

About Department of Fisheries

Since the inception of the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) the DoF has had continuing as a front line public sector organization for fisheries development. After the independence of Bangladesh in 1971 the Central Fisheries Department of the then Pakistan was merged with the DoF of Bangladesh in April 1975. Later on in 1984 Central Marine Fisheries Dept. was merged with the DoF as a Marine Fisheries wing.

Organization in brief

DoF is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. It is headed by a Director General, who is assisted by four Directors (one reserve) and 2 Principal Scientific Officer (equivalent to Director). There are 1553 technical officers of different stairs and supporting staffs in the DoF. They render their services to achieve the mission and vision of then DoF. There are administrative set-ups at division, district and Upazila (sub-district) levels headed by Deputy Director, District Fisheries Officer and Senior/Upazila Fisheries Officer respectively. Besides these, there are three fish inspection and quality control stations under DoF. Furthermore DoF also comprises of Marine Fisheries Station, Fisheries Training Academy, Fisheries Training and Extension Centers, and Fish Hatcheries.

Mandate

- To disseminate improved aquaculture technologies through training and demonstration and to extend extension advisory services to the focal stakeholders.
- To enhance fisheries resources through enacting conservation and management measures.
- To assist the administrative ministry to formulate policies, acts etc.
- To enforce quality control measures and issuance of health certificates for exportable fish and fish products.
- To conduct fisheries resources survey and assessment of stock to develop fisheries database for proper planning.
- To facilitate arrangement for institutional credit for fish and shrimp farmers, fishers and fish traders and entrepreneurs.
- To facilitate alternative income generating activities for rural poor and unemployed people towards poverty alleviation.
- To formulate and implement development projects /programs towards sustainable utilization of fisheries resources to ensure food security.

To disseminate improved aquaculture technologies through e-Extension service

Sister Organisation

a. Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI)(www.fri.gov.bd)

BFRI is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. This institute had been established in 1984. Under this institute there are 6 stations located at Mymensingh, Chandpur, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar, Bagherhat and Paikgacha (Khulna); and four substations at Santahar, Jessore, Barisal and Saidpur. These stations conduct basic and applied research on freshwater aquaculture, inland fisheries management, lake management, fish diseases, marine fisheries, brackish water aquaculture, fish breeding genetics etc. Some of the technologies innovated by this institute are being disseminated to the fields by DoF.

b. Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC)(www.bfdc.gov.org)

BFDC is also an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. This corporation had been established in 1964. BFDC is mainly involved in harvesting fisheries resources and developing marketing facilities in the country. BFDC has established fish harbors, landing and distribution centers, ice plants and processing plants in several locations of Bangladesh. In the past, BFDC played a vital role in supplying safe and quality fish in the domestic market.

c. Marine Fisheries Academy (www.mfa-mofl.net)

The Academy was established in 1973 with the technical assistance from former USSR to maintain proper and optimum management of sea fishes through developing expertise for Marine Fisheries. It is entrusted to train cadets skillful through modern techniques and equipments, in order to meet the challenges of millennium in shipping sectors. On completion of three years training in the academy qualified cadets are awarded with BSC (pass) degree from National University.

d. Fisheries and Livestock Information Department (FLID) (www.flif.gov.bd)

FLID is established in 1986 under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock which has four branches in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Barisal and Comilla. This department of many booklets and leaflets to transfer latest technologies and update information regarding the development activities in the fisheries and livestock sectors. A monthly bulletin is also published from FLID which have many update news, technology and information about fisheries and livestock development activities.

Fisheries Sector: Prospects and Potentials

a. National Contribution

Fisheries sector contributed 3.57% to national GDP and 25.30% to the agricultural GDP and 1.5% to foreign exchange earnings by exporting fish and fish products in 2017-18. Fish provides 60% of national animal protein consumption. Fisheries sector also plays an important role in rural employment generation and poverty alleviation.

b. Source of Fish Production

There are three categories of major fisheries resources, these are-

1. Inland Capture (28.45%)
2. Inland Culture (56.24%)
3. Marine Capture (15.31%)

c. Inland Fisheries

Inland fisheries comprises of rivers, ponds, estuaries, beels, floodplains, haors, baors, brackish water etc. There are 260 fish and 24 prawn species in inland fresh water in the country. In early sixties inland fisheries contributed about 90% of total fish production of the country. Fish production from aquaculture has increased to a great extent but open water fish production is in slow progress. Now only about 28.45% of total fish production comes from inland open water.

d. Marine Fisheries

The Bay of Bengal is situated in the South of Bangladesh. There is a total of 166,000 sq. km. water area including Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Fishing is only confined within 200-meter depth. About 255 trawlers, 67669 mechanized and non-mechanized boats are engaged in fishing. Pelagic and deep-sea resources are still untapped. In the year 2017-18 total fish production from Marine source was 6.55 lac metric MT.

Recently Bangladesh has got the right to access 1.00 lac sq. kilometer water area in Bay of Bengal through International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) by the visionary and pragmatic leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. DoF has planned to assess the fisheries resources in the Bay of Bengal for maximum sustainable yield. A research vessel is under process of procurement to conduct appropriate stock assessment. Vessel Tracking Monitoring System will also be developed.

Last 5 years fish production is shown in the following table

Year	Source-wise production (lakh MT)			Total
	Inland open	Closed	Marine	
2020-2021	13.01	26.39	6.81	46.21
2019-2020	12.48	25.84	6.71	45.03
2018-2019	12.36	24.89	6.60	43.84
2017-2018	12.17	24.05	6.55	42.77
2016-2017	11.64	23.33	6.37	41.34

e. Fish production

In 2020-21 the total fish production is 46.21 lac Metric Ton (MT). The Production from closed water bodies is increasing very sharply due to dissemination of adaptive technologies and need-based extension services rendered by DoF.

Last 5 years Hilsa production is shown in the following table

Year	Unit: lakh MT			Growth rate(%)
	Inland (MT)	Marine(MT)	Total	
2020-2021	2.51	3.14	5.65	2.73
2019-2020	2.46	3.04	5.50	3.23
2018-2019	2.42	2.90	5.33	3.02
2017-2018	2.33	2.85	5.17	4.18
2016-2017	2.17	2.79	4.96	25.70

Major group wise contribution in fish production (2017-2018)

There are 260 freshwater and 475 marine fish species in the country. About 12 exotic species are being cultured in the country.

National Fisheries Policy

A national fisheries policy has been adopted to make the aquaculture and fisheries management activities environment friendly and sustainable. The policy has been formulated aiming at the primary objective of increasing fish production through optimum utilization of the available resources. In this policy a separate chapter containing shrimp culture and export guideline has been incorporated. National shrimp policy rule is under consideration of the government employment generation and poverty alleviation have also been given importance in fisheries policy. National Fisheries Strategy has been developed and approved by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in 2006 on the basis of National Fisheries Policy. The Fisheries strategy comprises of 8 sub-strategies and action plan.

Development Activities

a. Annual Development Program

In addition to the normal activities of the DoF several development projects are being implemented aiming at boosting up fish production and conservation of fisheries resources. In 2017-2018 a total of 18, investment projects 15 programs and 3 technical assistance Project has been in implementation. technical assistance projects are being implemented. Through the development activities habitat restoration, conservation of natural resources, community based resource management, human resource development, and alternate income generating activities etc. is implementing in this sector.

c. Aquaculture Practices

i) **Freshwater Aquaculture:** Indian major carps and exotic carps are largely cultured in the country. Culture practices are mainly improved-extensive and semi-intensive. Beside Carp aquaculture, monoculture of Thi Pungus, Tilapia, Shorputi, Thai Koi are also practiced. Average fish production in the ponds is 4851 kg/ha/year. Freshwater prawn (*m.rosenbergii*) is also cultured along with carps in some areas of the country.

ii) **Brackish Water Aquaculture:** It is widespread in Satkhira, Khulna, Cox's Bazar and Bagerhat District. Tiger Shrimp *p. monodon* and giant prawn *M. rosenbergii* are the species of shellfish cultured in those areas. *M. rosenbergii* is largely cultured in southwest region of the country. The total production of shrimp and prawn in 2017-2018 was about 2.54 lac MT.

iii) **Fish and shrimp Hatchery:** Fish hatchery especially carp hatchery started to come up in late seventies. At present there are 824 private nurseries, 102 Government fish Hatcheries and 124 Government fish seed multiplication farms in the country.

A total of 6,86,754kg spawn was produced from private and Government Hatcheries in the year 2018. Collection of fish seed from natural grounds has increased to about 9274 kg. In 2017-18 there were about 49 *P.monodon* (Bagda) Hatcheries and 46 *M.rosenbergii* (Galda) Hatcheries. About 141204 lac bagda post larva (PL) and about 521 lac golda post larvae (PL) were produced in these hatcheries. almost all Bagda Hatcheries are located in Cox's Bazar region, but major culture grounds are situated in southwest region of Bangladesh.

d. Open water management

ii) **Hilsa Fishery Management:** Hilsa (Shad) is an important diadromous fish in the South and south-East Asia especially in Bangladesh. It is considered as national fish in the country and contributes to the national economy, employment and export. Hilsa has the highest contribution in the country's fish production as the single fish species. More than 12.09% of the country's fish production comes from Hilsa. In 2017-18 Hilsa production was 5.17 lac MT, which values around 20,680 crore taka. DoF has taken some steps to strengthen the on-going Hilsa management through jatka Conservation Project/Program like (1) to establish 5 Hilsa sanctuaries, (2) to arrange need based training to involve the hilsa fishers for effective intervention of alternation income generating activities, and (3) to support the hilsa fishers with 30 kg food grains/family/month during the ban periods for four months. A total of 20 thousand fishers in Hilsa sanctuary areas are being directly benefited through Alternate Income Generation Activities.

iii) **Protection of Natural Breeding Ground Halda:** DoF is restoring the natural Breeding habitats of the Halda river to protect natural breeding ground of Indian Major Carps. In 2018 the total natural collected spawn/hatchling is 9274kg.

iv) **Fishers ID Card:** Government has decided to issue ID card to the fishers community of the country through a project under DoF. Through this development project database of genuine fishers will also be developed.

v) **Integrated Natural Resource Management:** DoF is implementing integrated natural resource management system by local users contributors to conserving the biodiversity and livelihoods in the selected wetlands and floodplains in the padma-Jumna rivers delta region through a development project.

vi) **Fish Habitat Restoration:** In 2011-12 total 970 water bodies (areas about 2,123ha) have been developed by 07 development projects under DoF. As a result additional 3,000 MT fish will be produced annually. In addition 450 hectare Modhumoti Baor has been excavated mechanically in this fiscal year. About 60 ha Hurasagar river will be re-excavated in the coming years.

Export of Fish & Fish Products

There are 100 fish processing plants in the country. Out of 100 plants European Commission has approved 76 plants. HACCP has already been introduced in fish processing establishments. Major importing countries are European countries, USA and Japan. About 98% of total fish products are exported to those countries. Remaining are exported to the countries in Southeast Asia and Middle East.

Year	Source-wise production		Other fish products		Total
	Quantity (MT)	Value (Crore Taka)	Quantity (MT)	Value (Crore Taka)	Value (Crore Taka)
20017-2018	36167.77	3527.07	32767.93	782.87	4309.94
2016-2017	39705.85	3682.26	28599.83	605.38	4287.64
2015-2016	40726	3598.67	34612	684.15	4282.82
2014-2015	44278	3937.60	39246	723	4660.60
2013-2014	47635	4118.80	29693	658.12	4776.92

Major export items of fish products are raw shrimp block frozen, IQF shrimp and white fish, PUD and P&D shrimp block frozen, consumer pack of raw frozen shrimp, chilled & frozen Hilsa, dry, salted and dehydrated fish, live fish, eel fish & crab and a little quantity of value added fish and shrimp products. Production of Crab through fattening in 2017 was 11787 MT of which 11435.33 MT was exported by earning Tk. 217.53 crore. DoF has three inspection and quality control stations located at khulna, chittagong and Dhaka facilitated with testing laboratories. DoF is entrusted with the responsibility to ensure the quality of the products as Competent Authority.

Fish Production and Resource Conservation Campaign

Campaign for boosting fish production and resource conservation fish week is being observed usually in between July and September every year. Raising awareness of the people through the country for the conservation and management of fisheries resources is also an objective of this campaign. It is a national program and is inaugurated by the **Honorable Prime Minister of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh.**

FISHERIES RESOURCES INFORMATION ON BANGLADESH (2017-2018)

Water Area			
	(a)	Closed Water Body (Culture based)	7,97,851 ha.
		i) Pond & Ditches :	3,91,753 ha.
		ii) Oxbow lake :	5,488 ha
		iii) Shrimp Farm :	2,58,681 ha
	(b)	Open Water Body (Capture based)	39,27,142 ha
		i) River & Estuaries (without Sundarban)	8,53,863 ha
		ii) Beel	1,14,161 ha
		iii) Kaptai Lake	68,800 ha
		iv) Flood Plain :	27,12,618 ha
	(c)	Marine Fisheries	
		i) Territorial Water :	2,680 sq. n. miles
		ii) Exclusive Economic Zone :	41,040 sq. n. miles
		iii) Continental Shelf	24,800 sq. n. miles
		iv) Coast line :	710 km.
2.		Fish Production	42,76,641 mt.
		i) Open Water (capture) :	12,16,539 mt.
		ii) Closed Water (Culture) :	24,05,415 mt.
		iii) Marine Fisheries	6,54,687 mt.
3.	(a)	Export of Fish & Fish Products	
		i) Quantity	68,935.72 ton.
		ii) Value (BDT)	4309.94 crore
		iii) Contribution to export earning :	1.5%
	(b)	No. of Fish Processing Plants :	100
	(c)	No. of EU approved Plants :	76
4.		Contribution in GDP	3.57%
5.		Fish Intake/Demand	
		i) Per capita Annual Fish Intake :	21.90 kg.
		ii) Annual Total Fish Needed :	42.38 lakh mt.
		iii) Contribution in Animal Protein supply :	60% (App.)
6.		Fish Hatchery/Nursery	
		i) Fish hatchery :	926 (Govt. No 102)
		ii) No. of Fish Nursery :	926 (Govt. No.102)
		iii) Fingerling Production :	236.2 lac