

UNREPAIRABLE COASTAL POLLUTION AND FATE OF FISHERIES RESOURCE OF PAKISTAN

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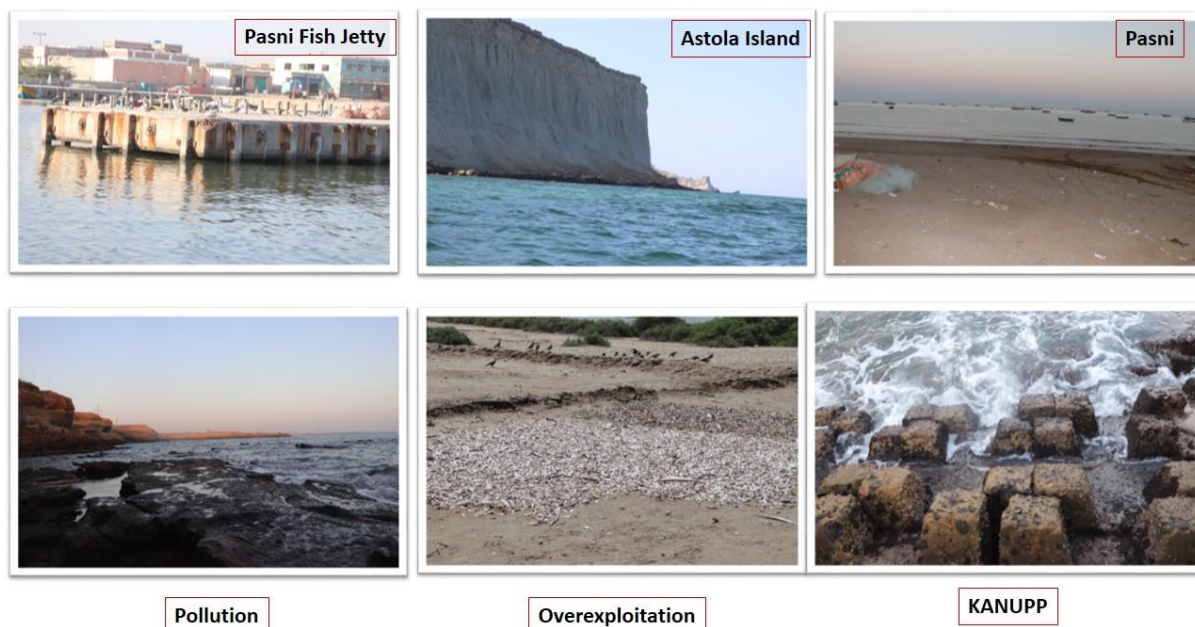
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Fisheries as a subsector of agriculture contribute through export earnings, seafood supplies and a source of livelihood for the coastal inhabitants. Fisheries plays vital role in the emerging economy by providing employment and account around one percent in Gross domestic production (GDP). According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan FY2020-21, the fishing sector has a share of 2.01 percent in agriculture value addition and 0.39 percent in GDP. The growth of fishing was 5.75% in FY 2015, however it has declined over the year and the current FY2020-21(P) growth is reported to be 0.73% (Survey, 2020-21). Small-scale fisheries significantly contribute the national economy through foreign exchange derived from international trade. Fishery exports represents 1.6% of the total exports of Pakistan. Fishery products are the most traded foods and feed commodities circumglobally. The global seafood consumption has amplified a rate almost twice that of annual world population growth (1.6 percent) for 3.1 percent annually from 1961 to 2017.

Global pelagic fish stocks are either collapsed or susceptible to pollution and overfishing. The situation in the developing countries like Pakistan is beyond control. On the one hand pollution is uncontrolled and fishing effort has been soared since last three decades resulted pelagic and demersal fish stock much vulnerable. Fishing in Pakistan accounts for less than one percent of the GDP, but it still plays a crucial role in developing the economy of Pakistan by providing employment to a significant number of people residing in impoverished societies and backward regions of Balochistan and Sindh. Fishery sector facing hazardous encounters which must to be set at the earliest to expand the fish production for the livelihood of the locals, and export which boast the economy of Pakistan. Main challenges are water pollution, unhygienic environment, overfishing, use of illegal nets practices and, threats to mangroves faced by all local jetties. Illegal net practices remain the pressures for the deterioration of sustainable fishery and it need to be banned immediately. Fishing in closed season, especially shrimps are targeted in breeding season throughout the year must be regulated. If these stocks exploited with that similar rate, it will be likelihood that reproduction or aquaculture industry worth fully recovered and return the sustainability of the stocks. Currently, past and existing fishery trend may put

Pakistan fishery in a grave dark. It became the most unsustainable resources with the fast-growing population.



Pakistani coast comprises of Sindh and Balochistan supports fishery in three category mainly Inland, Marine and fisheries through aqua culture that comprises shrimps (30), Crabs (10), lobsters (5) and (70) commercial species of fish mainly Sardines, Hilsa, Shark, Mackerel, Butterfish, Pomfret, Sole, Tuna, Sea Bream, Jew Fish, Cat Fish and Eel. According to latest investigation done by Ministry of food and security, Inland and marine production has remained stagnant for past two decades. Aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector gaining tremendous popularity among local investors of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) with aquaculture manifold from 12,000 tons to 159,000 tons in 2018 which is comparatively low to Asian and other countries. China attained the highest ranked with regular increase up to 47 million followed by India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh. Scientist around the world take an initiative to study and steps to make it sustainable.

Aquaculture industry is now a worthy alternative and can take a decent place to recover the depleted stock that is consequences of overharvest. Aqua-culturist can only provide protein at high level and recovery of wild stocks. Being a developing country, lack advanced technological applications, implementation of regulations, commercial fishing practices showed rapid impact on the natural growth of fish stocks. Stock resilience can only be made through advanced technology and adopting catch quota total allowable catch (TAC) idea. National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) is striving to take onboard key stakeholders to participate actively and exchange their recommendation for onward appropriate management of fisheries resources. It is now unavoidable to maintain coastal zone management rather to degrade it more. Therefore, it is sole obligation of the implanting agencies to take stringent action to curb industrial pollution and adopt catch quota idea through scientific studies of fish stocks.