



# BDP Stakeholder Consultation

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Fisheries and sustainable  
livelihood in the LMB:

Challenge for BDP

BDP = Basin Development Planning



# Values of the Mekong

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Uses of the Mekong...

Hydropower, navigation, irrigation, tourism, fisheries, recreation

Has other often unrecognized uses – soil fertility, wetland ecology, groundwater recharge, biodiversity

Governments need to develop their countries  
– poverty reduction

Usual case is to exploit natural resources first

# Dams in the Mekong

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Development of the Mekong River  
= Hydropower (plus irrigation) = Dams

Dams impact negatively on fisheries...

- Dams block fish migrations
- Change the flood cycle, reduce wetlands
- Alter natural flows in a river
- All these reduce fisheries productivity



# Is the Mekong fishery important?

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- Yield from capture fishery 2-3 million tonnes per year (2-3% of total world capture fishery)
- First sale value in excess of \$2,000 million (5 million people @ \$400/year)
- Capture fishery comes virtually free of cost, renewable every year
- 47-80% of animal protein derived from inland fisheries (47% NE Thai; 48% Lao; 59% Vietnam delta; 80% Cambodia)
- Very important for food security, rural livelihoods (“wealth of the poor”)

# Development trade-offs in the Mekong

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So the equation is

Hydropower and  
irrigation \$\$s



Fisheries \$\$s

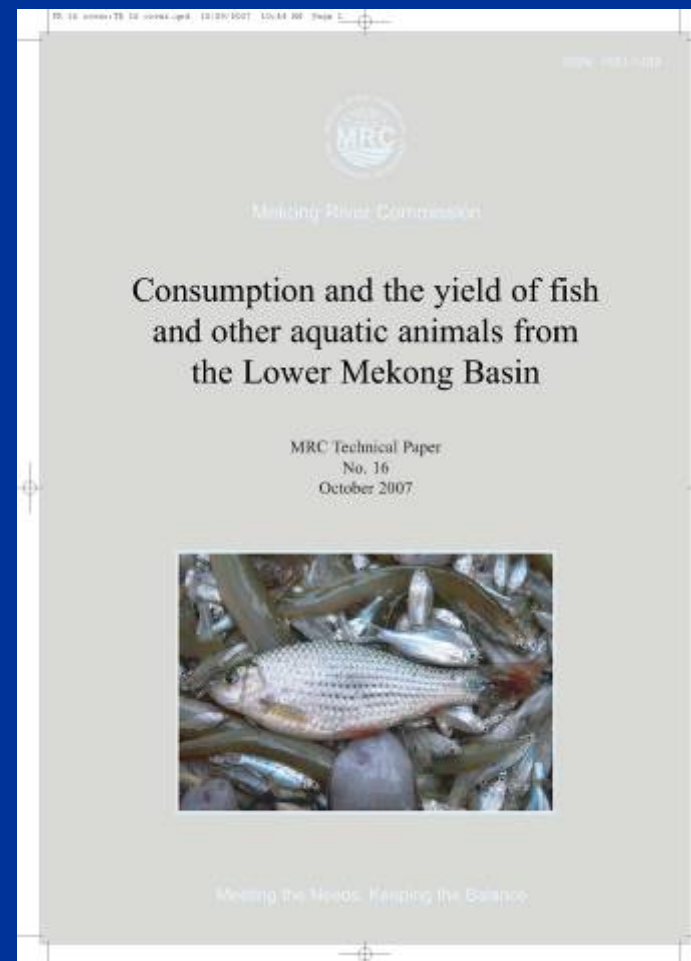
Food production  
Improved living standards  
Secondary industry  
Government revenue

Food security  
Livelihoods  
Biodiversity  
Ecological functioning



# Fisheries Programme contributions to BDP

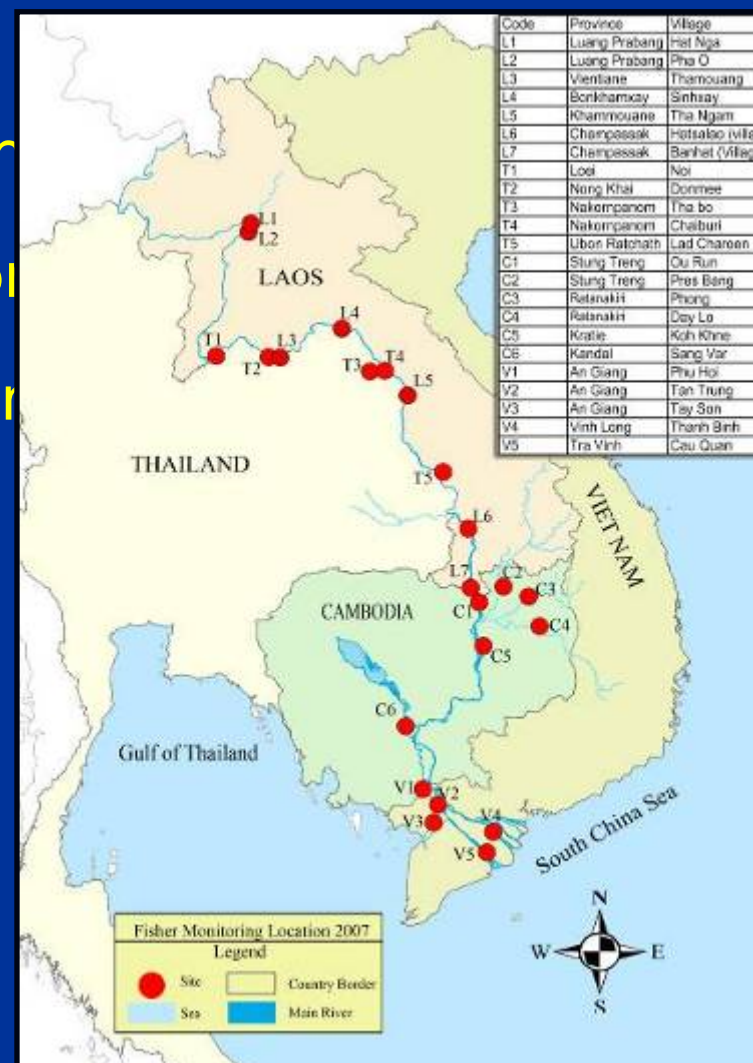
- Refining estimates of fish yields



# Fisheries Programme contributions to BDP

- Refining estimates of fish yields
- Estimating economic value of fish
- Developing hydrology-fisheries p

Abundance and diversity mon

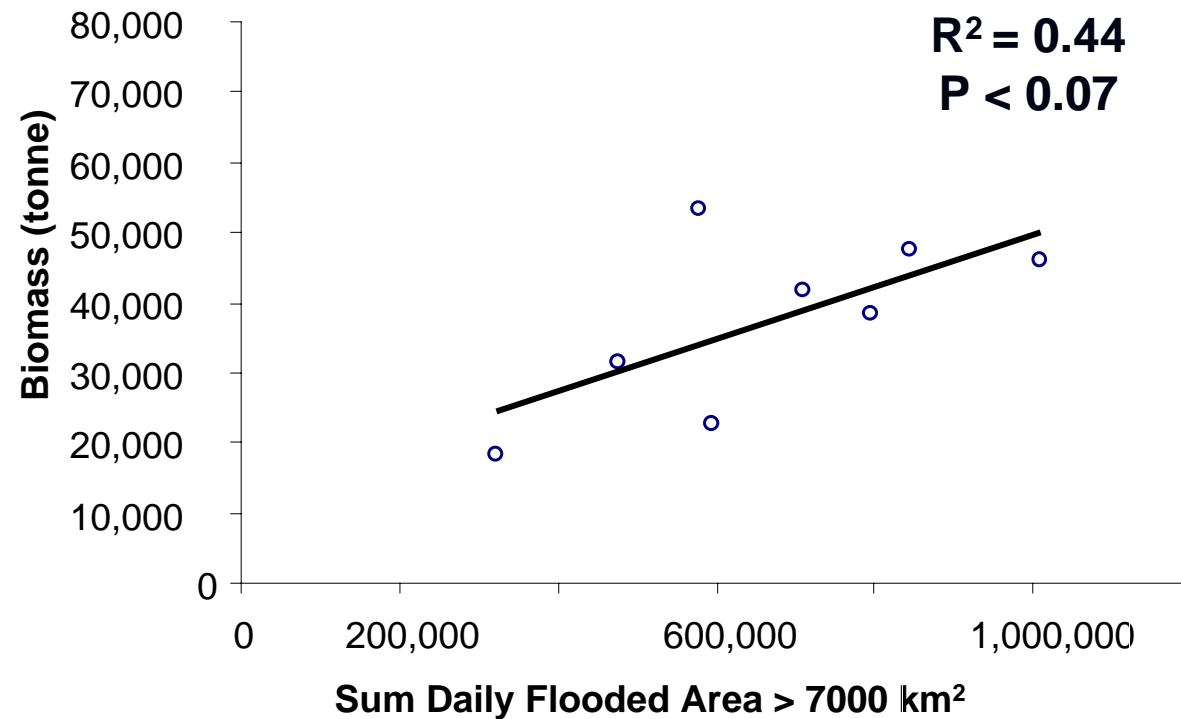


# Fisheries Programme contributions to BDP

- Refining estimates of fish yields
- Estimating economic value of fisheries
- Developing

Abund

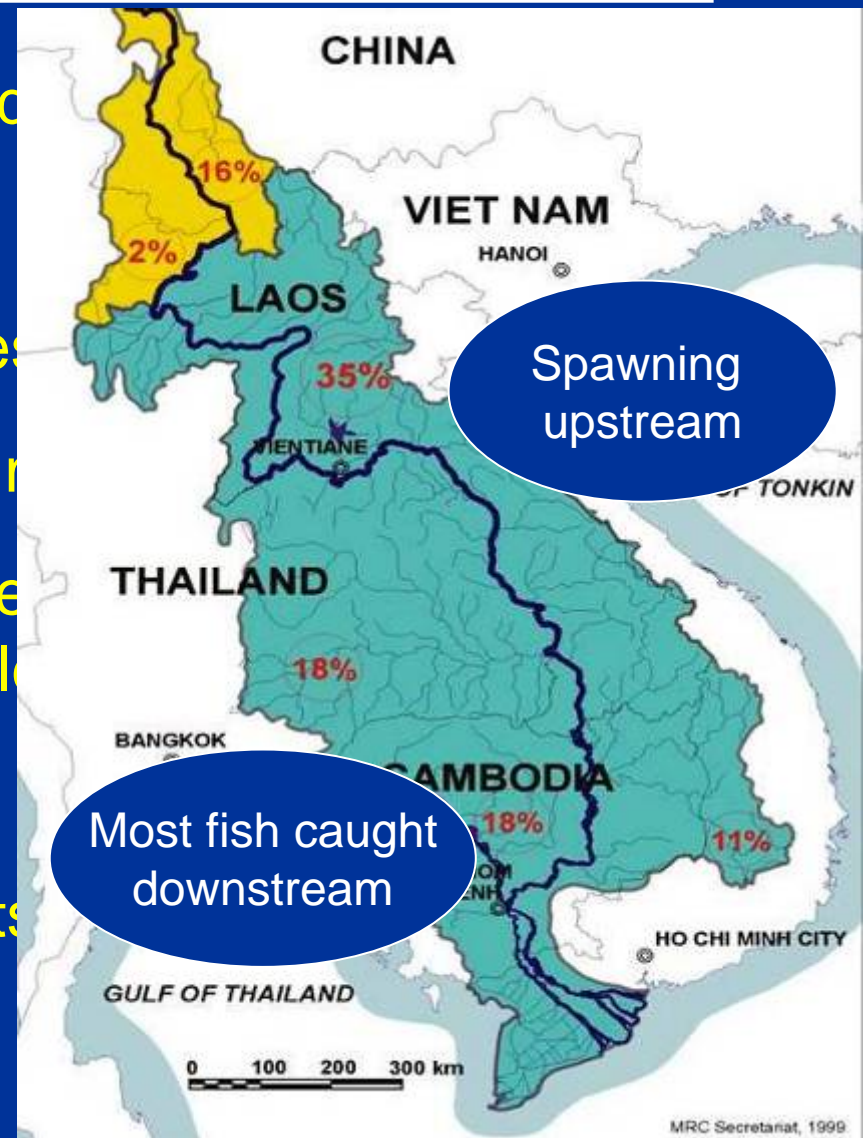
Long-t





# Fisheries Programme contributions to BDP

- Refining estimates of fish yield
- Estimating economic value of
- Developing hydrology-fisheries
  - Abundance and diversity
  - Long-term catch database
  - gill net and
  - fish larvae monitoring
- Identification of critical habitats





# Hydropower and fisheries

## - getting the best from both

- Dams and fisheries – we can have both
- Requires planning!
  - fish losses << benefit gained
  - Most important is the people factor - benefits to who, where
- Siting of dams
  - in the highlands, in tributaries
  - not on mainstream or lower reaches of major tributaries;
  - cascades better
- Operation of dams
  - flow regulating dams downstream; aeration in dams
- Triple bottom line analyses

# Thank you



# And may BDP win!