



How Does Co-management Perform in Wetland Fisheries? Fishers' Perceptions from Bangladesh

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Abstract: In Bangladesh, fisheries co-management emphasizes fish resources and fishers' livelihood maintenance. The role of co-management differs from fishers' diverse perceptions of socioeconomic and ecological aspects of wetland fisheries. This study conducts a survey among fishers of a north-eastern wetland area in Bangladesh to collect data for examining the effectiveness of co-management to sustain fishers' livelihood and fisheries resources. The findings demonstrate that 46% fishery users possess fishing as a main occupation while 35% users become members of the fishery users' association without having any fishing experience. Fishers earn yearly BDT 40,000 (\$470; 1USD = BDT 85) from the fishery 40% fishers of which have other sources of income. Only 20% fishers capture the income of the fishery and exclude other fishers from the fishery management. The limited income and participation of fishers in fisheries management with alternative employments scarcity primarily lessen down the effectiveness of co-management. A lack of incentives to alternate fishing and mere use of local fishing knowledge and practices to foster fisheries also lessen the efficacy of co-management. Participatory management and equal benefits sharing together with alternative employments for fishers and surrounding communities may improve the success of co-management.

Keywords: Socio-ecology, Fishers' evaluation, Socioecological benefits, Fisheries resources conservation, Challenges in co-management
