

Key points

Question 1. Risks to Fisheries

Group 1 Andrew Noble's group

- Issues – impact on fisheries – perception gap between importance of fisheries on local communities and livelihood and decision making
- Equity and benefit – losers are usually the poor – How can you get equitable solution?
- The value of the ecosystem. Usually on the catch and cost of fish but not as a whole system.
- The problem of illegal fishing.

Group 2 Ashl

- Increasing fishing effort
- Construction of physical barriers
- Habitat degradation i.e. from conversion, use of pesticide and fertilizer
- Climate change – more hydrological changes, more flood and extreme drought
- Increase storage capacity of dams
- Management issue- would be identified to improve our understanding on fisheries and hydrological response. Still on the way to understanding fiscal implications.
- Critical fish habitats. Fish production.
- Identify mitigation measure

Question. Can we manage the loss?

Group 3

- Mainstream dams, we don't really know the impact. So hard to do assessments.
- Risks also include loss of nutrition, culture. How do you compensate for these?
- Agriculture as a mitigation strategy?
- More transparent and simpler decision making process needed.
- How BDP bring take up the views of local groups to the decision making process?

Group 4 Theresa

- Benefit and trade off between downstream and upstream
- Recommendation that scenarios generated should include/reflect consequences to fisheries, and this should be put out for discussion

Group 5

- Blocking migration routes has consequences on migration activity, various other risks mentioned.

- Free resource that capture fisheries offer – how to offset the costs of this
- Scales and impact: risks vary across scales and spaces (down/upstream etc) – recommendations centered around planning and governance: information, how to get it, info that is suitable for planning; how to engage community networks in filling information gaps and creating linkages

Food

- How do we compensate for loss? Not just in terms of fish but sufficient protein; in looking at alternative livelihoods, is there a more open resource that can be accessed relatively freely/cheaply?

Eric's group on Q2 (food)

- Risk to fisheries are clear but contribution of role of dams to overall risks to fisheries not clear
- Difficult to link environmental changes to social impacts; this calls for thinking in the BDP for a methodology to connect envtl changes (cumecs) to changes experienced by people (livelihoods)
- Fisheries program should work on the same scenarios as the BDP and try to foresee consequences of scenarios on fisheries
- In terms of identifying trends in the long term, BDP should also refer to countries' strategies
- Priorities have to be integrated into scenarios, including subarea scenarios, though this might highlight discrepancies between local priorities and national plans

Group (Ram's)

- Aquaculture should also be considered
- Fish population as related to not only upstream China dams but also downstream fish migration
- Main concerns apart from water flow.
- Concern that multipurpose projects can be poorly designed
- Involvement of the MRC in the design phase (dom. By national): usually involved too late
- MRC can play role in facilitation

Food

- Concern over equity with respect to land concessions

Winners/losers

- 'weak' as losers? Need risk analysis, MRC should include this
- General changes of livelihood to industrialization

Estela's group

- Food demand challenges should also factor in shifts to industrialization, conversion from agriculture, rural urban migration, decrease in people working in agriculture

Ram's group

- Dilemma/choice of each country, to focus on food production or import