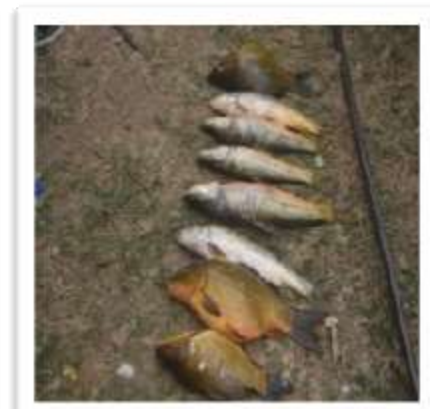


An open Angling Championship was organized by Department of Fisheries Himachal Pradesh on 15th November 2019 in Gobind Sagar and Kol Dam reservoir at Luhnu, Bilaspur, HP. The event was graced by Sh. Subhash Thakur, Hon'ble MLA Sadar, Distt. Bilaspur as Chief Guest. Sh. Satpal Mehta, Director-cum-Warden of Fisheries, HP and Sh. Mahesh Kumar, Deputy Director Fisheries, HQ were also present in the event alongwith other departmental officials. 44 Anglers from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi participated in the event.



Awards were given in two categories of maximum weight of fish and maximum number of the fish caught by the Anglers. First prize carried a memento and cash prize of Rs. 5100/-, second prize a memento and cash prize of Rs. 2100/- while third prize was a memento and cash prize of Rs. 1100/-.

By catching a common carp of 1.7 kg Mr. Paras from Chandigarh won first prize in maximum weight category while Mr. Surinder also from Chandigarh won first prize in number category by catching 6 fishes. One of the Angler Sh. Abdul Hajeer while addressing the gathering expressed the excitement and adventure related to this sport. Hon'ble Chief Guest distributed prize to all the winners and assured that such events will be conducted regularly in near future to popularize large this recreational sport.





Angling in Himachal Pradesh

Angling is a source of recreation to innumerable naturists belonging to different strata of the society. In Western Countries, Fishing as sport is being increasingly recognized by the medical authorities and more and more people are coming out of indoors to try their skill for this outdoor hobby. Angling became favourite pursuit of the Britishers during nineteenth century and it was mainly for this reason that exotic species viz. Brown and Rainbow trouts were stocked in Indian rivers and streams. The introduced species of trout not only soon established in Indian but also bred and propagated fastly in view of rich oxygenated waters and ideal ecological condition of these rivers. Alongwith endemic mahseer (*Tor putitora*) the exotic trout (*Salmo trutta fario* and *Onchorhynchus mykiss*) started offering excellent fishing to the European anglers. The literature is replete with records that Himachal rivers and streams provided exciting fishing to large number of sport lovers / anglers and fishermen. Thomas (1897) brought out a book 'Rod in India' which incorporated his experiences of mahseer fishing in Northern rivers. Later with more and more people getting interested in mahseer sport in view of unparalleled thrill it provides, two important publications were brought out viz. 'Angler in India' and 'Circumventing the mahseer'. These two books embodied lot of information mostly on fishing sites and appropriate tackles to be used. Later Hora (1957) published series of articles containing accounts of natural history and systematic of principal game fishes in India.

Game Fishes of Himachal waters:



Himachal Pradesh is endowed with numbers of fast flowing rivers and streams originating from glaciers, rumbling and swirling along the rugged mountain passing through awesome gorges, canyons, alternating with pools and fiery rapids. The icy-streams harbour country's richest cold water fish- fauna including world famous mahseer, array of catfishes and trout. Each year a large number of anglers booth from home and abroad visit the State in the pursuit of fishing and practice age-old sector of angling with varying degree of success.

Golden mahseer (*Tor putitora*): The golden (*Putitora*) mahseer essentially a fish of the rocks, the rapids and the pools. In view of its monstrous size and fighting qualities, masheer is considered far superior to trout by the anglers. The fishes greenish above, light pink to Silvery at sight with a silvery white abdomen, broad greyish-blue or purplish later band, paired greyish green fins. The body of the fins compressed, oblong and streamlined. Head broadly pointed arterially, lips are continous along the angle of the mouth. Length of head 3.0 to 3.6 times than the standard length. Putitore masheer is available along the foothills of Himalayas in the Indo-gangetic region.

Tor tor (Ham): The characteristic identification factor is its red fin. The head is invariably shorter than the depth of the body. There are 22-28 scales along the foothills of Himalayas from Kashmir to Assam as well as in Narmada and Tapti rivers.

Brown Trout: Brown trout are indigenous to mountain waters of Central and Western Europe. They vary in colour form. The two differentiating features of brown trout are (i) red orange spots on the body (II) edge of the adipose fins is tipped with red. Trout belong to family Salmonidae which form part of the order Isospondyli, meaning equal 'vertebrae'. All fish belonging to this group have the air bladder connected to the gullet by a pneumatic duct and the pelvic fins are abdominal in position. It was introduced in 1899. Later the stock was sent to Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Ptadesh.

Rainbow Trout: Rainbow trout are natives of the Sacramento River region, on the West Coast of the USA but have been successfully introduced in the waters of many countries. The species thrive best in the temperature ranging between 30° to 15°C. There are two types of rainbow trout, the Continental which do not migrate to the sea. Their body is comparatively short and deep; more elongated in males than females. Colour variable depending on size, age and character of water; silvery on side with irregular located dark spot and sides showing a red band and blotches; belly merely plain. It was also introduced for the first time in Kashmir during 1909 and later distributed to Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh waters.

Bagarius bagarius (Goonch): These are ugly looking fishes found commonly in masheer waters. The fish has a remarkable power of adhesion and when hooked can hold on to the bottom of the river. During 1988 a Goonch measuring 1.6m and weighing 112kg was caught in Pong reservoir.

Mystus sp: The *Mystus* (Tengra) are large catfishes available commonly in the river and reservoirs of Himachal Pradesh. They are reported to attain length of over 1.0 m. They have elongated compressed body, head depressed, upper jaw longer but cleft of mouth shallow; Median longitudinal groove on head extending upto the base upto the occipital process. Dorsal spine weak, rugose as long as snout: Pectoral spine stronger than dorsal spine; length of head 4.2-4.5 and body height 7.5-8.0 times than total length; Base of adipose dorsal as long as and even longer than rayed dorsal. These are highly carnivorous fishes and breed in the river and pond with the first shower of monsoon.

Channa Sp: Known commonly as Sole, these snake-headed fishes attain maximum length of 1.2m and are found commonly in freshwater ponds, rivers and reservoirs. By virtue of possession of accessory respiratory organs they can live in any kind of foul water. They have sub-cylindrical body tapering from the flattened snake-like head to the rounded caudal fin. Length of head 4.0-4.8 and body length 7.0-7.5 times than total length. The colour of the fish varies with the medium; Generally greyish-green becoming lighter below. Young ones with brilliant orange lateral band and adult ones with 5-6 cloudy bands below lateral line; A large back ocellus at upper part of the base of caudal.

The other game fishes available in Himachal Pradesh are of little significance and are neither preferred nor caught by professional anglers. The local people or children however catch them by using live baits.

Suitable Fishing Spots:-

The stream of Himachal Pradesh falls under two categories; General water and trout waters, with estimated length of 2400 and 600 km respectively. The major State's streams include- Beas, Sutlej, Ravi, Tirthan, Sainj, Uhl, Baspa, Pabar, Lambadug, Giri, Rana, Neugal, Gaj, Baner, Bata etc. The major fishes available in these streams are trout, mahseer, *Nemacheilus spp*, *Barbus sp.*, *Schizothoracids*, *Crossocheilus sp.*, *Glyptothrax spp.* etc. Fishing in these streams is regularized under the state fisheries Act. In trout water licenses only for rod and line are permitted while in general water both rod and line as well as cast netting is allowed. The department has identified the following stretches as potential fishing stretch as for trout mahseer.

Trout water:-

Name of river	Stretch	Stream length
Beas	Katraian to Manali	18km
Tirthan	Larji to Nagani, Mashiyar chho	40km
Tirthan	Gushani to chuli-chho	5km
Sainj	Larji to Ropa	22km
Lambadug	Barot to Lohardi	6km
Uhl	Barot to khoti kohar	10km
Ravi	Holi to Main bridge	5km

Mahseer Water

Beas	Seri molag to confluence of Binwa to Beas	5km
Beas	Harsipattan to confluence of Kunha tributary of Beas	10km
Beas	Chambapattan	5km
Beas	Kuhna	5km
Beas	Dehra Gopipur	10km
Beas	Baner	5km
Giri	Bata	5km
Neugal	Aalampur	5km



For more details please visit Departmental website: hpfisheries.nic.in, or mail us: fisheries-hp@nic.in