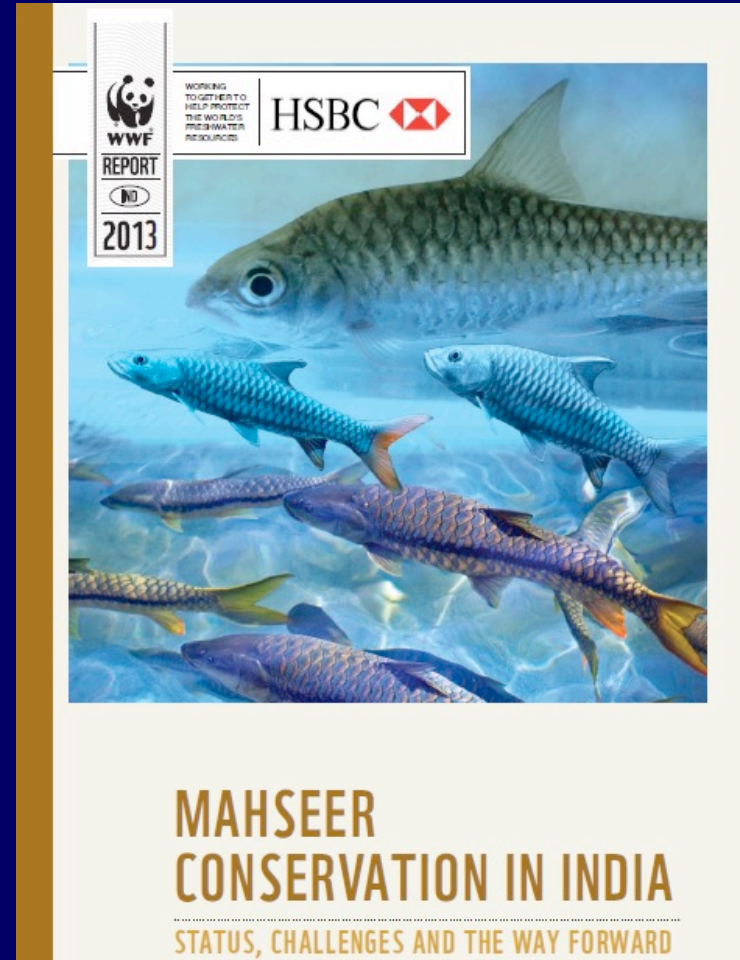
The Mahseer matters

Key Recommendations

- i. Research & Monitoring
- ii. Policy Initiatives
- iii. Awareness & Capacity Building

Golden Mahseer

'National Freshwater Fish'



Golden Mahseer *Tor putitora* :

Conserving The State Fish Of Uttarakhand, India



WORKING
TOWARDS
MAHASEER
CONSERVATION



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

Proposed interventions

Research

Mapping critical habitats i.e spawning and nursery grounds of Golden Mahseer

Assess current distribution pattern and population/stock

Radio-tagging of Golden Mahseer to understand its habitat requirements vis-à-vis environmental depth and velocity of flows

Stakeholder engagement and Capacity building

Sensitize local communities (fishermen), citizens and local decision makers on Mahseer conservation through awareness campaigns and to develop community led Mahseer conservation stretches and joint monitoring

Study Area



River Nayar-Ganga complex

Intensive study area – 30 km river along Rishikesh-Hardiwar (Ganga), and 25km river stretch along Satpuli-Vyas Ghat (Nayar)



River Kosi

Intensive study area - 30 km from Mohan through Dhikuli till Ramnagar falling under the Ramnagar Forest Division of the Corbett Tiger Reserve

Perception of stakeholders: challenges and opportunities for Golden Mahseer *Tor putitora* conservation along Rivers Nayar and Kosi, Uttarakhand; India



Mansi Kimothi and, Asghar Nawab

Rivers, Wetlands & Water Policy Programme
World Wide Fund for Nature-India
172 B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi; India

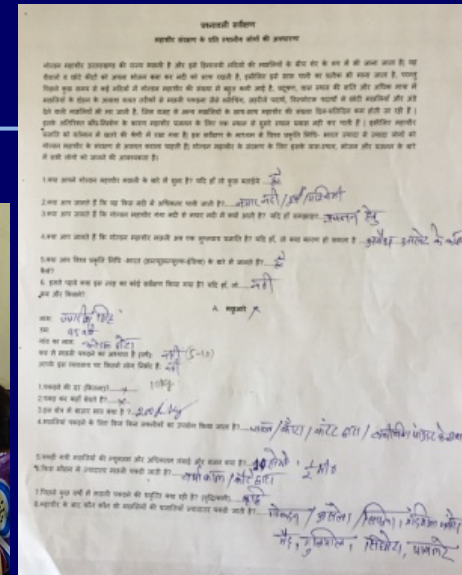
International Mahseer Conference
Paro, Bhutan
2nd - 7th December 2018

Objective

Community-based knowledge - species current distribution and, abundance

Assess current species protection & management activities at the local level

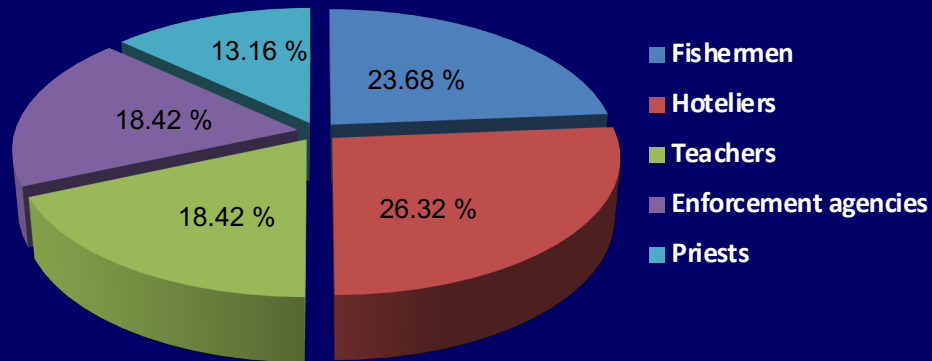
Methodology



Observations

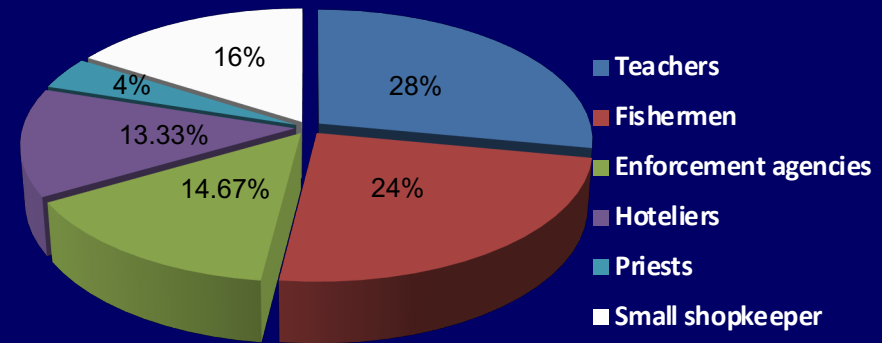
River Nayar

38 Respondents



River Kosi

75 Respondents



Fishermen

Since last 40-50 years fishing has formed a traditional occupation for many families along River Kosi. Forest Department has been granting fishing License / Permits since 1938. Current fee charged is Rs. 26/- Annually.

While fishing along River Nayar is carried out illegally. It is only source of income for local fishermen and for some the entire family is dependent on it.

Fishing - Cast nets, Line nets and, Dynamiting. More than 10kg of fish is caught per day; though the trend of fish catch has declined through the years. Fishing is intensive during the monsoon.

Avg. Weight of Golden Mahseer caught range 200gm-10kg and Avg. length range 30cm-90cm.

Golden Mahseer is sold between 150-300 Rs/kg.

Hoteliers

90% of the total fish catch comes from the wild.

Golden Mahseer is in demand (*for its nutritious value and good taste*) it is priced between 180-260 kg/plate.

2kg - 5kg is the avg. daily consumption.

Priests

Along River Nayar, no significant local religious connotation attached with the fishes. While along River Kosi, deep pools near temples (Garjia) serve as sacred refuge.

Enforcement agencies (Forest and Police Departments)

Banning fishing in River Nayar will improve enforcement and, this is possible only if the area is declared PA. Illegal fishing along River Kosi is banned.

Teachers

Aware of the endangered conservation status of Golden Mahseer though requested for conservation awareness programs for school children for better understanding of river ecosystem and ecology.

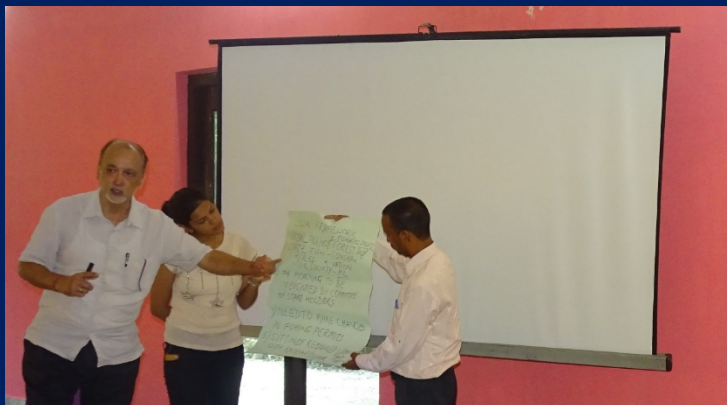


Workshop on sensitizing local communities (fishermen), citizens and local decision makers on Mahseer conservation to develop community led Mahseer conservation stretches and joint monitoring



Session I: Current conservation status of Golden Mahseer and its habitat along River Nayar-Ganga complex and the River Kosi, Uttarakhand

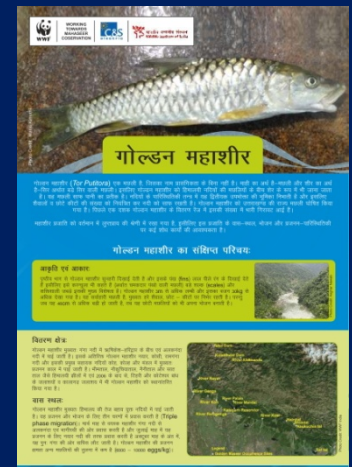
Session II: Promoting institutional and capacity building related to conservation of Golden Mahseer and its habitat in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand



Prof. Prakash Nautiyal / Dept. of Zoology, HNB Garhwal University; Uttarakhand; emphasizing on the protection of viable breeding/spawning grounds of the Golden Mahseer along the Alaknanda – Haridwar stretch of Ganga River in Uttarakhand.



Dr B.P Madhwal / Director, Fishery Department, Uttarakhand state spoke on the schemes initiated by the state government to leverage and engage local stakeholders (especially riparian communities) in Golden Mahseer conservation in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand state



Summary

A. Uttarakhand Forest Department

- Form network of fishermen who obtain permits so that the network can be associated with some social welfare organisation which can provide them support during lean times i.e. monsoon when fishing is banned.

B. Uttarakhand Fisheries Department

- Support with establishing low cost hatcheries if the Forest Department agrees to provide land. Also to leverage Govt. schemes to fishing community.

C. Fishing Community

- Willing to support the conservation programme but have urged to provide alternative support as economic incentives particularly when fishing is banned.

D. Academia and NGOs

- Conduct awareness campaigns for Golden Mahseer conservation and its habitat.
 - Carry out research studies to understand species movement patterns and habitat preference.
 - Devising of a Golden Mahseer Conservation Atlas for the Uttarakhand State.
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Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; India

Prof. Prakash Nautiyal. HNB Garhwal University, Uttarakhand; India

Colleagues at WWF-Bhutan and WWF-India

Thank You.