

TAIMEN CONSERVATION FUND – SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TEAM

Key Points

There are potential negative impacts of recreational fishing on fish stocks if it is not practiced in a sustainable manner.

Recreational anglers can improve management and enhance conservation by supporting science, enforcement, and conservation project initiatives.

In Mongolia, the Taimen Conservation Fund has established a conservation project financed by revenues from recreational fishing activity.

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Management of Recreational Fisheries

Recreational Angling in Management and Conservation: The Case of Taimen



Why should recreational anglers support fish conservation?

Recreational fishing is extremely popular worldwide with average participation rates of the adult population around 10%. Harvest by recreational fisheries has been estimated at about 12% of take worldwide for all fish (Cooke & Cowx 2004) and 23% for some overfished stocks (Coleman et al. 2004). Given these levels of take, it is clear that recreational fishing has the potential to cause the depletion of fish stocks, especially in small lakes and streams where recreational fishing is often the only source of fishing mortality. Given the potentially negative impacts of recreational fishing on fish stocks, recreational anglers have an inherent interest in the conservation and management of the fisheries resources upon which their leisure experience depends. Responsible anglers also have a moral obligation to minimize fishing mortality, especially when targeting a rare species like *Hucho taimen*.

How can recreational anglers in Mongolia support conservation of taimen?

To protect taimen in Mongolia, a local NGO, the Taimen Conservation Fund, has established a conservation project financed by revenues from recreational fishing activity. The project provides funds and infrastructure to local managers to prevent a “tragedy of the commons,” to increase local value of taimen by facilitating economic returns to local communities, and to facilitate business partnerships between local communities and recreational fishers. Fishing fees paid by high-end, low-impact catch-and-release ecotourism operations provide financial sustainability by going directly to a community watershed council that oversees Eg-Uur River management. In addition to income generation, recreational fishers also contribute to resource conservation by providing in-kind support (boat and equipment use, air transportation, fishing expertise, and access to clients’ fish for tagging, creel surveys, and spawning fish counts) to the scientific and enforcement teams and by donating to a fund established to protect the taimen.



The Role of Recreational Angling in Management and Conservation (continued)

Value of Taimen Fishing to Mongolia:

The presence of

However the

Management Recommendations

- What to recommend

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