

Conflicts in small-scale fisheries in the Saint Martin's Island, Bangladesh

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Ecosystem type	Marine
Main Gear	Dredge, gleaning, harpoon, others
Target species	Parrotfish, surgeonfish, grouper, others
Vessel type	Local mechanized or semi-mechanized boats
No. of small-scale fishing vessels	190

The Saint Martin's Island is the only coral-bearing Island of Bangladesh, situated close to one of the significant marine fishing grounds. Small-scale fishing is the dominant livelihood strategy for the people of this island. Although they are the dominant fishers on the island, they are often undervalued by other actors and sectors such as large-scale fishers, middleman/Aratdar, local administration, cruise ships, and tourism. Hence, conflicts arise between them and small-scale fishers, who are not capable of defending themselves. The drivers of such conflicts include reduced fish population, weak governance structure,



Type of justice: distributive, social, economic, market, infrastructure/wellbeing, regulatory, procedural

illegal fishing practices, increased fishing pressure by the large-scale fishers from other areas, maritime crime, political marginalization, unlawful entry by foreign fishing vessels, and tourism. These activities are threatening both the small-scale fishers and the overall fish stock. Tourism activities are rapidly increasing on this island, that is known as one the most famous tourist spots in the country. Ultimately, the governance system should be strengthened to protect the biodiversity of this beautiful coral island.

