

Say No to Destructive Fishing

What is destructive fishing?

Fishing technique like dynamiting, use of agricultural or commercial chemicals, use of generators etc which involves less effort compared to conventional fishing techniques but ultimately posing great threat to fishes and other organisms are known as destructive fishing.

Different destructive fishing practices

Electric fishing:

- ◆ Electric fishing specially using generators and batteries immobilizes the fishes within its certain radius of action
- ◆ Immobilized fishes are taken out using a net or by hand picking.
- ◆ It also kills large number of untargeted fishes and other organisms of its radius of action thereby posing a great threat to the biodiversity
- ◆ There are many instances of accidental human death during electric fishing.



Blast fishing:

- ◆ Blast fishing or dynamite fishing is the practice of using explosives to stunt or kill school of fishes for easy collection.
- ◆ The underwater explosions indiscriminately kill large number of fishes and other organisms in the vicinity and can damage and destroy the physical environment.
- ◆ The devices or homemade bomb may explode prematurely without warning and have been known to kill or injure people and also destroy the physical environment.
- ◆ This method is indiscriminate & wasteful killing fish which are not desired or can not be collected because they drift away with the current.



Fishing by poisoning:

- ◆ Plant poison or commercial poisons like Agricultural pesticides are widely used in for ease of fishing in various parts of Arunachal Pradesh and some parts of North East states as a Traditional fishing method



- ◆ The poison kills both targeted and non-targeted organisms in a long stretch of the river from its point of application resulting in severe loss of biodiversity.
- ◆ The poisoned fishes sometimes may harm human and cause severe health issues also.
- ◆ The use of poisons caused water pollution thereby making the water unsafe for human use.

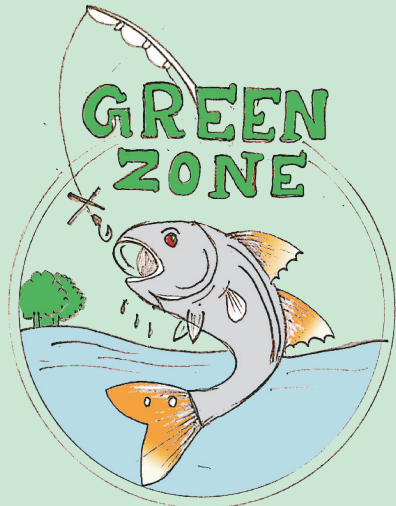
Why we should stop destructive fishing?

- To save the biodiversity of our rivers.
- To save river ecosystem.
- To save people from its unwanted health effects.
- For conservation of natural fish habitat and sustainable utilization of resources

Responsible fishing

- Catching of fishes by using our traditional / conventional fishing gears.





- Avoid fishing during breeding season (May to August) by observing fishing holidays
- Mesh size regulation.
- Creation of fish sanctuaries/ green zones in the rivers.

Ways to avoid destructive fishing

- A Total ban on poisoning, dynamiting & electro-fishing should be enforced immediately.
- The existing fishing method should be modified and improved.
- New eco-friendly fishing methods should be developed.
- Anthropogenic activities should be regulated in order to conserve the fish diversity of the rivers.
- Awareness programmes should be organized on the merits & demerits of different indigenous fishing methods to select the most appropriate one and the importance of fish diversity conservation.

What are the state's laws?

As per Arunachal Pradesh Fisheries Act, 2006

- If any person uses dynamite or any other explosive substances like crackers, hand grenade or similar explosives in any water intentionally, thereby to

catch or destroy fishes therein, he/she will be punishable with imprisonment, for a term which may extend to two months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both.

- If any person puts any poison, lime or any noxious materials into any water, with the intention, to catch or destroy any fishes, he/she will be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both.



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