



FISHER INTERVIEW - INDIA

INSTRUCTIONS

This questionnaire has *six* sections. The below statement must be read to the fishers before conducting the interview while explaining that it is going to take half 30 to 45 mins to complete it. The interview has to be done with the fisher alone, without other people.

If a fisher does not answer one of the questions, list one of these reasons: does not want to respond, does not know, or does not understand.

OPENING STATEMENT

My name is *your name*, I am a researcher trying to learn more about fisheries and their interactions with various species in India. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and confidential. I will record your name only for the purpose of record keeping. I will not share your individual answers with anyone outside of the research group. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to.

Date:	Name of fisher:
Interview location:	Age:
Boat number:	
Specify if they are members of a fishing society and which one:	
Fisher interview code (<i>your initials and interview #</i>):	

- **Do you know what these are?** (*show ID sheet of species*)

This is where you can start noting down the local names of the various species and what features allow them to tell apart the species (e.g., spot patterns, sizes, location of fins, size of fins...) - DO NOT LEAD - Just note what differences they are mentioning, if any.

- **If the respondent does not know what these animals are:**
 1. *Show them the map and determine which area(s) they usually fish*
 2. *Thank them and move to the next fisher*
 3. *Make sure to note how many people did not know what these species are.*

NOTE: Most fishers are likely unable to read maps -- If they can't read the map, try and get names of landmark locations such as names of villages, landing sites, bays, general directions (north, south, out at sea for 10 km...)

SECTION A - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. For how many years has fishing been your occupation? _____
They might give you their age here: e.g, since I was 10 years old - just note this information and we can calculate later
2. Were your parents' fishers? YES NO
3. Is fishing the **main** way you earn a living? YES NO
 Retired but fishing **was** main way of earning a living
 Retired but fishing **was NOT** main way of earning a living



4. Is fishing the **only** way you earn(ed) a living? YES NO
 If NO, what is/are/ were your other occupations? _____

If they are retired, you can still get the rest of the information in this questionnaire – just note if this information is from their experience when fishing or if this is what they are seeing now on their boats (if they are now owners for example).

5. Which months do you normally fish (out of the last 12)? *If seasonal, indicate season start, end and determine season with most fishing effort*
 All year Winter (12-2) Spring (3-5) Summer (6-8) Fall (9-11)

6. How many days do you go fishing each month? _____ days (low season) _____ days (peak season)
 No specific season / # days fishing per month _____
(Try and get details about why he would not go out fishing, example: the weather)

SECTION B- BOAT AND GEAR CHARACTERISTICS

7. What is your position on the boat?
 Owner Captain Owner and captain Family member Crew member We have no fixed position

8. How many fishers, including yourself, work on the boat? _____

9. What type of boat do you own or work on? _____

10. How long is the boat? _____ ft *(make sure they are all providing the length in feet)*

11. Is the boat motorized? YES NO *You can also get more information about the type of boat*

If YES, Inboard Outboard Number of engines _____ Motor horsepower (each engine) _____ HP

12. What type of fishing gear do you use? *Respondent should answer these questions to describe their individual experience, not that of their community. Use illustrations or help with description to assist where necessary. Note local names of gear as a reference.*

Habitat Codes:

(D) Deep Water; (C) Coral; (S) Seagrass; (F) Fine Sediments; (M) Mangroves; (R) Rocks; (E) Estuaries; (U) Unknown;
 (N) No Specific Habitat

Longline Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____
(many hooks) Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Bottom longline Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____
(many hooks set at depth) Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Hook and line

(one or few hooks)

Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____

Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Purse seine

(or surround nets)

Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____

Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Beach seine

Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____

Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Trawl nets

(or other towed net)

Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____

Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Traps

Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____

Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Gill or trammel nets

Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____

Habitat: _____ Target: _____

Do you tend the nets when they are in the water? Yes No

How long do you leave the nets in the water? _____ hours

Do you fish during the day or night ?

What is the position of the gear? Surface Midwater Bottom

Describe the net: Length _____ Depth _____ Mesh size _____

Other (describe):

Only Mostly Sometimes Season: _____

Habitat: _____ Target: _____

13. What is the average duration of each trip?

- 0-6 hours 6-12 hours 12-24 hours 1-2 days 3-5 days >5 days

Other (specify) _____

14. In what places do you usually fish? *Use prepared road maps, charts, Google maps and have interviewee point out areas*

15. Do you use different gears in different areas? YES NO

If yes, please describe: *Use prepared road maps, charts, Google maps and have interviewee point out areas*



16. Is your boat licensed to fish for wedgefishes and guitarfishes?
YES NO

If YES, clarify type of license needed _____

SECTION C- OVERALL WEDGEFISH, AND GUITARFISH CATCHES

17. How many species of wedgefishes and guitarfishes are found in Indian waters?
_____ Don't know

18. Tell me about the difference between wedgefishes and guitarfishes

19. Have people in your community always fished for wedgefishes and guitarfishes?
 YES NO Don't know
If YES, how many people? _____ For how long? _____

20. Do people in your village / community **target** wedgefishes and guitarfishes?
 YES NO NO, but they are occasionally landed
Please elaborate: _____

21. Do people from other villages / communities **target** wedgefishes and guitarfishes?
 YES NO Don't know
Who? _____ What village? _____
Any other details? _____

SECTION D- WEDGEFISH CATCHES (REMEMBER TO REMIND THEM THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS ONLY ABOUT WEDGEFISHES - SHOW THEM THE ILLUSTRATION AGAIN AND USE THE LOCAL NAME)

22. Have you ever seen wedgefishes?
YES NO
Do you have another name(s) for them?
_____ (list by species)

23. What species of wedgefishes do you see (describe)?

24. Do you have any wedgefish experts in your village?
 YES NO Don't know
If YES, who? _____

25. What about in other villages?
 YES NO Don't know
If YES, who? _____



What village? _____

26. How do you see wedgefishes?

- Seen while fishing Seen while travelling to fishing areas
- Accidentally caught in nets Hunted / Landed by other fishers

27. Are these areas where they are seen different by species?

- YES NO Don't know

If YES, please explain: _____

(Note to interviewer: mark locations on maps by species)

28. How frequently have you seen wedgefishes?

- Never Once in my life Only a few times in my life Frequently Every year for the last five years

In the last year: Only once Several times Every month Every week Every day

29. Which areas do you see/catch most wedgefishes in? *Indicate areas on map*

30. Do you know of any areas where wedgefishes regularly occur?

- YES NO Don't know

If YES, where are these wedgefish areas?

_____ (Note to interviewer: also indicate on maps)

31. Have you ever seen wedgefish pups?

- YES NO

If YES, when? _____ (what month?)

Where did you see these pups? (use maps)

32. Do these wedgefish areas change over time?

- YES NO Don't know

33. How many wedgefishes do you think might live in these areas?

- <10 >10 >100 Don't Know

34. When do you see wedgefishes? (indicate months or seasons):

35. When was the last time you saw a wedgefish? _____ (if long time ago note the year)

36. Did you catch any wedgefishes in the last year?

- YES NO

If YES, how many in the last year? 1-2 ≤10 >10

Note specifics/details (if available): _____

37. Was this a typical number to catch in a year?

- YES NO

38. How many in the last five years? 0 1-2 ≤10 >10 >20 >50 >100

Note specifics/details (if available): _____

39. How many in your life? 0 1-2 ≤10 >10 >20 >50 >100

Note specifics/details (if available): _____

40. In which fishing gears do you catch wedgefishes? *List all that apply*

41. In which fishing gears do you catch **small** wedgefishes (<1.5 m)? *List all that apply*

42. In which fishing gears do you catch **large** wedgefishes (>1.5 m)? *List all that apply*

43. In which **ONE** fishing gear do you catch the **most** wedgefishes? *This can be species-specific so note any details they mention*

44. At which times of the year do you catch the most/least wedgefishes? **Most** _____ **Least** _____
No specific season / Caught all year _____

45. How many total wedgefishes do you usually catch on a fishing trip in low season and high season?

Circle one **LOW** 0 1-3 4-10 11-20 >20 **HIGH** 0 1-3 4-10 11-20 >20

46. Compared to when you started fishing, are there **more** , **less** , or the **same number** of wedgefishes captured in fishing gear? **Don't Know** (*Note to interviewer: based on actual numbers, not perception*)

If **higher** or **lower**, why do you think this?

47. Have you seen a difference in wedgefish sizes since you started fishing? YES NO Don't know

If YES, what difference and why do you think so? _____

48. Do you think wedgefishes are **more abundant**, **less abundant** or **the same now** compared to

10 years ago? _____ **5 years ago?** _____ **2 years ago?** _____

If **LESS OR MORE**, why do you think so? _____

49. Can you pinpoint the start of any changes in numbers to any particular time? _____

50. Are wedgefishes usually landed whole? YES NO Don't know

51. What do you do (or would you do) with a wedgefish if you caught one? (*do not lead interviewee - check all that apply*)

Eat fresh Eat salted Sell fresh meat Sell dried meat Sell the fins

Use as bait Discard (dead) Release (alive) Other _____



52. How much can a whole wedgefish be sold for and what does this price depend on? (try and get the range of prices based on size) _____ Don't know

53. If the **meat** is sold, where and to whom is it usually sold? _____ Don't know

54. What is the price per kg for **fresh meat**? _____ Don't know

55. What is the price per kg for **dried meat**? _____ Don't know

56. If the **fins** are sold, where and to whom are they usually sold? _____ Don't know

57. What is the price per fin? _____ Don't know

58. What is the price per kg of dried fins? _____ Don't know

59. What does this price depend on? _____ Don't know

SECTION E- GUITARFISH CATCHES (REMEMBER TO REMIND THEM THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS ONLY ABOUT GUITARFISHES - SHOW THEM THE ILLUSTRATION AGAIN AND USE THE LOCAL NAME)

60. Have you ever seen guitarfishes?

YES NO

Do you have another name(s) for them?

_____ (list by species)

61. What species of guitarfishes do you see (describe)?

62. Do you have any guitarfish experts in your village?

YES NO Don't know

If YES, who? _____

63. What about in other villages?

YES NO Don't know

If YES, who? _____

What village? _____

64. How do you see guitarfishes?

Seen while fishing Seen while travelling to fishing areas

Accidentally caught in nets Hunted / Landed by other fishers

65. Are these areas where they are seen different by species?

YES NO Don't know

If YES, please explain: _____

(Note to interviewer: mark locations on maps by species)

66. How frequently have you seen guitarfishes?



- Never
- Once in my life
- Only a few times in my life
- Frequently
- Every year for the last five years

In the last year: Only once Several times Every month Every week Every day

67. Which areas do you see/catch most guitarfishes in? *Indicate areas on map*

68. Do you know of any areas where guitarfishes regularly occur?

- YES
- NO
- Don't know

If YES, where are these guitarfish areas?

(Note to interviewer: also indicate on maps)

69. Have you ever seen guitarfish pups?

- YES
- NO

If YES, when? _____ *(what month?)*

Where did you see these pups? *(use maps)*

70. Do these guitarfish areas change over time?

- YES
- NO
- Don't know

71. How many guitarfishes do you think might live in these areas?

- <10
- >10
- >100
- Don't Know

72. When do you see guitarfishes? *(indicate months or seasons):*

73. When was the last time you saw a guitarfish? _____ *(if long time ago note the year)*

74. Did you catch any guitarfishes in the last year?

- YES
- NO

If YES, how many in the last year? 1-2 ≤10 >10

Note specifics/details *(if available):* _____

75. Was this a typical number to catch in a year?

- YES
- NO

76. How many in the last five years? 0 1-2 ≤10 >10 >20 >50 >100

Note specifics/details *(if available):* _____

77. How many in your life? 0 1-2 ≤10 >10 >20 >50 >100

Note specifics/details *(if available):* _____

78. In which fishing gears do you catch guitarfishes? *List all that apply*

79. In which fishing gears do you catch **small** guitarfishes (<1.5 m)? *List all that apply*
-
80. In which fishing gears do you catch **large** guitarfishes (>1.5 m)? *List all that apply*
-
81. In which **ONE** fishing gear do you catch the **most** guitarfishes? *This can be species-specific so note any details they mention*
-
82. At which times of the year do you catch the most/least guitarfishes? **Most** _____ **Least** _____
No specific season / Caught all year _____
83. How many total guitarfishes do you usually catch on a fishing trip in low season and high season?
Circle one **LOW** 0 1-3 4-10 11-20 >20 **HIGH** 0 1-3 4-10 11-20 >20
84. Compared to when you started fishing, are there **more** , **less** , or the **same number** of guitarfishes captured in fishing gear? **Don't Know** *(Note to interviewer: based on actual numbers, not perception)*
- If **higher** or **lower**, why do you think this?
-
85. Have you seen a difference in guitarfish sizes since you started fishing? **YES** **NO** **Don't know**
If **YES**, what difference and why do you think so? _____
86. Do you think guitarfishes are **more abundant**, **less abundant** or **the same now** compared to
10 years ago? _____ **5 years ago?** _____ **2 years ago?** _____
If **LESS OR MORE**, why do you think so? _____
87. Can you pinpoint the start of any changes in numbers to any particular time? _____
88. Are guitarfishes usually landed whole? **YES** **NO** **Don't know**
89. What do you do (or would you do) with a guitarfish if you caught one? *(do not lead interviewee - check all that apply)*
- Eat fresh** **Eat salted** **Sell fresh meat** **Sell dried meat** **Sell the fins**
- Use as bait** **Discard (dead)** **Release (alive)** **Other** _____
90. How much can a whole guitarfish be sold for and what does this price depend on? *(try and get the range of prices based on size)* _____ **Don't know**
91. If the **meat** is sold, where and to whom is it usually sold? _____ **Don't know**
92. What is the price per kg for **fresh meat**? _____ **Don't know**
93. What is the price per kg for **dried meat**? _____ **Don't know**
94. If the **fins** are sold, where and to whom are they usually sold? _____ **Don't know**
95. What is the price per fin? _____ **Don't know**

96. What is the price per kg of dried fins? _____ Don't know

97. What does this price depend on? _____ Don't know

SECTION F- PERCEPTIONS AND PARTICIPATION *Try to get information about the reasoning behind their answers*

98. Do you think there will always be wedgefishes, and guitarfishes in the sea?

YES NO Don't know

If YES or NO, why? _____

99. Do you think having wedgefishes, and guitarfishes around is important?

YES NO Why? _____

100. Do you think we should be concerned about the future of wedgefishes and guitarfishes?

YES NO Don't know

101. Do you think there should be regulations about the hunting of wedgefishes and guitarfishes?

YES NO Don't know

102. Is it illegal to (intentionally) kill a wedgefish or guitarfish?

YES NO Don't know

103. What about by accident (maybe caught in a net unintentionally)?

YES NO Don't know

104. Are any areas routinely / periodically patrolled?

Frequently Infrequently Never Don't know

105. If yes, are penalties ever imposed?

Frequently Infrequently Never Don't know

106. Do you think wedgefishes and guitarfishes should be protected? (*Try and understand the reasoning behind his answer*)

YES NO Don't know

107. If wedgefishes and guitarfishes were protected, would you release them back at sea **if caught alive**?

YES NO Don't know

108. If wedgefishes and guitarfishes were protected, would you release them back at sea **if caught dead**?

YES NO Don't know

109. Can you think of any gear modifications that would allow you to catch less wedgefishes and guitarfishes?

YES NO

If YES, please describe: _____

110. Are there any local customs, beliefs, legends or rituals or stories related to wedgefishes or guitarfishes?

YES NO

If YES, please describe: _____

111. Where / from whom did you hear this?

112. Additional stories / incidents you wish to report:

113. Do you feel that you are consulted or involved in government decisions on fisheries?

- YES NO Don't know

114. Would you want to be consulted or involved in government initiatives for the protection of wedgefishes and guitarfishes?

- YES NO

Thank the fisher for his time and help

CONFIDENTIAL INTERVIEWER COMMENTS

115. How open and honest did the fisher seem about answering bycatch questions?

- Very open/honest Somewhat open/honest Not honest

116. How interested and engaged did the fisher seem with interview?

- Very interested Moderately interested Bothered/ Not interested

117. How certain did the fisher seem about answers to numerical questions?

- Very sure Reasonable sure Unsure

118. How comfortable were you about the respondents' ability to discriminate between the species?

- Very comfortable Reasonable Not comfortable

119. Why do you think this?

120. Please indicate why (if any) questions were not asked
