

FISH DIVERSITY IN THE SOUTHERN COASTAL WATERS OF BANGLADESH: PRESENT STATUS, THREATS AND CONSERVATION PERSPECTIVES

Md Abu Hanif¹, Muhammad Abu Bakar Siddik^{1*}, Md Reaz Chaklader¹, Ashfaqun Nahar², Sultan Mahmud³

¹Department of Fisheries Biology and Genetics, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Patuakhali-8602, Bangladesh

²Department of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Patuakhali-8602, Bangladesh

³Department of Aquaculture, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Patuakhali-8602, Bangladesh

*Corresponding Author, E-mail: siddik@pstu.ac.bd

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ABSTRACT

Despite the enormous anthropogenic and environmental hazards affecting wild fisheries resources, southern coastal waters are still considered one of the aquatic biodiversity hotspots in Bangladesh. Therefore, the present study was conducted to make a complete account of fishes and to assess their condition and conservation status in the rivers spread across four southern coastal districts of Bangladesh. During the study period from January to December 2014, a total of 98 species of fish were recorded belonging to 81 genera, 48 families and 13 orders. Perciforms were recorded as the most diverse fish group in terms of both number and individuals of species observed. Of the 98 species, 26.53% were listed as Locally Threatened in Bangladesh, including 11.22% species listed as Vulnerable, 10.20% as Endangered and 5.10% as Critically Endangered. Four population indices viz, Shannon-Wiener index (H), Simpson's dominance index (D), Simpson's index of diversity (1-D) and Margalef's index (d) were applied to demonstrate the species diversity, richness and evenness of fish in sampling areas and their overall values were 3.54-3.70, 0.04-0.05, 0.95-0.96 and 7.48-8.67, respectively. To sustain the prospect of fisheries biodiversity in the southern coastal areas of Bangladesh, management and conservation strategies like restocking economically important fish species, establishing and maintaining fish sanctuaries, banning indiscriminate fishing and destructive fishing gears, identification and protection of the breeding and nursery grounds should be taken into consideration with utmost priority.

Keywords:

Biodiversity
Coastal region
Diversity index
IUCN
Conservation

How to Cite

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INTRODUCTION

The southern coastal rivers of Bangladesh are categorized by high levels of commercial fish catch which has direct contribution to the economy of the country (Islam, 2003; Sharker et al., 2015a). However, nowadays the riverine systems of southern Bangladesh have suffered from intense tourism and human intervention resulting in habitat loss and

degradation, and as a consequence, wild fish populations have seriously declined in rivers and streams of this vast area (Sarkar et al., 2012; Siddik et al., 2013). The main causes behind the loss of fish diversity are over-exploitation augmented by various ecological changes and degradation of natural habitats, water abstraction, rampant installation of industries, introduction of exotic species, pollution and global climate change which led to the endangerment of

many species, including endemic fishes (Rao et al., 2014; Sharker et al., 2015b; Siddik et al., 2014). Moreover, sporadic measurement of water salinity along coastal fringe indicates intrusion of saline water in many areas (Khan et al., 2006). Anecdotal evidence also indicates that increased saltwater intrusion from the Bay of Bengal into the coastal region poses an imminent threat to coastal ecosystems and their biodiversity (Khan et al., 2006). As a result, a total of 54 fish species of Bangladesh have been declared as threatened by IUCN Bangladesh (2013) of which 12 species are recorded as critically endangered, 28 species are endangered and the remaining 14 species are vulnerable. This situation clearly indicates the need of detailed biodiversity study is imperative to assess the present status and sustainable management of water resources in southern Bangladesh (Galib et al., 2013; Siddik et al., 2013).

A scientific understanding of different management strategies to conserve biodiversity, fish abundance along with their natural distribution is essential to back up their optimum exploitation (Fu et al., 2003; Prpa et al., 2007; Eros and Scmera, 2010; Rao et al., 2014). Diversity index provides more information than simply the amount of species present in a particular waterbody which acts as an important tool that gives pivotal information on scarcity and commonness of species in a community. Over the decades, substantial research has been done on the systematics, biogeographical and ecological aspects of the inland fishes in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. However, actions to conserve fish biodiversity in the rivers are lacking. In this study, we attempt to collect information on fish biodiversity in the southern coastal areas of Bangladesh. The purposes of the present study were (1) to characterize the status of fish biodiversity; (2) to review the main threats to fish biodiversity; and (3) to provide recommendations for fish biodiversity conservation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The survey extended for one year from January to December 2014 in order to collect fishery data in four southern central coastal districts of Bangladesh. They are Pirojpur, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna located between latitude 21°47' to 22°52' North and longitude 89°02' to 90°55' East (Fig. 1). Previous statistics (Hossain et al., 2012; Chowdhury et al., 2010) indicates that fish catch is relatively high in full moon and new moon, and therefore sampling schedule was made considering the time of full moon and new moon of southern Bangladesh. Data were collected from various sites especially from fish sellers in fish markets, fishing spots and questionnaire discussion with fishermen in fishing community. Fishes were also purchased from the fishermen at the fishing spots. However, species which seemed difficult to identify at a fishing spot were preserved

in 7 to 10% buffered formalin solution and transported to the Laboratory of the Faculty of Fisheries, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh, for identification and further study.

Water characteristics in study areas

A wide range of salinity fluctuation (0.20-17.58 ppt) is recorded in four coastal districts of southern Bangladesh and it varied from location to location and season to season. Maximum water salinity was observed in pre-monsoon, whereas minimum was in monsoon for entire four coastal districts. It was noticed that water salinity started increasing from post-monsoon and continued to increase in pre-monsoon, when it reached the highest level. The highest (19.8 ppt) water salinity was measured in pre-monsoon at the Andarmanik River, Kalapara in the Patuakhali district, while the lowest (0.2 ppt) was in monsoon at the Swarupkati River in the Pirojpur district.

Identification of the fishes

Fish fauna collected from the study areas were identified based on their morphometric and meristic characters following Rahman (2005) and Eschmeyer (2014). After identification, fish species were systematically classified according to Nelson (2006).

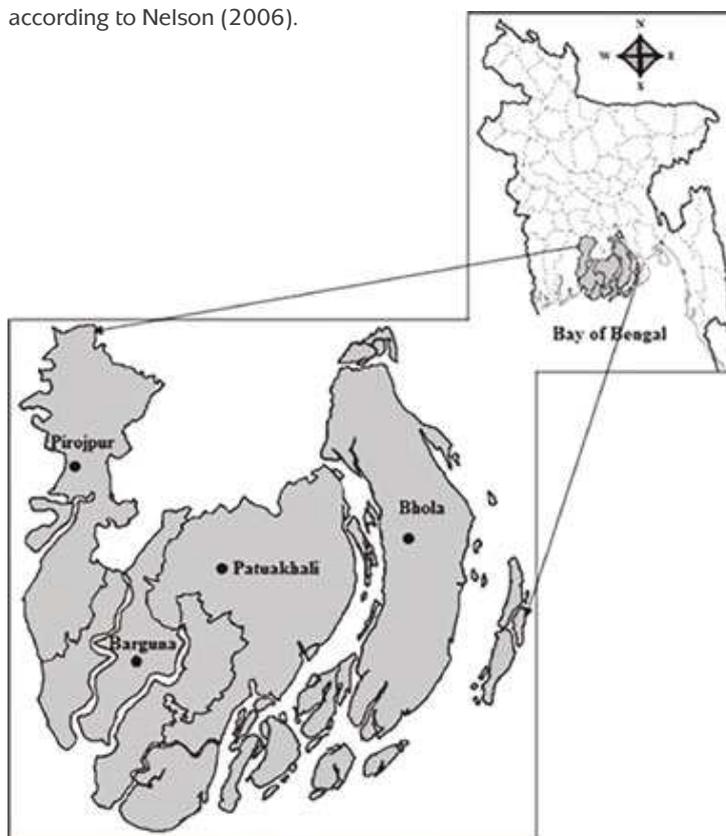


Fig 1. MAP showing the study area of four coastal districts in southern coastal region of Bangladesh

Table 1. Biodiversity and conservation status of fish fauna recorded at four southern coastal districts of Bangladesh for a period of one year from January to December 2014 (see Appendix 1)

| Order | Family | Species | English name | Conservation Status | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| | | | | Bangladesh* | Global** |
| Anguilliformes | Muraenesocidae | <i>Congresox talabon</i> | Yellow pike conger | NO | NA |
| Aulopiformes | Synodontidae | <i>Harpadon nehereus</i> | Bombay duck | NA | NA |
| Clupeiformes | Clupeidae | <i>Anodontostoma chacunda</i> | Chacunda gizzard shad | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Gudusia chapra</i> | Indian river shad | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> | Hilsha | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Tenualosa toli</i> | Toli shad | NA | NA |
| | Dussumieriidae | <i>Dussumieria elopsoides</i> | Slender rainbow sardine | NA | NA |
| | Engraulidae | <i>Coilia neglecta</i> | Neglected grenadier anchovy | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Setipinna phasa</i> | Gangetic hairfin anchovy | NO | LC |
| | Pristigasteridae | <i>Pellona ditchela</i> | Indian pellona | | LC |
| Cyprinodontiformes | Belontiidae | <i>Xenentodon cancila</i> | Needle fish | NA | LC |
| | | <i>Dermogenys pussilus</i> | Wrestling halfback | NA | LC |
| Cypriniformes | Cyprinidae | <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> | Mola carplet | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Barbonymus gonionotus</i> | Silver barb | EX | LC |
| | | <i>Catla catla</i> | Catla | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> | Mrigal carp | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> | Grass carp | EX | LC |
| | | <i>Cyprinus carpio var. communis</i> | Common carp | EX | LC |
| | | <i>Cyprinus carpio var. specularis</i> | Mirror carp | EX | LC |
| | | <i>Esomus danricus</i> | Flying Barb | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> | Silver carp | EX | NT |
| | | <i>Labeo gonius</i> | Kuria labeo | EN | LC |
| | | <i>Labeo calbasu</i> | Orangefin labeo | EN | LC |
| | | <i>Labeo rohita</i> | Roho labeo | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Labeo pangusia</i> | Pangusia labeo | CR | LC |
| | | <i>Labeo bata</i> | Bata labeo | EN | LC |
| | | <i>Mylopharyngodon piceus</i> | Black Chinese roach | EX | LC |
| | | <i>Osteobrama cotio</i> | Cotio | EN | LC |
| | <i>Systemus sarana</i> | Olive barb | CR | LC | |
| | <i>Puntius sophore</i> | Pool barb | NO | LC | |
| | <i>Pethia ticto</i> | Ticto barb | VU | LC | |
| | | Cobitidae | <i>Lepidocephalichthys guntea</i> | Guntea loach | NO |
| Mugiliformes | Mugilidae | <i>Chelon suviridis</i> | Greenback mullet | NA | LC |
| | | <i>Chelon parsia</i> | Gold-spot mullet | NA | LC |
| | | <i>Rhinomugil corsula</i> | Corsula mullet | NO | LC |
| Osteoglossiformes | Notopteridae | <i>Chitala chitala</i> | Humped featherback | EN | NT |
| | | <i>Notopterus notopterus</i> | Grey featherback | VU | LC |

Table 1. Continued

| Order | Family | Species | English name | Conservation Status | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| | | | | Bangladesh* | Global** |
| Perciformes | Ambassidae | <i>Chanda nama</i> | Elongate glass perch | VU | LC |
| | | <i>Parambassis ranga</i> | Indian glassy fish | VU | LC |
| | Anabantidae | <i>Anabas testudineus</i> | Climbing perch | NO | DD |
| | Belontiidae | <i>Trichogaster fasciata</i> | Striped gourami | NO | LC |
| | Carangidae | <i>Scomberoides tol</i> | Needlescaled queenfish | NA | NA |
| | Channidae | <i>Channa marulius</i> | Giant snakehead | EN | LC |
| | | <i>Channa gachua</i> | Asiatic snakehead | VU | NA |
| | | <i>Channa punctata</i> | Spotted snakehead | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Channa striata</i> | Banded snakehead | NO | LC |
| | Cichlidae | <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> | Mozambique tilapia | EX | NT |
| | | <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> | Nile tilapia | EX | LC |
| | Drepaneidae | <i>Drepane punctata</i> | Spotted sicklefish | NA | NA |
| | Eleotridae | <i>Elotris fusca</i> | Dusky sleeper | NA | LC |
| | Gobiidae | <i>Apocryptes bato</i> | Mudskipper | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Glossogobius giuris</i> | Tank goby | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Taenioides anguillaris</i> | Eel worm goby | NA | LC |
| | Latidae | <i>Lates calcarifer</i> | Seabass | NA | NA |
| | Lobotidae | <i>Labotes surinamensis</i> | Tripletail | NA | NA |
| | Lutjanidae | <i>Lutjanus madras</i> | Indian snapper | NA | NA |
| | Nemipteridae | <i>Nemipterus japonicus</i> | Japanese threadfin bream | NA | NA |
| | Nandidae | <i>Nandus nandus</i> | Mud perch | VU | LC |
| | Polynemidae | <i>Eleutheronema tetradactylum</i> | Fourfinger threadfin | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Polynemus paradiseus</i> | Paradise threadfin | NO | NA |
| | Scatophagidae | <i>Scatophagus argus</i> | Spotted butterfish | EN | LC |
| | Sciaenidae | <i>Johnius argentatus</i> | Silver jew | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Johnius carutta</i> | Karut croaker | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Nibea soldado</i> | Silver jew | NA | NA |
| | Scombridae | <i>Euthynnus affinis</i> | Mackerel tuna | NA | LC |
| | | <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> | Skipjack tuna | NA | LC |
| | | <i>Pelamys chiliensis</i> | Pacific bonito | NA | LC |
| | Stromateidae | <i>Pampus chinensis</i> | Chinese pomfret | NA | NA |
| | Sillaginidae | <i>Sillaginopsis panijus</i> | Lady fish | NA | NA |
| Siganidae | <i>Siganus javus</i> | Streaked spinefoot | NA | NA | |
| Sparidae | <i>Acanthopagrus chinshira</i> | Yellowfin seabream | NA | NT | |
| Trichiuridae | <i>Trichiurus mutica</i> | Ribbon fish | NA | NA | |
| Rajiformes | Dasyatidae | <i>Himantura bleekeri</i> | String ray | NA | VU |
| Scorpaeniformes | Platycephalidae | <i>Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus</i> | Bluespotted flathead | NA | NA |

Table 1. Continued

| Order | Family | Species | English name | Conservation Status | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | | | Bangladesh* | Global** |
| Siliuriformes | Ariidae | <i>Arius gagora</i> | Gagora catfish | DD | NT |
| | | <i>Ketengus typus</i> | Bigmouth sea-catfish | NA | NA |
| | | <i>Sperata aor</i> | Long-whiskered catfish | VU | LC |
| | Bagridae | <i>Mystus cavasius</i> | Gangetic tengra | VU | LC |
| | | <i>Mystus tengara</i> | Tengra mystus | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Mystus vittatus</i> | Striped river catfish. | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Rita rita</i> | Rita | CR | LC |
| | Clariidae | <i>Clarias magur</i> | Air breathing catfish | NO | LC |
| | | <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> | African sharp-tooth catfish | NO | LC |
| | Plotosidae | <i>Plotosus canius</i> | Gray eel-catfish | VU | NA |
| | Heteropneustidae | <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> | Stinging cat fish | NO | LC |
| | Loricariidae | <i>Hyostomus plecostomus</i> | Sucker mouth catfish | EX | NA |
| | Pangasiidae | <i>Pangasianodon hypophthalmus</i> | Siamese shark | EX | EN |
| | | <i>Pangasius pangasius</i> | River pungus | CR | LC |
| | Schilbeidae | <i>Ailia coila</i> | Gangetic ailia | VU | NT |
| | | <i>Clupisoma garua</i> | Garua bachcha | CR | LC |
| | | <i>Silonia silondia</i> | Silond catfish | EN | LC |
| | Siluridae | <i>Ompok pabda</i> | Pabdah catfish | EN | NT |
| | | <i>Wallago attu</i> | Freshwater shark | NO | NT |
| | Synbranchiformes | Mastacembelidae | <i>Macragnathus aral</i> | One striped spiny eel | VU |
| <i>Macragnathus pancalus</i> | | | Striped spiny eel | NO | LC |
| <i>Mastacembelus armatus</i> | | | Tire track eel | EN | LC |
| Tetraodontiformes | Balistidae | <i>Abalistes stellaris</i> | Trigger fish | NA | NA |
| | Tetraodontidae | <i>Leiodon cutcutia</i> | Gangaetic puffer fish | NO | LC |

Note: CR-Critically Endangered, EN- Endangered, VU- Vulnerable, NT-Near Threatened, NO-Not Threatened, LC- Least Concern, DD- Data Deficient, NA- Not Assessed and EX-Exotic. According to * IUCN Bangladesh, 2013 and ** Eschmeyer, 2014.

Data Analyses

Shannon–Wiener index (H) is an insensitive measure of the character of the S:N (total number of individuals of one species and total number of individuals of all species) relationship and is dominated by the abundant species. The diversity index was calculated by using the Shannon–Wiener diversity index (1949).

Shannon-Weaver diversity index (H),

$$H = - \sum P_i \ln P_i$$

Where, $P_i = S / N$

S = number of individuals of one species

N = total number of all individuals in the sample

Evenness is a measure of the relative abundance of different species making up the richness of an area, which is measured

by using the following formula:

$$E = e^H / S$$

Simpson's dominance index (D) is often used to quantify the biodiversity of habitat which takes into account the number of species, as well as the abundance of each species.

Formula used for calculating is:

$$D = \sum n_i(n_i-1) / N(N-1)$$

Where, n_i is the total number of individuals of a particular species and N is the total number of individuals of all species.

Margalef's index (d) (Margalef, 1968) was used to measure species richness by the following formula:

$$d = (S-1) / \ln N$$

Where, S is the number of species and N is the number of individuals in the sample.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study on fish diversity in the southern coastal waters of Bangladesh recorded a total of 98 fish species including 10 exotic species and 5 native carps. The conservation status of these species along with their order, family and English name are presented in Table 1.

The percent composition of families, genera and species under various orders are placed in Table 2. The dominant order was Perciformes comprising 35.71% of all the number of species recorded. Nearest dominant orders were Cypriniformes, Siluriformes and Clupeiformes comprising 20.41%, 19.39% and 8.16%, respectively. Anguilliformes, Aulopiformes, Rajiformes and Scorpaeniformes were the least dominant species, comprising 1.02% individually. The maximum number of fish species in the study was recorded during the winter season. This is because of water depth reduced to the minimum level due to insufficient rainfall during this time, allowing fishermen to utilize their fishing gears more effectively. Similar outcome was also reported by Rao et al. (2014) who has recorded the highest fish diversity in winter. The lowest numbers of species were recorded during the month of June and July due to heavy rain during this time which makes fishing very difficult as water level reached its maximum level. Moreover, the order Perciformes was found to be the most diversified fish group in terms of both number of species and individuals recorded, followed by Cypriniformes and Siluriformes. These three groups are also the most dominant groups in freshwater bodies of Bangladesh (Rahman, 2005).

In the present study, the dominant family was Cyprinidae comprising 19 species (Table 1), which was about 19.39% of the total number of species caught. Other diversified families were Bagridae (5.15% species), Clupeidae, Channidae and Schilbeidae (4.12% species each), and Mugilidae, Sciaenidae, Scombridae and Mastacembelidae (3.09%), respectively. Cyprinidae represented major contribution with large number of species in respect to numerical composition in different open water bodies reported by Ahsan et al. (2014) and Rao et al. (2014), which supports the findings of the present study. 12 exotic species were recorded under the order of Cypriniformes, Perciformes and Siluriformes during the study period. The exotic species were grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), Thai sharpunti (*Barbonymus gonionotus*), Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio var communis*), mirror carp (*Cyprinus carpio var specularies*), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*), nilotica (*Oreochromis niloticus*), sucker mouth catfish (*Hypostomus plecostomus*) and Thai pangas (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*). Furthermore, the order Perciformes was found to be the most dominant fish group in terms of total number of individuals observed. Maximum of 97 species were recorded from the Patuakhali district, 95 from the Pirojpur district, and from Barguna and Bhola 85 and 82, respectively (Table 3). Within the collected fish samples, critically endangered data were the highest in the Patuakhali and Pirojpur districts each containing 5 in numbers, and the lowest in Bhola and Barguna (both were 2). The endangered species are highest in Patuakhali and

Table 2. Number and percent composition of families, genera and species under various orders of fishes recorded in the southern coastal waters of Bangladesh

| Order | No. of family | No. of genera | No. of species | % Family | % Genera | % Species |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Anguilliformes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2.13 | 1.23 | 1.02 |
| Aulopiformes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2.13 | 1.23 | 1.02 |
| Clupeiformes | 4 | 7 | 8 | 8.33 | 8.64 | 8.16 |
| Cyprinodontiformes | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2.08 | 2.47 | 2.04 |
| Cypriniformes | 2 | 14 | 20 | 4.17 | 17.28 | 20.41 |
| Mugiliformes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2.08 | 2.47 | 3.06 |
| Osteoglossiformes | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2.08 | 2.47 | 2.04 |
| Perciformes | 23 | 30 | 35 | 47.92 | 37.04 | 35.71 |
| Rajiformes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2.13 | 1.23 | 1.02 |
| Scorpaeniformes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2.13 | 1.23 | 1.02 |
| Siluriformes | 9 | 16 | 19 | 18.75 | 19.75 | 19.39 |
| Synbranchiformes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2.13 | 2.47 | 3.06 |
| Tetradontiformes | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4.17 | 2.47 | 2.04 |

Pirojpur comprising 10 each, whereas in Bhola and Barguna the species numbers were 9 and 8, respectively. The vulnerable species were highest in Patuakhali and Pirojpur (both were 11), while Bhola and Barguna consisted of 10 and 9 in number, respectively (Fig. 2).

Table 3. Total number of species and specimens recorded including exotic species and native carp from southern coastal waters of Bangladesh

| Study Area | Total number of species (S) | Total number of individuals (N) | Exotic species | Native carp |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Pirojpur | 95 | 65323 | 10 | 5 |
| Bhola | 82 | 50261 | 9 | 5 |
| Patuakhali | 97 | 64163 | 9 | 5 |
| Barguna | 85 | 44885 | 9 | 5 |

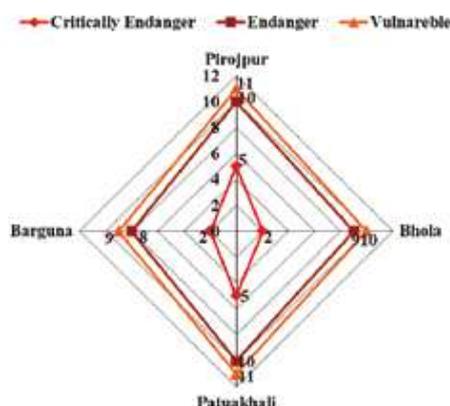


Fig 2. Number of species under different categories of threat as per IUCN 2013 in the coastal waters of Bangladesh

Diversity index, richness and evenness

The district-wise values of Shannon–Wiener index (H), Simpson’s dominance index (D), Simpson’s index of diversity (1-D) and Margalef’s index (d) are shown in Fig. 3. However, considering all the specimens studied during the period of study, the values of Shannon–Wiener index (H) were higher in Patuakhali (about 3.70) than Pirojpur (3.64), and lower in Bhola and Barguna (both were 3.54). Evenness (E) was higher in Bhola and Patuakhali (each 0.42), and Barguna (about 0.41) and lower in Pirojpur (about 0.40) (Fig. 4). Average richness within 13 orders, perciformes were shown higher and range from 0.15 to 0.12. Nearest orders, including cypriniformes (0.08 to 0.09), siluriformes (0.07 to 0.08) and clupeiformes (0.03 to 0.04) and Tetradontiformes, showed

the lowest value which was almost nil in the Bhola and Barguna districts (Fig. 5).

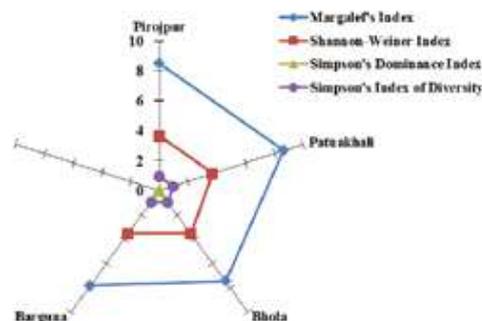


Fig 3. Different fisheries diversity index at sampling site of four coastal districts in Bangladesh

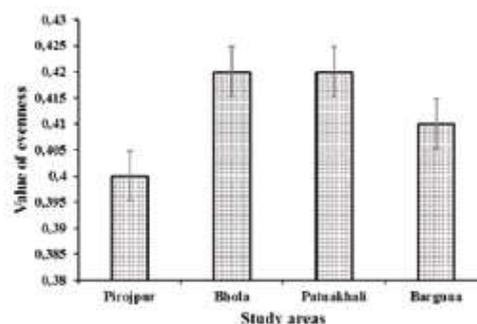


Fig 4. Evenness of fish diversity in four coastal districts of Bangladesh

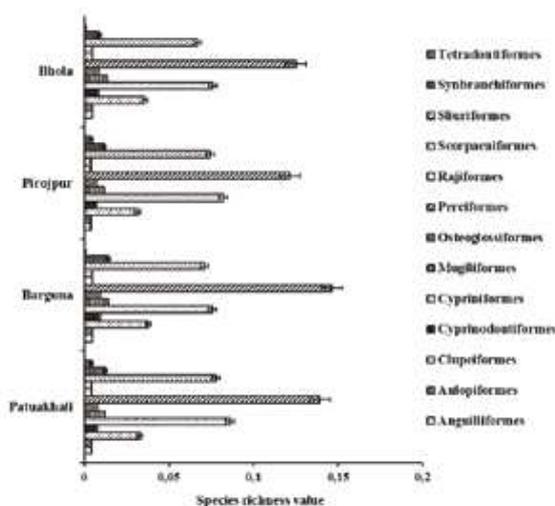


Fig 5. Average species richness under various orders in four coastal districts of Bangladesh

The value of a diversity index increases when both the number of species and evenness increases in a population. The value of the Shannon–Wiener index (H) usually ranges from 1.5 to 3.5 for ecological data and hardly exceeds 4.0, which is mostly related with our calculated data. May (1975) stated that if species follow a normal abundance distribution, the sample must have to hold 100,000 species for Shannon–Wiener index (H) to be greater than 5.0. Simpson's dominance index (D) value ranges from 0.05–0.04 and Simpson's index of diversity (I-D) depends on Simpson's dominance index (D). This partial difference may be due to the temporal variation of dominance status among all sampling areas. The Margalef's index (d) of richness value ranges from 7.48–8.67, which is not much different from Hossain et al. (2012) who recorded maximum Margalef's index (d) of 6.75 and lowest of 6.10. Diversity index and richness showed that diversity of fish species was higher in the district of Patuakhali and lower in Bhola. Figure 4 shows that the fish species of Patuakhali and Bhola are more similar than the Pirojpur and Barguna districts. Simpson's dominance index (D) is heavily weighted towards the most abundant species in the sample, while being less sensitive to species richness. Simpson's index of diversity (I-D) was higher in the Patuakhali and Pirojpur districts than in other districts. Though a number of studies on the biodiversity of fishes have been conducted around the world (Goswami et al., 2012; Rixon et al., 2005; Shinde et al., 2009; William et al., 2010), in Bangladesh such studies are much more limited (Hossain et al., 2012; Rahman et al., 2012). But all these research efforts in Bangladesh, except Hossain et al. (2012), are lacking analyses of diversity indices in which many studies have been completed in different parts of the world (Penczak et al., 1994; Nyanti et al., 2012).

Threats

Over the decade, ever increasing anthropogenic and natural hazards squeeze the species distribution across the country and subsequently many species are categorized as endangered in Bangladesh (IUCN Bangladesh, 2013). A large number of catadromous, anadromous and diadromous fishes use the southern coastal waters of Bangladesh seasonally as a major breeding, feeding and migratory routes conjoining with the Bay of Bengal (Sharker et al., 2015b). But in the last few years the riverine ecosystems within this area have changed considerably due to human intervention, intense tourism, pollution and even global climate change consequences which have resulted in destruction of migratory routes, altered wild ecosystems and deteriorated water quality in these areas (Hossain et al., 2013; IUCN Bangladesh, 2013; Hossain et al., 2014). These factors also rendered physiological characteristics such as body morphology and growth rate of many fishes (Froese, 2006; Tomljanović et al., 2011). Furthermore, indiscriminate harvesting of fry and fingerlings,

habitat modification, reduced water flow, growing human intervention on wetlands are also considered as significant threats for dwindling species diversity (Chaklader et al., 2014; Hossain et al., 2015). Habitat loss through divergence of coastal rivers and streams for irrigation is probably the most important factor that threatens a species in its wide geographical range.

Conservation recommendations

There is a growing awareness that a large number of fish fauna in the southern coastal region of Bangladesh are out of assessment due to insufficient scientific study. Therefore, a thorough study on species structure, along with their life history and reproductive biology, is imminent to conserve the biodiversity of fish species in this area (Hossain et al., 2015). Declaration of some parts of coastal region as “fish sanctuary” could be the effective step for conservation of threatened species. Moreover, systematic dredging especially in some main points of the coastal areas, introduction of fish bypasses to ease fish movement is also imperative as a sustainable management strategy (Meyer and Hinrichs, 2000; Carpio et al., 2011). Fishing practice during spawning season and use of illegal and destructive fishing gears must be banned. The most important conservational aspect of biodiversity conservation of coastal resources is to create awareness in stake holders through proper communication, cooperation and education. Furthermore, financial assistance from government and donor agencies is crucial with the intention of commencing further studies, research, monitoring and raising awareness among the fishermen for the conservation of fish diversity in the coastal area of Bangladesh.

To sum up, since the fish and fisheries in this region supports the sustenance and livelihood of thousands of millions of marginal poor people, especially fishermen, government should step up with long-term conservation strategies to retain sustainable production from the southern coastal waters of Bangladesh.

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Sažetak

RAZNOLIKOST IHTIOFAUNE JUŽNIH OBALNIH VODA BANGLADEŠA: POSTOJEĆE STANJE, PRIJETNJE I MOGUĆNOSTI OČUVANJA

Unatoč visokoj ugroženosti brojnim antropogenim i

ekološkim faktorima koji utječu na ribolovne resurse, južne priobalne vode se još uvijek smatraju jednom od vodenih vrućih točki biološke raznolikosti u Bangladešu. Ova je studija provedena da bi se utvrdila brojnost riba, ocijenilo njihovo stanje i status zaštite u rijekama koje se prostiru preko četiri južne priobalne oblasti Bangladeša. Tijekom istraživanja, u razdoblju od siječnja do prosinca 2014. godine, zabilježeno je ukupno 98 vrsta riba koje pripadaju 81 rodu, 48 porodica i 13 rodova. Najveću raznolikost u broju jedinki i broju vrsta utvrđena je kod skupine Perciformes. Od 98 vrsta, 26,53% su navedene kao lokalno ugrožene u Bangladešu, uključujući 11,22% vrsta koje su navedene kao ranjive, 10,20% kao ugrožena i 5,10% kao kritično ugrožene. Pri istraživanju četiri populacije utvrđeni su Shannon-Wiener indeks (H), Simpsonov indeks dominacije (D), Simpsonov indeks raznolikosti (1-D) i Margalefov indeks (d) kako bi se utvrdila raznolikost i bogatstvo vrsta u području istraživanja, čija je ukupna vrijednost iznosila 3,54-3,70, 0,04-0,05, 0,95-0,96 7,48-8,67. Za održanje perspektive ribarske bioraznolikosti u južnim priobalnim područjima Bangladeša, treba uzeti u obzir s najvećim prioritetom strategiju upravljanja i očuvanja kao i poribljavanja gospodarski važnih vrsta riba, uz uspostavljanje i održavanje ribljih skloništa, te zabranu nekritičnog ribolova i destruktivnih ribolovnih alata, identifikaciju i zaštitu područja mrijesta i rastilišta.

Ključne riječi: Biodiverzitet, obalno područje, indeks diverziteta, IUCN, konzervacija

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APPENDIX 1. Typical specimens of several fish species from Bangladesh (captured by Md Abu Hanif and Md Reaz Chaklader)



Congresox talabon (Cuvier, 1829)



Anodontostoma chacunda (Hamilton, 1822)



Tenualosa ilisha (Hamilton, 1822)



Dussumieria elopoides (Bleeker, 1849)



Coilia neglecta (Whitehead, 1967)



Xenentodon cancila (Hamilton, 1822)



Liza parsia (Hamilton, 1822)



Harpadon nehereus (Hamilton, 1822)



Gudusia chapra (Hamilton, 1822)



Tenualosa toli (Valenciennes, 1847)



Setipinna phasa (Hamilton, 1822)



Pellona ditchela (Valenciennes, 1847)



Eleutheronema tetradactylum



Barbonymus gonionotus (Bleeker, 1850)



Amblypharyngodon mola (F. Hamilton, 1822)



Cirrhinus cirrhosus (Hamilton, 1822)



Systemus sarana (Hamilton, 1822)



Osteobrama cotio (Hamilton, 1822)



Puntius sophore (Hamilton, 1822)



Pethia ticto (Hamilton, 1822)



Chelon subviridis (Valenciennes, 1836)



Lepidocephalichthys guntea (Hamilton, 1822)



Clarias gariepinus



Leiodon cutcutia



Nandus nandus



Channa gachua



Polynemus paradiseus



Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus



Acanthopagrus chinshira



Rita rita



Ompok pabda



Mystus vittatus



Labeo calbasu



Chitala chitala



Chanda nama



Parambassis ranga



Mastacembelus armatus



Macrornathus aral



Sperata aor



Clupisoma garua



Labeo gonius



Silonia silondia



Notopterus notopterus



Ailia coila



Trichogaster fasciata



Scatophagus argus



Johnius carutta



Channa striata



Wallago attu



Nibea soldado



Abalistes stellaris



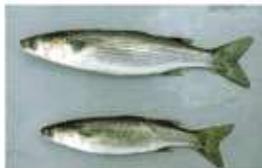
Plotosus canius



Eleotris fusca (Forster, 1801)



Sillaginopsis panijus



Chelon parsia (Hamilton, 1822)



Apocryptes bato (Hamilton, 1822)



Clarias magur



Euthynnus affinis



Hypostomus plecostomus



Scomberoides tol