

Semi-structured questionnaires for in-depth interviews/ Focus group discussions (FGD)

Hilsa fishers (Man and woman)-

- **Background Information-** Name, age, contact number, education, family members, village name, etc.
- **Fishing and fish behavior-** What is the primary purpose of your involvement in fishing? Fishing as a profession (how long)? Do you have your own boat? Otherwise how you will manage to fish? Where do you go for Hilsa fishing? Do you know when Hilsa breed? Do you have any idea about the Hilsa fish breeding ground? Who fish there and are there any outside fishers? Do you take loan to operate your fishing activities and from whom you take loan? How you will repay the loan? Is there any agreement between you and loan giver? What are the difficulties you face during your fishing? Is Hilsa overexploited? Is jatka overexploited? Could you tell me the reasons behind this? What is your advice to minimize the situation?
- **Economy of the family-** What is your average monthly income from fishing? What are your other sources of income of the household? Are you a member of a fisher's association? If yes, then why? Are you happy with your living conditions?
- **Local ecological knowledge -** How was the fishery during your parents and grandparent's generation? What kind of gear they used, what species did they fish (Hilsa and others), were there any fishing rules? What gear types and vessels are used in the fishery? How does Hilsa vary with season and from year to year (Average catches per fishing trip, fish size, presence of eggs, year to year decrease or increase)? With whom you share your fishing experiences? How will all the knowledge be passed on to younger generations (The question will be asked to give an indication of a potential changes in traditions, knowledge transfer)?
- **Fishing rights and regulations-** Are you aware of any Hilsa management regimes introduced by the Government (Hilsa sanctuaries, jatka fishing ban period, and conservation of gravid/full of eggs Hilsa?)
- **Ban period and role of incentives-** What is a ban period of Hilsa? Do you know the importance of Hilsa ban period? When it starts? What are the rules and regulations during the Hilsa fishing ban period? How long the ban period is? Do you notice any enforcement activity take place during the ban period? Are there any poachers? What kinds of punishment are subjected to? Do you think ban period is good for you or not? What do you want to do during the ban period? How you will survive or compensate? Do you get any subsidies from the government? Is it enough for your family? Do you have new ideas to improve the situation during the

ban period? Has not being allowed to catch Hilsa in particular zones during the ban period changed your fishing behavior? If so, has this had an effect on your household income and how much? How much in household income do you get from other activities that you do during the ban period, which you wouldn't have done if you had been fishing? If you are affected by the current ban period (or if you were to be affected in the future) how much is your minimum willingness to accept compensation in Taka?

- Impacts of driving forces, pressures and state changes in terms of hilsa fishery stakeholder's well-being** - How climatic shocks and stresses impact your household (negatively or positively) both inland and at sea? (Shocks-unexpected and stresses-mental or emotional that include cyclones, floods, sea level changes, land erosion, and variations in temperature and rainfall, salinity intrusion, climate change and others). Furthermore, could you explain the impacts of those shocks and stresses include livelihood activities and strategies (fisheries or non-fisheries related). How you tackle these, both in the short-term (during the time when it happens) and in the longer-term (after it happens and within few months)? What things facilitate or constrain while tackling these? What things help most while tackling these and how? Describe the major socio-economic and environmental concerns you face in your livelihoods and the fishing communities? Do you think environmental changes or climate changes over time impacted on production of fish and your catch? Do you see any species of fish is no more available that you used to catch them before? In your opinion what are the reasons behind losing fish species? Please, specify? What is your overall experience about environmental change over time in this area and influence on your livelihoods? Is your livelihood affected by the closed/off season and zone? How enough is the compensation provided? If you are not a recipient or the compensation is not enough, what are the most important strategies you do to cope in times of hardship?
- Possible responses to increase the sustainability of the hilsa fishery** - What are the problems of fisheries management? Suggest actions and measures that should be taken to alleviate problems in the livelihoods of fishers, and the fishing communities. Do you think the compensation scheme has had positive impact on Hilsa stock regeneration, Hilsa catch levels and the improvement of fisher's livelihoods? Over the last years, do you think Hilsa stocks have changed as a direct result of the compensation scheme? If no change, what is the reason? Do you think the distribution of compensation is fair, why and why not? Which people in the village get compensation? Who do you think should be receiving compensation? In your opinion, what is the level of compliance with the ban period and If not, everyone complies in a group, then (in your opinion) what needs to be done to enhance compliance within these groups? Why do you think the pressure

to repay loan is an obstruction to abide with ban period? Do you think the fishing ban period fits well with the Hilsa breeding season? Do you know something about co-management? Are you involved in fisheries management and co-management, please explain what advantages and disadvantages of the co-management system are? Who is involved in the co-management processes and what is their role? What co-management activities have been carried out in your village or areas? Do you have ideas, who is funding for the co-management activities? What do you think about the role of the local leaders and government officials in developing and implementing co-management? What do you think about the power of fishers in co-management in your village/union/upzilla? What factors affecting the exercise of fishers' powers? What do you think about the government policies and legal support for co-management in your village? What are the most significant changes in your village after co-management initiated? In your opinion what are the shortcoming of the co-management system? What is your advice / are your suggestions for successful co-management in your locality? In your opinion, what are the conditions for you as an individual to continue participating in co-management activities? Do you think that the co-management activities would be continued without any external support and how you will do that?

Specific questions to other stakeholders involved in hilsa fishery:

- **Boat owners:** How you are involved in Hilsa fishery? What are the conflicts/cooperation that you have with other stakeholders?
- **Fish traders:** Are you a currently a fisher? Were you a fisher in the past? Since when local fishers started to sell their catches to you? When did you start to sell fishing products? What fishing products sell the best? Do you sell only Hilsa fish? Do you have any arrangements with any of the local fishers to have them sell their products exclusively to you? What is this arrangement? How many fishers only fish for you?
- **Money lenders:** What is the primary purpose of your involvement in fishing? What do you think about the co-management arrangements? How do you think you can co-operate in the co-management arrangement? Do you think that you need compensation as well during the ban period? What are the possible responses to increase the sustainability of the hilsa fishery, in your opinion?
- **Local NGOs** (officials working with fishing communities): What is the primary purpose of your involvement in Hilsa fishing? What do you think about the co-management arrangements? How do you think you can co-operate in the co-management arrangement?
- **Local government representatives** (Upazila Chairman, Union Parishad Chairman, Union Parishad Member)- What is the primary purpose of your involvement in fishing? What types of problem do you face while implementing the government fisheries regulations? What are the essential things that you consider implementing the incentive scheme among hilsa fishers?
- **Local governments administrative personnel's (Fishery officer, Police and Coast Guard):** What is the primary purpose of your involvement in fishing? What types of problem you face while implementing the government fisheries regulations? What is your

idea about the comanaging Hilsa fishery? What do you think about the ban period and its outcomes?

- **Academics-** How you are involved in Hilsa fishery? In your opinion, what are the driving forces and pressures you found in the Hilsa fishery? What are the state changes in the hilsa fishery due to driving forces and pressures? What are the impacts of driving forces, pressures and state changes in terms of hilsa fishery stakeholder's well-being? Please suggest actions and measures that should be taken to alleviate problems in the livelihoods of fishers, and the fishing communities.
- **Environmental Specialists-** How you are involved in Hilsa fishery? In your opinion, what are the driving forces and pressures you found in the Hilsa fishery? What are the state changes in the hilsa fishery due to driving forces and pressures? What are the impacts of driving forces, pressures and state changes in terms of hilsa fishery stakeholder's well-being? Please suggest actions and measures that should be taken to alleviate problems in the livelihoods of fishers, and the fishing communities.
- **Aquaculture Specialists-** How you are involved in Hilsa fishery? In your opinion, what are the driving forces and pressures you found in the Hilsa fishery? What are the state changes in the hilsa fishery due to driving forces and pressures? What are the impacts of driving forces, pressures and state changes in terms of hilsa fishery stakeholder's well-being? Please suggest actions and measures that should be taken to alleviate problems in the livelihoods of fishers, and the fishing communities. Is it possible to do aquaculture of Hilsa? If yes, How and what types of research is necessary in Bangladesh?

Table S1: The scientific literature related to the hilsa fishery management in Bangladesh from 2001-2019

No	Article
1	Hossain, M. A., Das, I., Genevier, L., Hazra, S., Rahman, M., Barange, M., & Fernandes, J. A. (2019). Biology and fisheries of Hilsa shad in Bay of Bengal. <i>Science of the Total Environment</i> , 651, 1720-1734.
2	Hossain, M. S., Sharifuzzaman, S. M., Rouf, M. A., Pomeroy, R. S., Hossain, M. D., Chowdhury, S. R., & AftabUddin, S. (2019). Tropical hilsa shad (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>): Biology, fishery and management. <i>Fish and Fisheries</i> , 20(1), 44-65.
3	Sahoo, A. K., Wahab, M. A., Phillips, M., Rahman, A., Padiyar, A., Puvanendran, V., ... & Behera, B. K. (2018). Breeding and culture status of Hilsa (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> , Ham. 1822) in South Asia: a review. <i>Reviews in Aquaculture</i> , 10(1), 96-110.
4	Islam, M., Aktar, R., Nahiduzzaman, M., Barman, B., & Wahab, M. (2018). Social considerations of large river sanctuaries: a case study from the Hilsa shad fishery in Bangladesh. <i>Sustainability</i> , 10(4), 1254.
5	van Brakel, M. L., M. Nahiduzzaman, A. Mahfuzul Haque, M. Golam Mustafa, M. Jalilur Rahman, and M. Abdul Wahab. 2018. Reimagining large-scale open-water fisheries governance through adaptive comanagement in hilsa shad sanctuaries. <i>Ecology and Society</i> 23(1):26
6	Mozumder, M., Wahab, M., Sarkki, S., Schneider, P., & Islam, M. (2018). Enhancing social resilience of the coastal fishing communities: A case study of hilsa (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> H.) fishery in Bangladesh. <i>Sustainability</i> , 10(10), 3501.
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9	Debnath, S., Latifa, G. A., Bhowmik, S., Islam, S., & Begum, M. (2018). Comparative analysis of nutritional values of riverine and marine hilsa (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> ; Hamilton, 1882). <i>Korean Journal of Agricultural Science</i> , 45(2), 258-264.
10	Porrás, I., Mohammed, E. Y., Ali, L., Ali, M. S., & Hossain, M. B. (2017). Power, profits and payments for ecosystem services in Hilsa fisheries in Bangladesh: a value chain analysis. <i>Marine Policy</i> , 84, 60-68.
11	Jahan, I., Ahsan, D., & Farque, M. H. (2017). Fishers' local knowledge on impact of climate change and anthropogenic interferences on Hilsa fishery in South Asia: evidence from Bangladesh. <i>Environment, development and sustainability</i> , 19(2), 461-478.
12	Rahman, M. A., Ahmed, T., Pramanik, M. M. H., & Flura, H. M. (2017). On-board Breeding Trial of Hilsa (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> , Ham. 1822) and Testing of Larval Rearing in Bangladesh. <i>J Aquac Res Development</i> , 8(471), 2.
13	Pramanik, M. M. H., Rahman, M. A., Ahmed, T., & Flura, H. M. (2017). Gill net selectivity of hilsa (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>) in the Meghna River Estuary of Bangladesh. <i>J Aquac Res Development</i> , 8(483), 2.
14	Hossain, M. S. (2017). The shifting habitat of Hilsa: River to sea. Secretariat, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center.
15	Bala, B. K., Arshad, F. M., & Noh, K. M. (2017). Modelling of Hilsa Fish (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>) Population in Bangladesh. In <i>System Dynamics</i> (pp. 179-198). Springer, Singapore.
16	Rahman, M. A., Ahmed, T., Pramanik, M. M. H., & Flura, H. M. (2017). On-board Breeding Trial of Hilsa (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> , Ham. 1822) and Testing of Larval Rearing in Bangladesh. <i>J Aquac Res Development</i> , 8(471), 2.
17	Rahman, M. A., Pramanik, M. M. H., Flura, A. T., & Hasan, M. M. (2017). Impact Assessment of Twenty-Two Days Fishing Ban in the Major Spawning Grounds of <i>Tenualosa</i>

	ilisha (Hamilton, 1822) on its Spawning Success in Bangladesh. <i>J Aquac Res Develop</i> , 8, 489.
18	Islam et al., 2016. Economic incentives for sustainable hilsa fishing in Bangladesh: An analysis of the legal and institutional framework. <i>Marine policy</i> , 68, 8-22.
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24	Faruque, H., Ahsan, D. A., Sarker, M. H., & Gladun, E. F. (2016). Effect of Ganges river morphological dynamics and Farakka barrage on upward migration and catch of Indian shad (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>) in Bangladesh. Tyumen State University Herald. <i>Natural Resource Use and Ecology</i> , 2(3), 34-58.
25	Bhaumik, U. (2016). Stock profile of Hilsa Shad population in Bay of Bengal region-a review. <i>Int. J. Curr. Res. Aca. Rev</i> , 4(6), 22-38.
26	Md, S. J., Uddin, A. M. M. B., Md, P. S., Tanmay, M. H., & Rahman, F. (2016). Livelihood status of Hilsa (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>) fishermen of greater Noakhali regions of Bangladesh. <i>Fish Aquac J</i> , 7(168), 2.
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39	Hossain, M. S., Sarker, S., Sharifuzzaman, S. M., & Chowdhury, S. R. (2014). Habitat modelling of juvenile Hilsa <i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> (Clupeiformes) in the coastal ecosystem of the northern Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh. <i>Journal of ichthyology</i> , 54(2), 203-213.
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