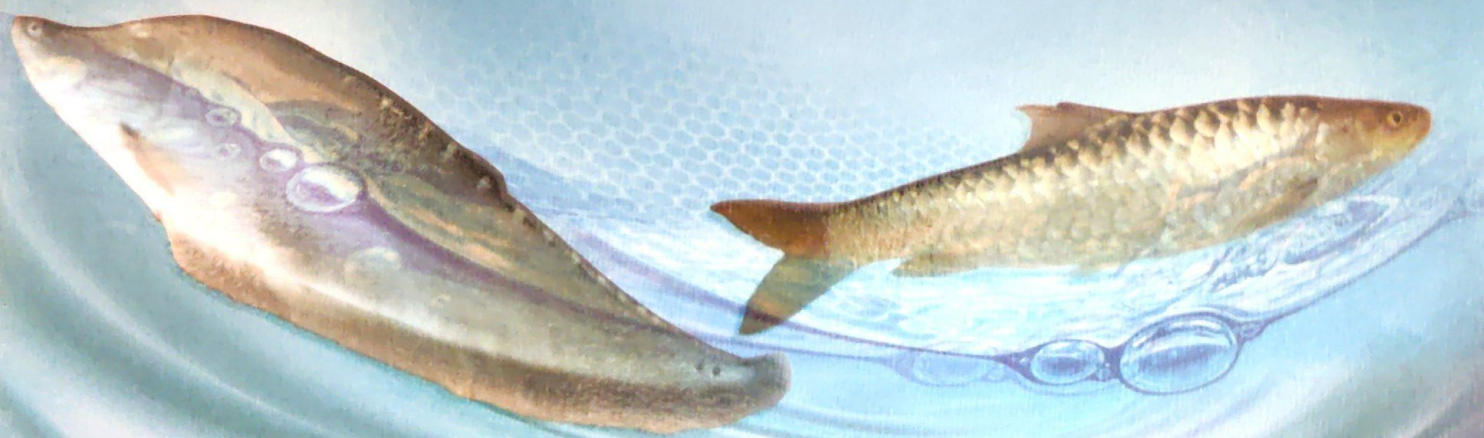




National Mission for  
Clean Ganga

# Threatened Fishes of Ganga



CIFRI

ICAR-CENTRAL INLAND FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

BARRACKPORE, KOLKATA-700 120, WEST BENGAL, INDIA



## Background

Ganga River along with its tributaries supports extensive aquatic biodiversity and plays an important role to maintain the livelihood and nutritional security (Lakra *et al.*, 2010). The riverine ecosystem has been experienced habitat degradation of fish fauna due to anthropogenic activities like industrial pressure, pollution, over exploitation, illegal fishing activities, misuse of resources resulting rapid biodiversity loss. During the present survey carried out by ICAR-CIFRI under NMCG programme recorded total of 190 fish species representing 19 order and 132 genera, out of this 13 fish species were reported under IUCN Red List. As these fishes are economic prized fish, effective conservation and sustainable management should be implemented to restore the biodiversity in riverine ecosystem. The details about each species is mentioned below.



**Scientific name:** *Ailia coila* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** Gangetic ailia  
**Vernacular name:** Kajri, Kajoli (West Bengal), Sutri (Bihar)  
**Taxonomical classification:** Class: Teleostomii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Aillidae  
 Genus: *Ailia*  
 Species: *coila*

**Meristic Count:** A 58-75; P I+14-16; V I+5  
**Habitat:** Adults found in large rivers and connected water bodies  
**Feeding habit:** Omnivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Vulnerable (VU)  
**NBFGR status (2010):** Not Assessed

### Area of distribution:

| Location           | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|--------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species            |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Ailia coila</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Arius gagora* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** Gagora catfish  
**Vernacular name:** Kata mach, Gagla (West Bengal)  
**Taxonomical classification:** Class: Teleostomii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Ariidae  
 Genus: *Arius*  
 Species: *gagora*

**Meristic Count:** D I+7; A V+VI 12-13; P I+10; V I+5  
**Habitat:** Primarily marine but are found in estuaries and intertidal zone of river Ganga.  
**Feeding habit:** Omnivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Not Assessed  
**NBFGR status (2010):** Not Assessed

### Area of distribution:

| Location            | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh | Godakhali | Diamond harbour | Fraserganj |
|---------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Species             |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |           |                 |            |
| <i>Arius gagora</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |           |                 |            |

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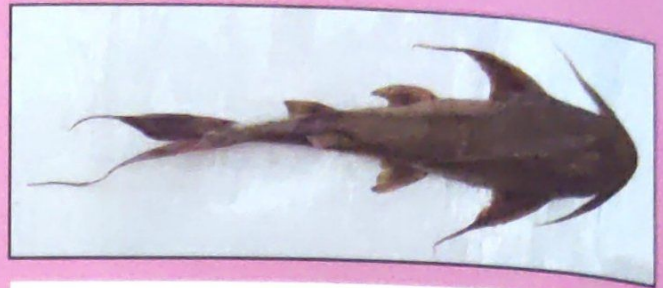
**Scientific name:** *Bagarius bagarius* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** Gangetic Goonch  
**Vernacular name:** Bagar (West Bengal), Goshta (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh)  
**Taxonomical classification:** Class: Teleostomii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Sisoridae  
 Genus: *Bagarius*  
 Species: *bagarius*

**Meristic Count:** D I+7; A III+9-12; P I+9-12; V I+5  
**Habitat:** Adults inhabit in rapid and rocky pools in rivers.  
**Feeding habitat:** Carnivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Vulnerable (VU)  
**NBFGR (2010):** Endangered (EN)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location                 | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species                  |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Bagarius bagarius</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Bagarius yarrelli* (Sykes, 1839)  
**Common name:** Goonch  
**Vernacular name:** Goshta (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar), Bagar (West Bengal)  
**Taxonomical classification:** Class: Actinopterygii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Sisoridae  
 Genus: *Bagarius*  
 Species: *yarrelli*

**Meristic Count:** D I+7; A iii+9-12; P I+11-14; V i+5  
**Habitat:** Found on bottom area in rivers even with strong water current.  
**Feeding habitat:** Omnivorous  
**IUCN Red list status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Not Assessed  
**NBFGR (2010):** Endangered (EN)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location                 | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species                  |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Bagarius yarrelli</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Chitala chitala* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** Clown knife fish  
**Vernacular name:** Moi (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar), Chital (West Bengal)  
**Taxonomical classification:** Class: Actinopterygii  
 Order: Osteoglossiformes  
 Family: Notopteridae  
 Genus: *Chitala*  
 Species: *chitala*

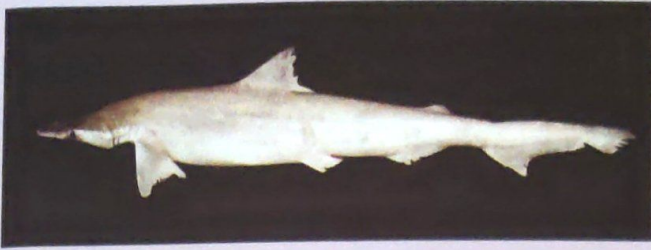
**Meristic Count:** D 9-10; A + C 110-135; V 6  
**Habitat:** Inhabit in freshwater rivers, lakes, beels, nullahs in the plains reservoirs, canals  
**Feeding habitat:** Omnivorous  
**IUCN Red list status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Endangered (EN)  
**NBFGR (2010):** Endangered (EN)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location               | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|------------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species                |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Chitala chitala</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Scoliodon laticaudus* (Müller & Henle, 1838)  
**Common name:** Spadenose shark  
**Vernacular name:** Mera (West Bengal)  
**Taxonomical classification:** Class: Elasmobranchii  
 Order: Carcharhiniformes  
 Family: Carcharhinidae  
 Genus: *Scoliodon*  
 Species: *laticaudus*

**Salient Features:** 1. First dorsal well rearward on back with its rear tip about pelvic mid base  
 2. Body slender and fusiform. Head broadly depressed.

**Habitat:** Found commonly lower stretch of Hooghly estuary.

**Feeding habitat:** Carnivorous

**IUCN Red list status:** Near Threatened (NT)

**C.A.M.P (1998):** Not Assessed

**NBFGR (2010):** Endangered (EN)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location                    | Bijnour | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh | Tribeni | Godakhali | Diamond harbour | Fraserganj |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|-------------|--------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Species                     |         |        |             |        |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |         |           |                 |            |
| <i>Scoliodon laticaudus</i> |         |        |             |        |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |         |           |                 |            |

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**Scientific name:** *Tor putitora* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** Putitor mahseer  
**Vernacular name:** Mahseer (Uttarakhand)  
**Taxonomical classification:** Class: Actinopterygii  
 Order: Cypriniformes  
 Family: Cyprinidae  
 Genus: *Tor*  
 Species: *putitora*

**Meristic Count:** D IV+8, A II+5, P I+16-17, V I+8

**Habitat:** Found in rapid streams with rocky bottom of streams, riverine pools and lake

**Feeding habitat:** Omnivorous

**IUCN Red list status:** Endangered (EN)

**C.A.M.P (1998):** Vulnerable (VU)

**NBFGR (2010):** Endangered (EN)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location            | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|---------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species             |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Tor putitora</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch, 1794)  
**Common name:** Butter catfish  
**Vernacular name:** Pabdah  
**Classification:** Class: Teleostomii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Siluridae  
 Genus: *Ompok*  
 Species: *bimaculatus*

**Meristic Count:** D 4; A II+III 57-58; P I+12-14; V I+7-8

**Habitat:** Adults inhabit clear as well as muddy rivers, streams, ponds and lakes.

**Feeding habitat:** Omnivorous

**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)

**C.A.M.P (1998):** Endangered (EN)

**NBFGR (2010):** Not Assessed

**Area of distribution:**

| Location                 | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species                  |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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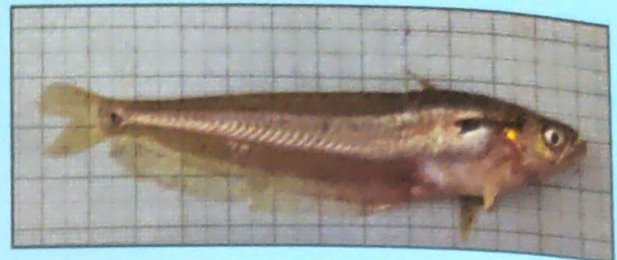
**Scientific name:** *Ompok pabda* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** Pabdah catfish  
**Vernacular name:** Pabdah (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal)  
**Classification:** Class: Actinopterygii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Siluridae  
 Genus: *Ompok*  
 Species: *pabda*

**Meristic Count:** D 4, P I+11-13, V I+6-7, A II-III+48-54  
**Habitat:** Inhabit in clear and muddy water of rivers, streams, ponds and lakes  
**Feeding habitat:** Omnivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Endangered (EN)  
**NBFGR (2010):** Vulnerable (VU)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location           | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|--------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species            |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Ompok pabda</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Ompok pabo* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** Pabo catfish  
**Vernacular name:** Pabdah (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal)  
**Classification:** Class: Actinopterygii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Siluridae  
 Genus: *Ompok*  
 Species: *pabo*

**Meristic count:** D 5, A iii 63-68; P I 14; V i 8-9  
**Habitat:** The catfish inhabits large rivers, lakes and tanks.  
**Feeding habitat:** Omnivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Not Assessed  
**NBFGR (2010):** Endangered (EN)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location          | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|-------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species           |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Ompok pabo</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Wallago attu* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)  
**Common name:** Freshwater shark  
**Vernacular name:** Boal (West Bengal) / Buari (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar)  
**Classification:** Class: Teleostomii  
 Order: Siluriformes  
 Family: Siluridae  
 Genus: *Wallago*  
 Species: *attu*

**Meristic count:** D 5; A II+74-93; P I+13-15; V I+7-9  
**Habitat:** The catfish inhabits large rivers, lakes and tanks.  
**Feeding habitat:** Carnivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Lower Risk-near threatened (LR/nt)  
**NBFGR (2010):** Not Assessed

**Area of distribution:**

| Location            | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh |
|---------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| Species             |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |
| <i>Wallago attu</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |

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**Scientific name:** *Parambassis lala* (Hamilton, 1822)  
**Common name:** High fin glassy perchlet  
**Vernacular name:** Chanda/ Lal chanda (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal)  
**Classification:** Class: Teleostomii  
 Order: Perciformes  
 Family: Ambassidae  
 Genus: *Parambassis*  
 Species: *lala*

**Meristic Count:** D VII + I 11; A III+ 13; P I+10; V I+5  
**Habitat:** Found in river and associated wetland, the little fish is prized high as aquarium fish.  
**Feeding habitat:** Herbivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Near Threatened (NT)  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Not Assessed  
**NBFGR (2010):** Not Assessed

**Area of distribution:**

| Location                | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh | Godakhali | Diamond harbour | Fraserganj |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Species                 |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |           |                 |            |
| <i>Parambassis lala</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |           |                 |            |

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□ → Absent



**Scientific name:** *Schizothorax richardsonii* (Gray, 1832)  
**Common name:** Snowtrout  
**Vernacular name:** Asela (Uttarakhand)  
**Classification:** Class: Actinopterygii  
 Order: Cypriniformes  
 Family: Cyprinidae  
 Genus: *Schizothorax*  
 Species: *richardsonii*

**Meristic Count:** D iii+8; A iii+5; P i+15-16; V i+9  
**Habitat:** Inhabit mountain streams and rivers also preferring to live among rocky environment  
**Feeding habitat:** Herbivorous  
**IUCN Red List Status:** Vulnerable  
**C.A.M.P (1998):** Vulnerable (VU)  
**NBFGR (2010):** Vulnerable (VU)

**Area of distribution:**

| Location                         | Harsil | Tehri | Haridwar | Bijnor | Narora | Farrukhabad | Kanpur | Allahabad | Varanasi | Buxar | Patna | Bhagalpur | Farakka | Berhampore | Balagarh | Godakhali | Diamond harbour | Fraserganj |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Species                          |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |           |                 |            |
| <i>Schizothorax richardsonii</i> |        |       |          |        |        |             |        |           |          |       |       |           |         |            |          |           |                 |            |

■ → Present

□ → Absent



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