

# NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

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AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES INNOVATION LAB

## RESEARCH REPORTS

Sustainable Aquaculture for a Secure Future

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**Title:** Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change on Snakehead Fish Value Chains in the Lower Mekong Basin of Cambodia and Vietnam

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**Abstract:** The productive Mekong fisheries are essential to the food security and nutrition of the 60 million people of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB). Fish, from capture and culture, are a significant source of income and food security in Cambodia and Vietnam. Annual freshwater fish consumption in Cambodia and Vietnam ranges up to 40 kg/person, among the top three countries in the world. Fish contributes 81 percent of protein intake in Cambodia and 70 percent in Vietnam.

In Cambodia, inland capture fisheries remain of primary importance in the fisheries sector, while aquaculture is more important in Vietnam. Snakehead is a popular and highly valued food fish in both countries, and are consumed in fresh and processed forms in the Lower Mekong Basin (Sinh et al. 2014). There are two species of snakehead of economic importance, the snakehead murrel *Channa striata* and the giant snakehead *Channa micropeltes*.

The combination of high fish biodiversity, high productivity, high exploitation rate, long distance migrations, and fish trade make protecting these fisheries and aquaculture of great

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importance. However, they are highly vulnerable to climate and non-climate (specifically water development such as hydropower dam development) related drivers of change. These include increased temperatures; changes in rainfall patterns; changes in the hydrological regime (water levels, duration of flooding, timing of flooding); changes in runoff or sediment load/movement; and increased instances of extreme weather events (storms, floods and droughts) (Keskinen et al. 2010, Hoanh et al. 2010, Vastila et al. 2010, Lauri et al. 2012). [Excerpt is first three paragraphs of publication]

This section was excerpted from the original paper, which was in the *World Aquaculture* (2016), 47(4):53-55.

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