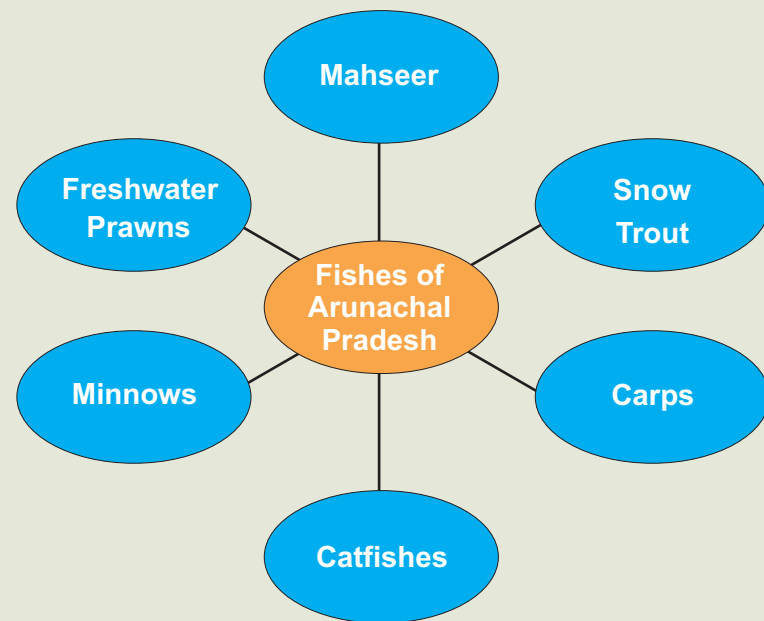


LET'S SAVE OUR FISHES

Our Fish Resources:

- God has gifted us with beautiful fishes. Our rivers are rich in diversity of fishes. 213 different fish species are found in rivers of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Six fish groups support the river fisheries of the state.



These fishes are unique and available only in North-Eastern Himalayan Rivers. They are part of our life and livelihood. But in recent years, due to various human activities the precious fishes of Arunachal Pradesh are disappearing from the rivers. If this trend continues, there will be no fish left in this rivers and become a major issue in future.

Requirements of Hill Stream Fishes

- Most hill stream fishes require special environment for their growth and survival

- These fishes are specially adapted to utilize the unique hill stream environment
- Fast flowing stream water current and presence of sand, pebbles, cobbles, rocks, boulders etc. in the stream bed are indispensable for growth, survival and reproduction of these fishes
- Many hill stream fish species show migratory behaviour
- Most of them are periphyton feeders in nature.

Natural Habitats of some Indigenous Fish species of Arunachal Pradesh



Deopani stream (*Garra arupi*)



Tirap River (*Schistura tirapensis*)



Siang river (*Pseudecheneis sirenica*)



Dikrong river (*Glyptothorax dikrongensis*)

Threats to Fishes of our rivers

- Excess fishing pressure
- Habitat destruction (boulder mining, sand mining on the river bed)
- Destructive / irresponsible fishing techniques.
- Fishing during breeding season.
- Flow regulation.
- Water pollution.
- Deforestation



Habitat destruction (boulder mining on the river bed)

How to save them

- Save them in their own home by creating fish sanctuaries in the rivers.
- Don't fish them during breeding season (May to August) by observing fishing holiday.
- Catch fish using traditional / conventional fishing gears.
- Do not catch fish by poisoning rivers.
- Do not use destructive techniques like generator, dynamite etc for fishing .
- Lets adopt fish culture.
- Avoid habitat modification and destruction of river ecosystem.



Catch Fish using Conventional Gear

- Awareness among different stakeholder groups to save fishes.

Arunachal Pradesh Fisheries Act, 2006

As per the act,

- 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 put 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.

A leaflet prepared under the project

Assessment of Environmental Health and Ichthyofaunal Biodiversity of Tirap and Tissa rivers of Arunachal Pradesh and promotion of Fish centric supplementary livelihood options through a participatory approach

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