

ESTABLISHMENT OF SANCTUARY IN BELUA RIVER FOR FISH EXPLOITATION AND ITS IMPACTS ON FISHERIES BIODIVERSITY IN THE COASTAL REGION OF BANGLADESH

Hossain M. M.^{1*}, Moon, T. M.², Rahman M. H.² and Islam M. A.³

¹Department of Fisheries Management, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Dumki, Patuakhali-8602, Bangladesh, Email: moazzem@pstu.ac.bd

²Department of Fisheries Management, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh-2202, Bangladesh Email: tanzinabau22@gmail.com & hafijurrahman1@gmail.com

³Department of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Dumki, Patuakhali-8602, Bangladesh Email: kiron1990@yahoo.com

***Corresponding author:** Md. Moazzem Hossain, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries Management, PSTU, Bangladesh E-mail: moazzem@pstu.ac.bd

ABSTRACT

An investigation was carried out to acquire the knowledge of fish sanctuary establishment, harvesting system and its impact on fisheries biodiversity in the coastal region of Bangladesh over a period of 6 months between July and December 2016. Combination of questionnaire interview, focus group discussions and crosscheck interviews were accomplished with key informants during data collection. Sanctuary installation for harvesting of fish is a common feature in the study area. A total of 86 species including finfish, freshwater prawn, crabs and mollusk was recorded under 29 families including 42 SIS and 26 threatened species during the study period. The recorded species was 63 finfish, 17 prawn, 4 mollusk and 2 crabs. Indian major carps were the main species among finfish while aire, boal, and tengra were the dominant species among catfish, galda (*Macrobrachium rosenburgii*) was foremost with prawn and tara baim, punti, shol, gajar, foli, goda chingri and SIS were the leading species among others. Sanctuary created a friendly environment for fisheries organisms inside it due to use a large amount of tree branches. In our country, the main breeding season of freshwater species is September and October when sanctuaries provide breeding place, food and protection for aquatic organisms which have positive impacts for regenerating and increasing biodiversity as well as threatened species in the coastal region of Bangladesh.

Keywords: Sanctuary; fish harvesting; biodiversity; catch composition.