An Economic Analysis of Marine Fish Production in Cox’s Bazar District of Bangladesh

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(Received: 18/11/2015; Accepted: 26/04/2016)

Abstract
This study has investigated the different aspects of marine fishery and examined whether its potential exists for further contribution to the whole fish production of the country. The objectives of the study are estimating the costs and returns of marine fishing under different fishing technologies and to determine the factors that are responsible for variations in catch and income from fishing. Two major production technologies are used in small-scale marine fishing: longline and setbag net fishing. Average per trip gross returns for longline and setbag net were Tk. 280540 and 446990 per boat and their subsequent net returns were Tk. 122550 and 220020 per boat, correspondingly. Therefore, providing higher level of efforts and better management, setbag fishermen earned higher level of income compared to other type of fishing gear. Considering the profitability and other economic aspects, setbag netters were more efficient than fishermen using other type of gear. Some problems and constraints were identified and possible steps have been suggested for the gradual removal of the constraints with the help of government and forming the fishermen co-operatives by fishermen themselves.

Keywords: Marine fish, Long line, Setbag net, fishing gear, Cox’s bazaar

JEL Classification: A23

Paper Classification: Research Paper

Introduction
Marine fisheries play an important function in providing nutrition, creating employment and earning overseas trade of Bangladesh. This country has seashore of 480 km. The area of the continental shelf extends up to 66,400 km2 (BFRI 2007), which is suitable for small-scale fisheries activities in Bangladesh. The fisheries sub-sector accounts for 3.9% of the GDP, 8% of export earnings, 6% of total employment (BBS 2010) and 60% of animal protein (DoF 2012). As a major food item, fish stands next to rice, but the annual per capita consumption is only 18.06 kg or daily