

REHABILITATION OF GOLDEN MAHSEER IN MEHAO LAKE AND SALLY LAKE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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Golden Mahseer (*Tor putitora*) is a very important indigenous fish species and is regarded as the most sought after fish by the hobbyist anglers and tourists. The population of the fish species has been declining in the natural distribution areas. Spaciously important in this context is the rehabilitation and introduction of Mahseer in safe and suitable confined water bodies (Lake) for the conservation of germplasm and their consequential recruitment after natural reproduction in the lake through outlet in to connecting streams/ rivers. Considering the rapid trend of declination of this fish species, the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has declared this fish species as the **State Fish**. On the backdrop of need of conservation approach for this species and other Mahseer, The Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (ICAR), Bhimtal has carried out a feasibility study during 2003 to 2010 for development of Mahseer fishery in an upland lake called Mehao Lake situated in Lower Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh, India. Under the study, the trial introduction of Chocolate Mahseer (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*) has resulted successful rehabilitation of the species as the species was found to have established expanding population in the lake through natural reproduction.

On receiving successful result of rehabilitation of Chocolate Mahseer, the rehabilitation of Golden Mahseer in the same lake was approved by The DCFR (ICAR) after the provocation from the recipient of The Rufford Small Grants Foundation, London. Under the programme, a total of 3000 Nos. of seed of Golden Mahseer were provided by The DCFR through air courier from Delhi to Dibrugarh on 12th October, 2011. The Rufford recipient has transported the seeds by road from Dibrugarh airport to Roing on the same day. The seeds were halted over the night in Roing in the office of The District Fishery Development Officer. On the next morning, around 2000 Nos. of seed were transported to the Mehao Lake by head load by porters for around 13 Km and halted

over the night in nylon happa in Mehao Lake. On the 14th October by around 10:30 AM, all the seeds were released in the lake by Dr. Boni Amin Laskar (the Rufford Small Grants recipient) accompanied by Mr. Sibili Linggi (Head Master, Iduli Middle School), Mr. Ogo Mena of Govt. Fish Seed Farm Iduli, and others.



Similarly, the rehabilitation of Golden Mahseer was accomplished in Sally Lake on 18th October, 2011 with the help of DFDO, Roing, and with the endorsement of The Deputy Commissioner, Roing. The release of seeds was accomplished with the noble hands of The Project Co-ordinator KVK Roing, The DFO Wild Life Roing, Fishery Officer Roing, Subject Matter Specialist of KVK Roing, Fishery Officer Anini, Dr. Boni Amin Laskar, and others.

