

**Regional Workshop on Information Exchange on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance to
Combat IUU Fishing**

24-26 November 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

An overview of fisheries MCS practices in Bangladesh

On behalf of the Bangladesh Team

Shoukot Kabir Chowdhury

Senior Assistant Director

Marine Fisheries Office

shoukot2014@gmail.com

+880-1815842650

**Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Bangladesh**



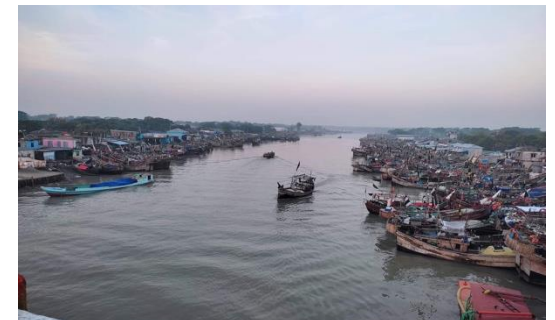
Contents

- Fisheries at a glance
- Legal Framework
- Current MCS Implementation & Enforcement
- Strategies to Combat IUU Fishing
- Challenges, gaps, and needs

Fisheries at a glance

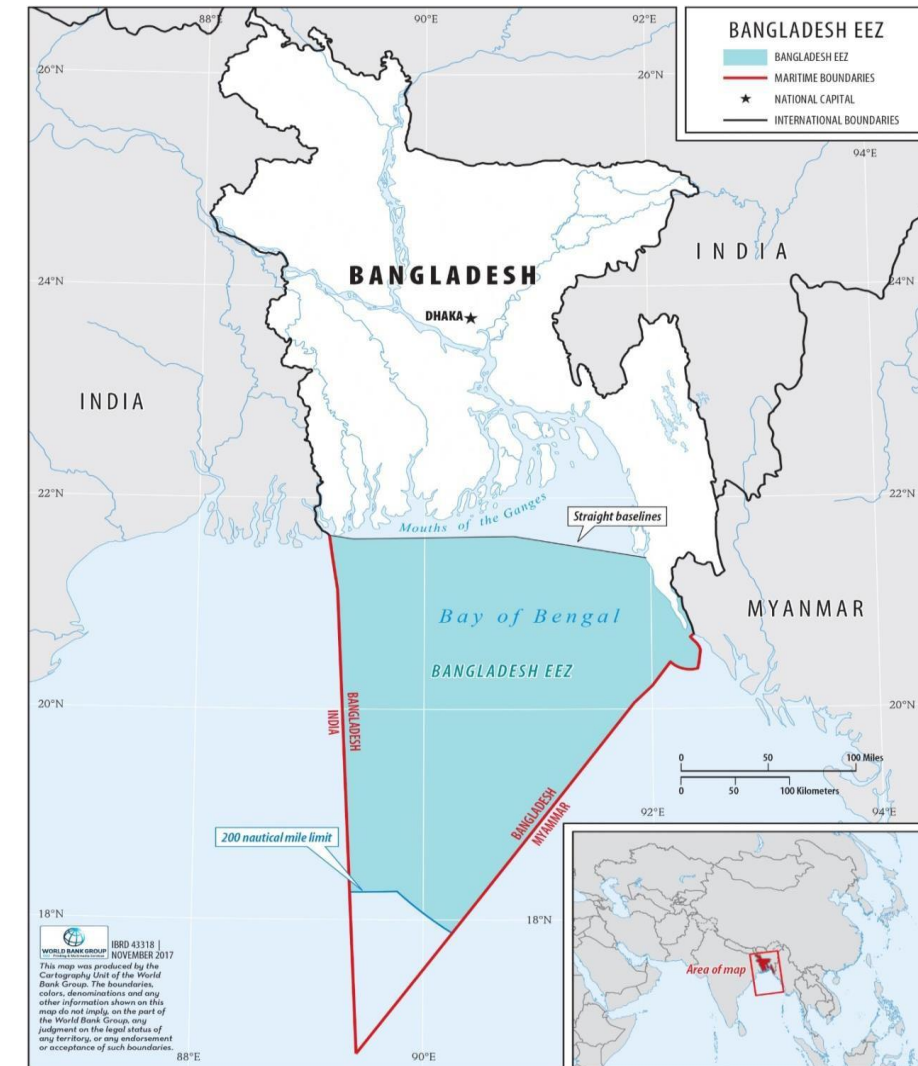
FISHERIES RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

A) Inland Open Water (Capture)		Area (ha)
1. River and Estuary		853,863
2. Sundarbans		177,700
3. Beel		114,161
4. Kaptai Lake		68,800
5. Floodplain		2,646,757
Capture Total		3,861,281
B) Inland Closed Water (Culture)		
1. Pond		424,168
2. Seasonal cultured water body		148,537
3. Baor (Ox-bow lake)		6,218
4. Shrimp/Prawn Farm		262,217
5. Others (Crab farming, pen culture, cage culture)		26,554
		867,694
Inland Total		4,728,975
C) Marine Fisheries (Capture)		118,813 s. km. EEZ
1. Industrial		266 Fleets
2. Artisanal		29,358



Marine Fisheries Resources

EEZ	118,813 sq Km [FAO Area 57, Eastern Indian Ocean]
Coastline	710 km
Marine species	475
Annual Marine Catch (2023-24)	0.628 MMT (12.53 % of total production) Industrial-0.115 MMT (18.26%) Artisanal-0.514 MMT (81.74%)
No of Industrial Trawlers	266 (Active 234) within the EEZ
No of Artisanal Boats (≤15 Net tonnage)	28,575
No of Fishermen (Coastal & Marine)	0.516 Million
Fishing ground	4 (Swatch of No Ground, Middle Ground, South Patches & South of South Patches)
Marine reserve/Marine Protected Area	1) 698 sq. Km MR located between Middle ground and South Patches of BoB 2) Swatch of No. Ground MPA-1738 Sq. Km 3) Nijhum Dwip MPA-3188 Sq. Km. 4) St. Martin Island MPA-1743 Sq. Km.
Fishing Closure	80 days (58 days + 22 days)



Fisheries Sector's Contribution

Annual Fish Production (2023-24)	5.01 million MT
National GDP _(BER 2024)	2.53%
Agricultural GDP (BER 2024)	22.26%
Export Earnings (EPB 2024)	0.91%
Animal protein supplies	60%
Employment (full-time & part-time)	19.50 million
Women's employment (fish processing industry)	1.40 million

Source: DOF 2024. Yearbook of Fisheries Statistics of Bangladesh, 2023-24

Agencies in Fisheries Sector



MoFL-Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
(lead agency to implement SDG 14)



DoF-Department of Fisheries Bangladesh



BFRI-Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute



BFDC-Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation



MFA-Marine Fisheries Academy



FLID-Fisheries and Livestock Information Department

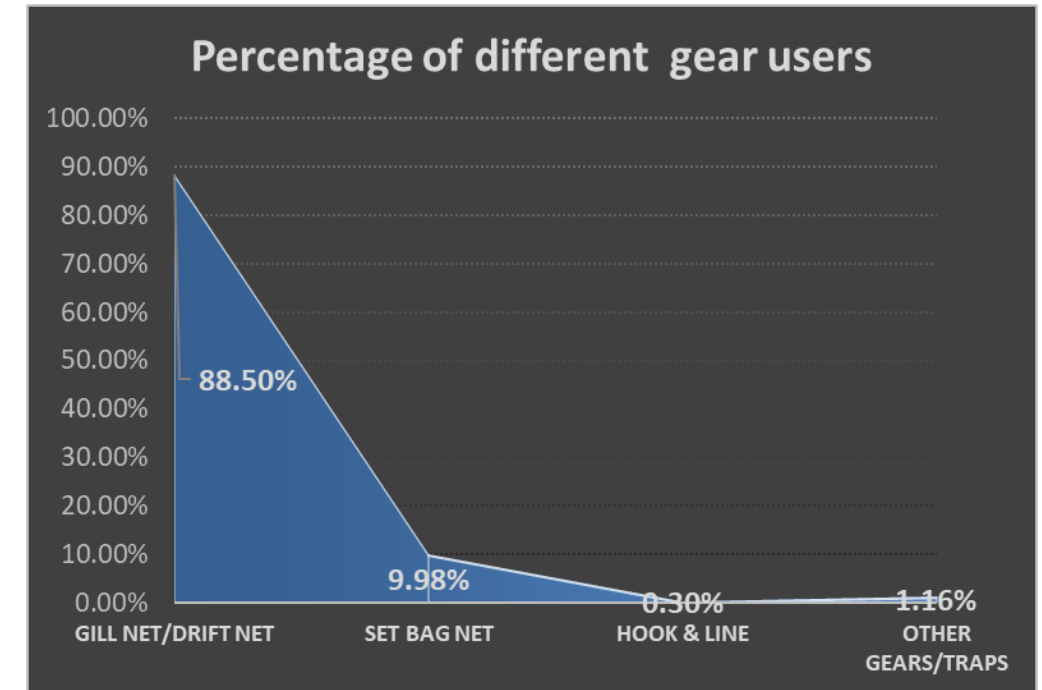
Present size of Industrial Trawlers

Type	No.	LoA (m)	Mesh size	Engine Power	Vertical Opening	Preservation type
Shrimp	35	21-43	45-300mm	250-500 BHP	2.0-3.0m	Freezer
Bottom	61	16-54	60-300mm	250-900 BHP	2.0-6.0m	Ice
Mid-water	127	27-60	60-16000mm	600-1850 BHP	15.0-30.0m	Freezer
Trial Trip (Order by Court)	43	18-44	60-300mm	250-500BHP	2.5-3.5m	Ice & Freezer
Total	266					

Source: Marine Fisheries Office, DOF 2025.

Present size of Artisanal vessels

No. of Vessel	Type of Gear	No. of Gear
11124	Gill Net/Drift Net/Trammel Net (<1000 m)	15731
14083	Gill Net/Drift Net/Trammel Net (>1000 m)	15766
2929	Set Bag Net	23725
94	Long Line (Hook & Line)	555
342	Others Gears/Traps	2004
28575		57781



Source: DOF 2024. Yearbook of Fisheries Statistics of Bangladesh, 2023-24



FAO State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024



❑ Bangladesh ranked 2nd in inland capture fisheries production

- India (1.890 m mt)-Global contribution 16.7%
- **Bangladesh (1.322 m mt)-Global contribution 11.7%**
- China (1.166 m mt)- Global contribution 10.3%

❑ Bangladesh ranked 5th in aquaculture and inland aquaculture production

- China (53.00 m mt)
- India (10.00 m mt)
- **Bangladesh (2.73 m mt)**

❑ Bangladesh ranked 25th in marine fisheries production

- China (11.819 m mt)- Global contribution 14.8%
- Indonesia (6.843 m mt)- Global contribution 8.6%
- **Bangladesh (0.706 m mt)-Global contribution 0.9%**

Source: FAO 2024. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024. Blue Transformation in action. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0683en>

Legal Framework

Legal Framework (International)

➤ **Binding Fisheries Instrument:**

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS, 1982)- Bangladesh Signatory 1982, Ratified 2001
- UN Fish Stock Agreement, 1995- Signatory 1995, Ratified 2012
- FAO Port State Measures Agreement 2009 (PSMA, 2009)- Accession 20 Nov 2019
- CMMs of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)- Joined as CPC in 18 April 2018

➤ **Non-binding Fisheries Instrument:**

- CCRF, 1995

➤ **Non-Fisheries Binding Instrument:**

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992- Signed in 1992 and ratified in 1994
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), 1979- Party 2005
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973- Signed in 1981 and ratified in 1982



Legal Framework for Marine Fisheries Management (National)

- Marine Fisheries Act, 2020
- Fish and Fish Products (Inspection & Quality Control) Act, 2020
- Marine Fisheries Harvest Policy, 2022
- Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023
- Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries Management & Harvest, 2023
- Guidelines on IUU Catch Certifications, 2023
- 10-Year Plan of Action for Artisanal Vessel Management (2023-2032)
- National Plan of Action –IUU Fishing, 2021 (2020-2024)
- National Plan of Action-Sharks & Rays (2023-2027)

- Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974
- Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1983
- Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012
- Bangladesh Coast Guard Act, 2016

- Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Management Plan: Part 1-Industrial, 2021
- Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Management Plan: Part 2-Artisanal, 2023
- Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Management Plan: Part 3- MCS, 2023

Legal Framework for MCS Implementation

According to the Marine Fisheries Act, 2020,

Section 5(2) *“The Director General may, to conduct survey on fisheries resources, either species based or overall, stock, and to determine allowable catch and to ensure maximum sustainable yield of fish resources within the Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Waters, take necessary actions for **monitoring, controlling and surveillance**”.*

Section 40 Illegally Caught Fish-All fish found on board of any fishing vessel which has been used in the commission of an offence against any provision of this Act or any rules made thereunder shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to have been caught illegally in the Bangladesh Fisheries Waters.

According to the Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023,

Rule 6: Control of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

- **Definition of IUU Fishing (6 (1, 2,3))**
- **Formation of NPOA-IUU Fishing (6 (4))**
- **Installation of devices in the fishing vessels for MCS (6 (5))**
- **Listing & Publication of IUU Vessels (6 (6,7))**

Rule 7: IUU Catch Certification

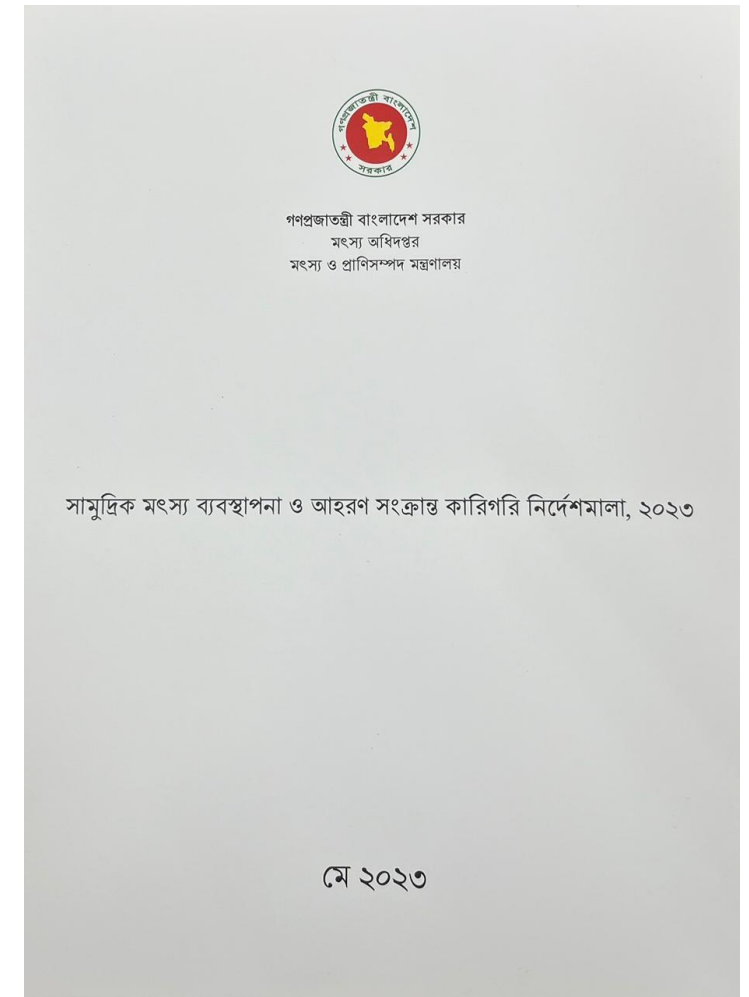
- **Formation of Guidelines**
- **Export & Import**

Legal Framework for MCS Implementation

According to the “Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries Management & Harvest, 2023”

Article 14: Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance

- *Instruction & Installation of **VMS transponder**, **AIS transponder**, and **Electronic Chart Plotter** for Industrial Trawlers*
- *Instruction & Installation of **AIS transponder**, and **GPS data logger** for Artisanal & Mechanized fishing vessels*
- *Set up of **Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC)** and **Joint Monitoring Cell (JMC)** to combat IUU Fishing & for implementing MCS*
- *Set up of one or more **Check-Posts** for implementing MCS*
- *Appointment of **Onboard Observer***



Current MCS Implementation & Enforcement

Monitoring, Control & Surveillance

According to the **Marine Fisheries Act, 2020**, Section 5(2) *“The Director General of the Department of Fisheries may, to conduct survey on fisheries resources, either species based or overall, stock, and to determine allowable catch and to ensure maximum sustainable yield of fish resources within the Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Waters, take necessary actions for **Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance (MCS)**”*.

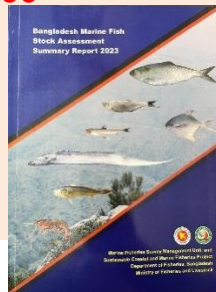
Department of Fisheries is implementing “**Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries Project**” with financial assistance from WorldBank. Strengthening of MCS is a core activity of this project.



MCS Implementation

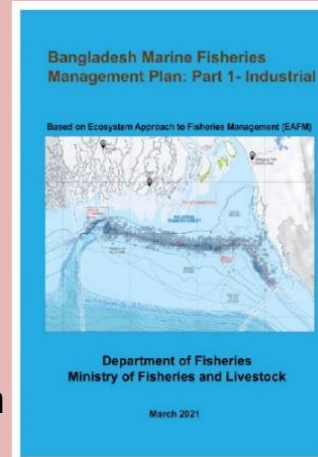
Monitoring

- Marine Fisheries Survey Management Unit, Chattogram, Estd-1995
- Scientific Officer
- **Survey Cruise** by R V Meen Shandhani & R V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen
- Land based catch data collection for artisanal from 212 sites along 710 km coastline
- Using TAB with Kobo Toolbox applications
- **FAO CALIPSEO** Bangladesh Version
- Log Book & Catch reports for Industrial Trawlers
- Working Group for Stock Assessment
- **e-Fishing Vessel & Gear Database**
- Stock Assessment Reports
- IUU Catch Certification



Control

- **Marine Fisheries Office, Chattogram, Estd-1952**
- Legal framework
- Marine Inspector(s) & Marine Guard
 - Registration and license
 - Sailing permission
 - Limiting the Fishing Days
 - Depth Zone Restriction
 - Mesh size control
- Fishers and sailors ID card
- Fishing closed seasons
- Ban on destructive gears
- Marine Reserves/MPAs
- All types of trawlers new sanction restrict overcapacity

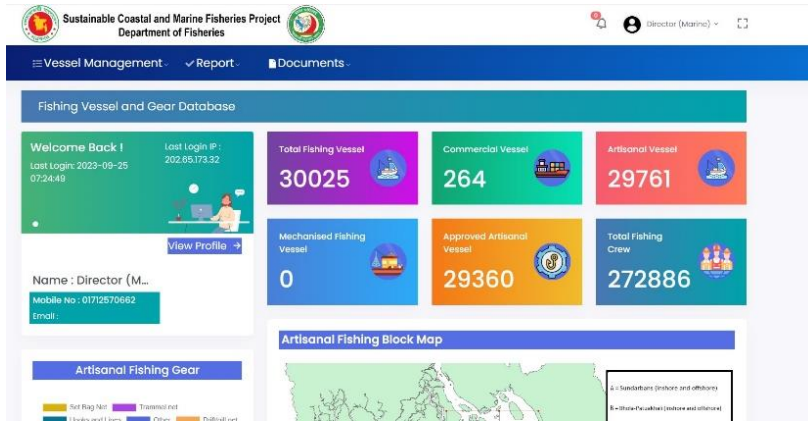


Surveillance

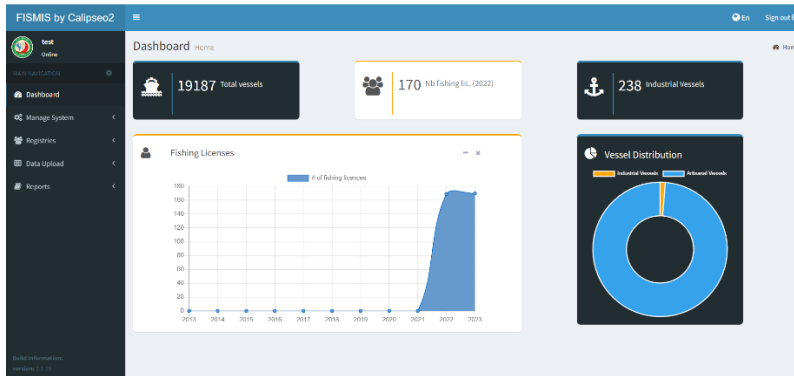
- **Marine Fisheries Office, Chattogram**
- Bangladesh Navy, Coast Guard, River Police & Marine Inspector
- Surveillance Check-Post
- Pre & Post Checking by Inspectors
- VMS, AIS, GSM (developing)
- FMC & VMS Centre (developing)
- JMC (developing)
- Onboard Observers (compliance)



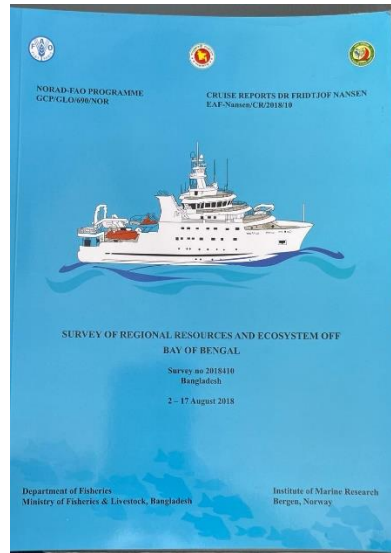
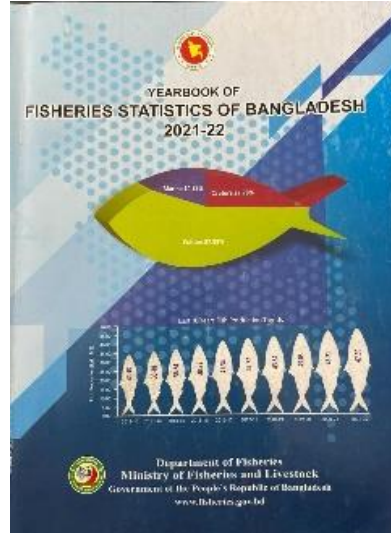
MCS Implementation



e- Fishing Vessels & Gear Database



CALIPSEO Dashboard



জাটকা সংরক্ষণ অভিযান

আপনি জানেন কি ?

মৎস্য সুরক্ষা ও সংরক্ষণ আইন' ১৯৫০ এর আওতায় প্রতিবছর ১ নভেম্বর হতে ৩০ জুন পর্যন্ত ২৫ সে.মি. বা ১০ ইঞ্চির ছোট ইলিশ বা জাটকা আহরণ, পরিবহন, ক্রয়-বিক্রয়, মজুদ ও বাজারজাতকরণ সম্পূর্ণ নিষিদ্ধ এবং দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ।

আইন অমান্যকারীর শাস্তি কমপক্ষে ১ বছর হতে সর্বোচ্চ ২ বছর সশ্রম কারাদণ্ড বা সর্বোচ্চ ৫,০০০/- টাকা পর্যন্ত জরিমানা অথবা উভয় প্রকার দণ্ড।

সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য আইন' ২০২০ ও সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য বিধিমালা' ২০২৩ অনুযায়ীও জাটকা আহরণ নিষিদ্ধ করা হয়েছে।

জি আই প্যা ইলিশ আমাদের জাতীয় সম্পদ, এটিকে রক্ষা করার দায়িত্ব আপনার আমার সকলের। আসুন সবাই মিলে জাতীয় সম্পদ ইলিশ রক্ষায় সহযোগিতা করি।

আজকের জাটকাই আগামী দিনের রূপান্তর ইলিশ।

প্রচার ও জনসচেতনতায়ঃ
সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য দপ্তর
আগ্রাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম।

২০ মে হতে ২৩ জুলাই ৬৫ দিন
সাগরে মাছ ধরা
সম্পূর্ণ নিষেধ

নিষিদ্ধকরণের কারণে সাগরে মাছ ধরার
দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ

দণ্ড: ১ বছর
মৃত্যু ও জীবনকাল অসংকল্প



Enforcement

- According to the Marine Fisheries Act'2020, government has given permission to Marine Fisheries Office, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Coast Guard, & Bangladesh Customs for fisheries enforcement.
- Marine Fisheries Act' 2020; Chapter VIII, Section 32

Chapter VIII

Authorised officer, stopping of vessels, search, seizure, forfeiture, etc.

32. Authorised officer.—The Government may by notification in the official Gazette, declare the officers of the Department of Fisheries not below the rank of Inspector, members of the Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Coast Guard, not below the rank of petty officer, or any officer of customs or any other officer appointed by the Government as authorised officer.

- MoU has been signed with different agencies to form Joint Monitoring Centre; Inter-agency collaboration & resource sharing
- 6 Surveillance Check posts are going to be set up with petrol vessels along the 710 km coastline.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Marine Fisheries Joint Monitoring Cell (JMC)

Parties to JMC MoU

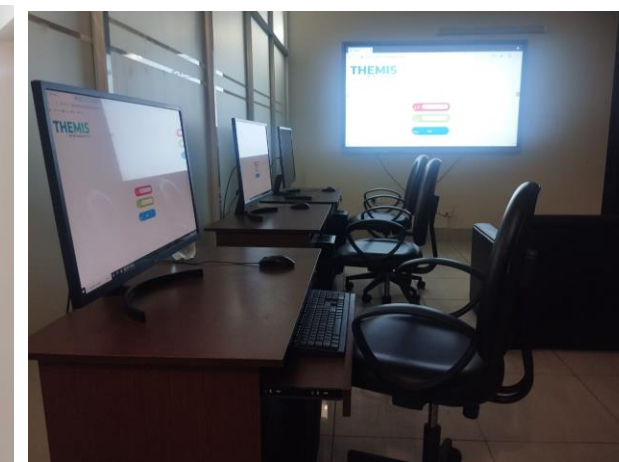
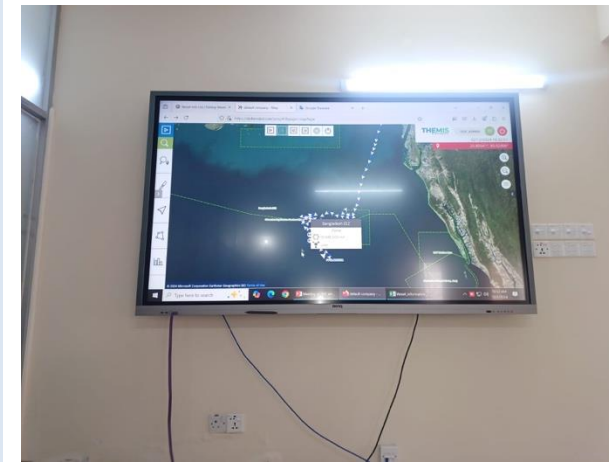
According to the “Technical Guidelines on Marine Fisheries Management & Harvest, 2023 [14(3)]” under Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023, the **Director General of the Department of Fisheries** is empowered to set up the **Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) and Joint Monitoring Cell (JMC)** for implementing MCS, with proper approval and consultation with the Government.

- Department of Fisheries
- Bangladesh Navy
- Bangladesh Coast Guard
- Maritime Affairs Unit
- Mercantile Marine Office
- Bangladesh Customs
- River Police
- Divisional Commissioners (Chattogram, Khulna & Barisal)
- Port Authorities (Chaittagong, Mongla & Payra)

Marine Fisheries Joint Monitoring Cell (JMC)

Cooperation under this MOU may include the following areas:

- a) Timely actions and coordinated responses for effective MCS;
- b) Elimination of IUU fishing and marine discard;
- c) Compliance with national fisheries and other maritime laws and regulations & management plans;
- d) Safer shipping movements of all vessels;
- e) Reduction of marine pollution by fishing vessels; and
- f) Create a safer and more secure stay for fishing vessels at sea.



Role of Bangladesh Navy & Bangladesh Coast Guard

- Protection of fishing vessels at sea
- Protection of illegal fishing
- Inspection of fishing vessels at sea (Sea boarding)- Check license, registration, CoI, gear, etc
- Conservation of Juvenile hilsa
- Implementation of ban periods at sea
- Rescue & life savings



Role of Marine Fisheries Office (MFO)

- Implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
- Issuing of fishing licence & Letter of Permission
- Issuing of Sailing Permission (SP) for licensed vessels
- Pre and Post Inspection
- Enforcement
- Issuing of IUU Catch Certification
- Issuing of ID Cards for Skippers, Officers and Sailors
- Awareness building and training
- Implementation of fishing closure (ban period)

Activities 2024-25

- ✓ Licence renewal of Industrial Trawlers - **202 nos.**
- ✓ Issuing of Letter of Permission for Artisanal Vessels-**4750 nos.**
- ✓ Trawler/Artisanal Vessels inspection-**1086 nos.**
- ✓ Sailing Permission-**3359 no.**
- ✓ Vessels ceased during ban period-**70 nos.**
- ✓ **Administrative Fine**
 - Industrial Trawlers-**76 nos.-7.3 m BDT**
 - Artisanal/Mechanized-**33 nos.-0.2 m BDT**

Strategies to Combat IUU Fishing

Strategies to Combat IUU Fishing

➤ Legal Framework development

- Marine Fisheries Act, 2020
- Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023
- 10-Year Plan of Action for Artisanal Vessel Management (2023-2032)
- National Plan of Action –IUU Fishing, 2021 (2020-2024)

Licence & Registration, Letter of Permission for Artisanal Vessels, Sailing permission, Catch Report, Administrative Fine by DoF Officials, Fine & Imprisonment, MCS, IUU Catch Certification

➤ Capacity Building, & Infrastructure development

- FMC, Check-post
- Training

➤ Motivation & Awareness

- Training, Workshop, Seminar

➤ Enforcement

- JMC

➤ International cooperation & involvement

- PSMA
- RPOA-IUU



Documentation to control Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

For Local Fishing Vessels	Registration	CoI	Licence (for 2 years)	Letter of Permission (for 3 years)	Sailing Permission for each trip	Fishing Area	Approved fishing gears & equipment	Log book	Catch report	Sales information
	Mercantile Marine Office		Marine Fisheries Office/District & Sub-district Office							
Artisanal Vessels	Optional	Optional	×	.	×	.	.	×	.	×
Mechanized Fishing Vessels	.	.	.	×	10 days	.	.	.	.	.
Industrial Trawlers	.	.	.	×	15-30 days	.	.	.	.	.

Challenges, gaps, and needs

Challenges & Gaps

- A large number of artisanal vessels
- Inadequate MCS capacity
- Inadequate fisheries data and information
- Implementation of controlling measures
- Coordinated and comprehensive surveillance
- Destructive fishing practices
- Infringement of Rules and regulations
- Entry of illegal fishing vessels and poaching in EEZ

Needs

- Strengthen MCS capacity
- Strengthen Capacity of DoF & Enforcement Agencies
- Full functioning of FMC & JMC
- Functioning of VMS
- Implementation of 10-year Plan of Action for Artisanal Vessel Management
- Strengthen fisheries data and information system
- Upgradation of NPOA-IUU Fishing
- Strengthen networking with regional & international forums
- Functioning RPOA-IUU

Thank You

