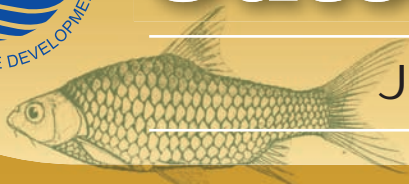


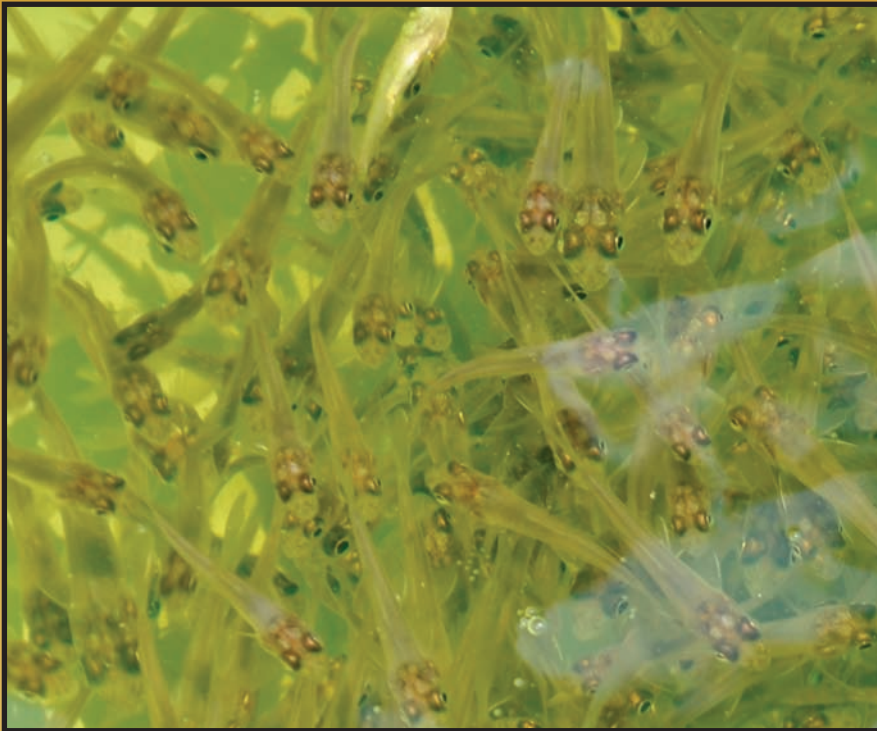
Catch and Culture



Jullien's golden carp



Historic Lao-Thai fish release



In April this year, Lao and Thai authorities released 200,000 fingerlings of the endangered Jullien's golden carp (*Probarbus jullieni*).

The joint release of this regionally important fish was supported by MRC's Technical Advisory Body on Fisheries Management (TAB). TAB members are high-ranking officials from fisheries and water agencies in the four countries. Together the TAB implements a series of activities to strengthen transboundary fisheries management cooperation in the Lower Mekong Basin.



PHOTOS: CHALERNXAY PHOMMAVONGSA





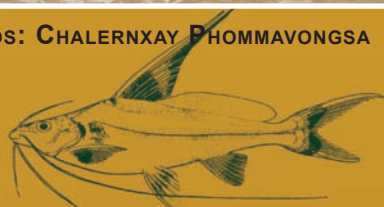
Protecting an endangered species



Supplied by the Thai Department of Fisheries, the fish were released on the Lao side of the river on the outskirts of Vientiane on April 22. With MRC support, the two countries have been cooperating to protect and preserve the species, establishing breeding stations along the Mekong in Loei, Nongkhai, Mukdaharn and Nakornphanom in Thailand as well as the southern Lao province of Champassak.



PHOTOS: CHALERNXAY PHOMMAVONGSA





Fish for today and future generations



'Releasing fish into the river system will help conserve vulnerable Mekong species, with a view to maintaining aquatic biodiversity, and guaranteeing the availability of fish today and for future generations.'

— Jeremy Bird,
MRC chief executive officer



PHOTOS: CHALERNXAY PHOMMAVONGSA





International trade ban



PHOTO: PHILIPPE CACOT

Known as pa ern ta deng in Lao and pla yee sok tong in Thai (and trey trawsok in Khmer and ca tra soc in Vietnamese), Jullien's golden carp is a popular fish for eating. Fishers target the species for its high market value. Declining numbers have prompted regional governments to classify the fish as endangered. International trade is banned.



PHOTO: CHALERNXAY PHOMMAVONGSA

