CHAPTER – 17

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The mahseers are famous game fishes in the Subcontinent of India. Several species inhabit different rivers through the length and breadth of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka. Mahseers have been of considerable importance because of their large size. Inspite of their abundance at one time mahseers are declining very rapidly in their number and sizes in different parts of India. it is necessary, therefore, that this valuable resource is properly managed and propagated both for food and sport. The following recommendations and suggestions are the outcome of present studies on mahseer:

1. The introduction of exotic fishes in natural waters should be restricted.
2. Planners engaged in the construction of dams and irrigation canals must consider the projects, the design of fish ways and fish ladders otherwise on the migratory route of the local fishes will be blocked.
3. Close-season should be strictly observed.
4. The use of poison and dynamites which is legally banned should be enforced.
5. Pollution should be seriously dealt to safe guard the interest not only of fishes but also of humanity in general.
6. Like sanctuaries for wild life, the fish sanctuaries should be designated where occurrence of mahseer is common, eg. Baner stream.
7. Periodic fish surveys, with species wise catch, should be undertaken to formulate the fishery policies.
8. Artificial propagation of fishes should be practiced by constructing the fish hatcheries to maintain the fish population.
9. Annual catches of the threatened designated fish are to be limited by regulating fishing laws., their effective implementation will halt rapid decline of mahseer.
10. Artificial spawning channels should be constructed.
11. Stream habitat should be improved to increase carrying capacity for mahseer.
12. Regular monitoring of population size and structure, abiotic and biotic factors, habitat, environmental degradation and breeding grounds should be done.

13. Removal of bed material should be strictly checked.

**AWARENESS PROGRAMMES**

1. Creating mass awareness to lessen pressure on juveniles and brood fishing in the area.

2. Awareness amongst fishermen to regulate the mesh size to control the fishing of small size fish.

3. Promoting angling on catch and relax basis for performing yearly census.

4. To organize awareness programme of mahseer conservation amongst youth and fishermen through voluntary agencies and NGO'S.

5. Organizing workshops, seminars and symposia at regular intervals preferably by creating a platform at a National level.

6. A comprehensive training programme for seed production of mahseer should be initiated with adequate support from Govt. agencies of State as well as Center.

**ARTIFICIAL PROPAGATION OF MAHSEER THROUGH HATCHERY.**

1. Construction of flow through fish hatcheries according to the topographic features of the area.

2. Stocking of brooders in ponds for 2-3 years to get acclimatized in the confined waters prior to artificial propagation.

3. Seed production on large scale by breeding wild stocks especially in Dehar, Gaj and Baner streams.

4. Seed should be used for artificial stocking in streams to boost population size.

5. Fishing pressure on mahseer fishing can be reduced while promoting other cultivable fish species in the region.

6. Hatcheries should be constructed near the streams, where easy stocking can be done to avoid mortality during transportation.