



A Preliminary Study On Death Of Fish Chela Sp. (Hamilton) In Dyneshawar Sagar Mulanagar, Rahuri, Dist Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)

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Abstract:

The total area brought under fish culture in the Ahmednagar district is 2,552 hectares. Dyneshawar sagar (Mula dam), Mulanagar, Rahuri is one of the major fresh water resources used for natural & artificial fishing. Fishing nets found to be used for fishing. Besides fishing nets; fish baits, dynamite palates may possibly used for fishing that may be the reason of death of fish Chela sps. In the present project survey conducted to collect the dead fishes along the bank of darn water. The water of mula dam also being polluted by local tourist. This study only highlights toward the irrational, cruel methods of fishing and cruelty against fishes and other aquatic animals.

Key words: dyneshawar sagar, rahuri, fish death, Chela sp.

1.Introduction

Maharashtra State is endowed with 3, 77,905 ha. Water spread area under 192 large & medium projects, 2065 minor irrigation projects and 31,415 zilla parishad tanks. Excluding protected water bodies 3, 18,548 ha. Water spread area has been brought under fish culture. To avail the quality fish seed of Indian Major Carps (IMC) and exotic carps State Govt. has established centers, out of which 28 centers have circular hatchery setup. Fresh Water Fishery in Maharashtra State more or less 6 varieties of fishes like Indian Major Carps - Catla, Rohu, Mrugal, Exotic carps- Silver carp, Grass carp, common carp-Cyprinus. The quality seed of Catla, Rohu, Mrigal, silver carp, Grass carp, common carp i. e. Cyprinus is made available at respective fish seed farms/hatcheries. In all over the State above all varieties are cultivated³.

The Ahmednagar district consists of 14 tahesils of which Rahuri taluka is located on bank of Mula River. Rahuri is a small town located on the north of Ahmadnagar city in the state of Maharashtra in India. Its latitude is 19° 23' north and longitude is 74° 39' east. On the Mula river at Mulanagr near Mahatama Phule Agricultural University Mula dam is constructed which supplies drinking water to Rahuri and Ahmednagar City. The water is also utilized for purpose of irrigation. The Ahmednagar district is not richly endowed with fluvial waters. The fishing activities in the district are naturally restricted to inland waters only, rivers, tanks and ponds being the chief sources. The total area brought under fish culture in the district is 2,552 hectares; Fish-catch from revering resources comprises mainly cat-fishes and local minor fishes. The important varieties of fishes² occurring naturally in the water resources of the district are as follows-

- CARPS- family- Cyprinidae - Puntius kolus (Sykes)-Kolshi, Puntius jerdoni (Day) -Panghat, Rasbora daniconius (Ham)- Dandwat, Oxygaster clupeoides (BI.) - Alkut, Labeo fimbriatus (B1.) -Tambir, Labeo rohita (Ham) -Rohu, Cirrhina mrigala (Ham.)- Mrigal, Catla catla (Ham. Buch) - Catla, Chela sp. (Ham) , Ambali,
 - CAT FISHES — family — Siluridae- Wallago attu (Bi) - Shivda,
 - LOACHES- family- Channidae- Noemacheilus Sp. - Muri,
 - SNAKE HEADED FISHES- Channa marulius (Ham)- Murrel,
 - SPINY EELS- family- Mastacembellidae- Mastacembelus Sp.-Wambat.
- Bold letters indicate their vernacular Marathi names.

The Chela fish belongs to the order Cypriniformes, family Cyprinidae, and Genus Chela species laubuca. It is native Indian glass barb⁵. It is commonly known as Ambali in Marathi. There are 1,107 fishermen in the district, out of whom 455 are full-time workers and 652 are part-time workers. Most of these fishermen are Pardeshi Bhois and Kahars. The varieties of fish found in the district do not, however, belong to the fast-growing type. As such, under Five-Year Plan schemes, quick-growing “Bengal-carps” are stocked annually in the perennial water tanks for propagation of pisciculture. The varieties stocked are catla-catla, Rohu and Mrigal. During the Second Five-Year Plan period about 14,000 carp fry was stocked, whereas during the first two years of the Third Plan only, the quantity stocked amounted to 20,000¹. According to Maharashtra fishery Department there are three Government Fish Seed Centers / Rearing Units in Ahmednagar district, these are Mulanagar dam, Sina River and Musalwadi Lake. Rearing from June to August practiced at Sina river, Musalwadi lake and Mulanagar dam, however it is also practiced from January to March in Mula dam as the water source is available throughout the year,

The fishing nets found to be used in the district are known as ‘Pagir’ or ‘Phek jal’, Gill net or ‘Phasali Jal’ and Drag net or ‘Pati Jal’. A news on death of fish in Dyneshawar sagar (Mula dam), Mulanagar, Rahuri in daily local news paper² inspired the author to find out the cause of death of the fishes. In the news it was reported that fishes are dying because of some chemicals used by the fisherman to make rice bait for fishing purpose. Hence visited the lower side of the Mulanagar village 7 km away from Rahuri, and visited to Mula dam.

This study only highlights toward the irrational, cruel methods of fishing and cruelty against fishes and other aquatic animals. The shallow streams and pools, such as those at the base of waterfalls, fall victim to the easy availability of dynamite ever since quarrying and road construction began on a grand scale in the country. The shock waves of the blast destroy all fish in the vicinity. Sewage, industrial effluents, chemical fertilizers and pesticides are polluting India’s freshwaters³.

2.Observations

In the month of July visited the Mula dam at about 10.30 am on 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th Sundays being holidays & up to 12.00 pm the author observed & collected dead specimens of *Chela* sp. (local name -Ambali) (TABLE1). The counting was also recorded of Crows picked up dead fishes from water & fed on them. We observed these

dead fishes on one side near the Mulanagar village but same situation was there on the other sites. The dead fishes floating on the water surface, being caught by birds like crows. The photographs were taken with the help of 2 megapixel Nokia camera. The events recorded were of dead fishes coming along with tidal flow get deposited at bank sites of dam and birds like crows feeding on fishes etc

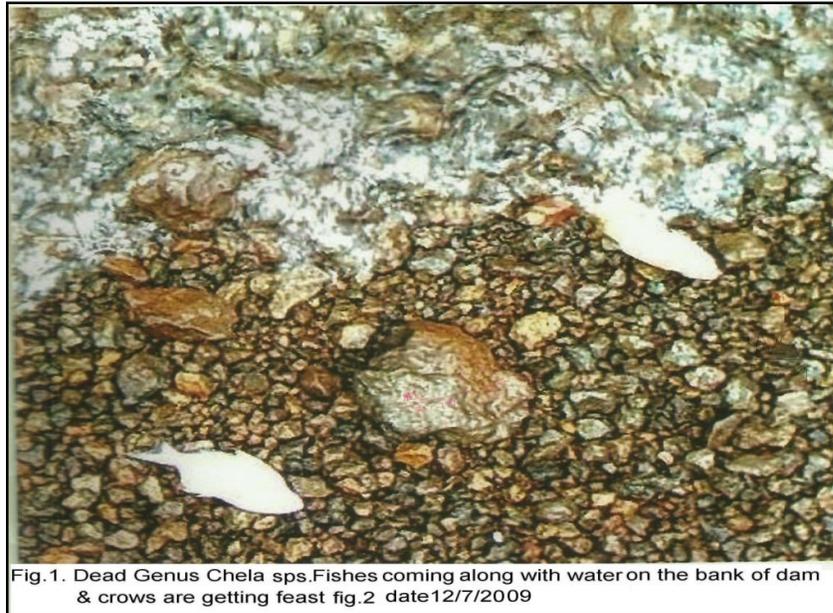


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

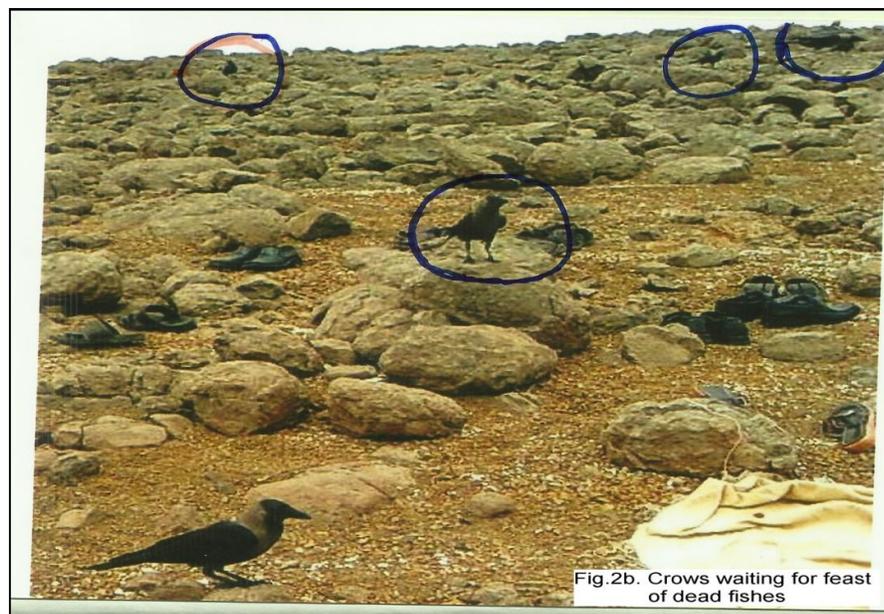


Figure 4

3.Results &Discussion

The exact cause of fish death from site we were unable to find out because irrational practices are always done during very early in the morning at about 4.30 am. But the daughter of the fisherman studying in 5th standard gave the information in front of Head master of the school that her parents use dynamite pallets for fishing. By using explosive pallets deep at the bottom the fishes get paralyzed, and then collected. But we observed

that some fishes were damaged at opercular region and gut area was exposed. She said further they also used bajara grains as baits.

The above information was also supported by person from irrigation department when he was asked the cause. Here it should be noted that all the dead fishes may not be collected by fisherman during fishing, most of them may be thrown away along with the stroke of dynamite. Those not collected move along with tidal water towards bank, being eaten up, caught by birds like Crows. It can not be ignored that some of them may get decay in water causing slow but sure pollution of water. The tourist from near by places like Ahmednagar city, Rahuri city, Sonai, Vambori etc. on holidays are also helping to water pollution by dumping remaining food, plastic bags, plastic water bottles etc. our study supports the news published in daily Sarvamat dated 19th January 2009. The news published in the month of January & we studied the event after about six month. Even after six months period there was no change in the situation. Men made pollutants and activities are also causing water pollution and as reviewed by Sabuj Kumar Chaudhari³ Indian freshwater fisher facing many problems and need to conserve.

Sr.No.	Dates	Average no. of Chela sp. collected at bank of Mula dam	No. dead fishes caught & eaten by birds like crows
1	5-7-2009	40	30
2	12-7-2009	47	38
3	19-7-2009	35	23
4	26-7-009	28	12

Table1: Record of dead fish Chela sp. in Dyneshawar sagar, Mulanagar, Rahuri

4.Reference

1. <http://fisheries.maharashtra.gov.in>
2. The Ahmednagar district Gazetteer- 1 May 1976
3. http://eprints.rclis.org/7903/1/Freshwater_Fish_Diversity_Information_System_as_a_Basis_for_Sustainable_Fishery.pdf Sabuj Kumar Chaudhuri [SRF (UGC) NET]
4. Daily Sarvamat News paper 19th January 2009.
<http://fish.mongabay.com/data/India>.