

NATIONAL

Training held in fish stock assessment

By Our Correspondent

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THATTA, Oct 24: The director general of the Sindh Fisheries Department Waheed Ahmed on Saturday stressed the need for capacity-building in fisheries sector to enable the stakeholders to better manage depleting fish resources in the province.

Speaking at the concluding session of a 12-day training workshop on fish stock assessment organised by the Indus for All Programme of WWF- Pakistan here, the DG said the training would enable the department to determine existing fish stock in different lakes and ponds as well as in the Indus River.

He said that the training course had addressed needs of human resources working in the fisheries sector.

Prof Dr Upali S. Amarasinghe of the University of Kelyna, Sri Lanka, and Dr Elmo Weerkoon of the Sri Lankan fisheries ministry conducted the training.

Dr Elmo demonstrated the pen and cage culture (fish culture) in Keenjhar Lake with active participation of Keenjhar Maroara Development and Welfare Organisation.

The coordinator of Natural Resource Management of the Indus for All Programme, Rab Nawaz, said that it was the first time training in fish stock assessment and demonstration of pen and cage culture had been organised in the province.

He said that it would help enhance income of the poor fishermen. The main objective of the training was capacity-building of the fisheries department and other stakeholders in the fish stock assessment.

The site manager of the Indus for All Programme, Keenjhar, Zahid Jalbani, highlighted importance of training with regard to fast depleting fish stocks in the country.

The training was attended by representatives of several departments and academia, including Sindh Fisheries Department, Marine Fisheries Department, Punjab Fisheries Department, Zoological Survey Department, Sindh Wildlife Department, University of Sindh and University of Karachi.

newspaper/national/training-held-in-fish-stock-assessment-509

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