

CHAPTER VIII

**EFFECTIVENESS OF  
RECOMMENDED MESH SIZE**

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS II

# LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT MESH SIZES

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the results of the hypothesis – II, which is as follows:

***H<sub>0</sub>: The recommended mesh sizes of different gears are the most effective one for the beel fisheries of Assam and there is no significant variation in the level of effectiveness across the different beels of Assam.***

***H<sub>1</sub>: The mesh sizes other than the recommended one are the most effective for the beel fisheries of Assam and the level of effectiveness varies from beel to beel.***

The recommended mesh size of nets as per the 'Assam Fisheries Rules, 1953' (Phukan, 2001) is as follows:

1. The use of net with less than 1 cm. Bar/2 cm. mesh *Musarijal* in size is prohibited in any fishery throughout the year: Provided that this restriction may be relaxed by the Deputy Commissioner/Sub Divisional Officer for the catching of smaller species like, *Mowa*, *Puthi*, *Sella*, *Carati*, etc., between the first day of the month of May and the fifteenth day of the month of July, both days inclusive.
2. The use of *Berjal/Mahajal* or *Fasijal* or any type of net with meshes less than 7 cm. Bar/14 cm. mesh is prohibited during breeding season beginning from the first day of the month of May and ending on the fifteenth day of the month of July, both days inclusive in any proclaimed fishery: Provided that this restriction may be relaxed by the State Government for *Hilsa* fishing only.

Similarly, the recommended mesh sizes in Hirakud Reservoir as per Khan et al. (1980) are as follows:

1. Simple gill nets of mesh size 25 to 30 mm. are highly suited for the capture of smaller species like, *G. chapra*, *O.cotio cotio*, *E.vacha* etc.
2. Framed gill nets ranging from 75 to 105 mm. are highly effective for the capture of larger species like, *S. silondia*, *L. fibriatus*, *C. mrigala*, and *Catla catla*

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The effect of mesh size on the fishery in respect of trawls and gill nets were extensively studied by many workers from time to time such as Russel, et al. (1926), Hodgson (1933), Baranav (1948), Holt (1957), Oslen (1979), Aoyama (1961), Joseph et al. (1964), Sulochanan et al. (1968), Hamley (1975), Akio Fujushi (1980), and Mruthyunjaya (1982). Rout et al. (1986) studied on the effectiveness of mesh size and concluded that larger mesh sized gill nets (120 to 135 mm) are economically more effective in case of stagnant cultured fisheries. Khan et al. (1980) studied on different mesh sizes of gill nets and suggested that smaller mesh sizes (25 to 30 mm) are more effective in capturing of smaller fish species and larger mesh sized gill nets (75 to 80 mm) are highly effective to capture larger fish species in Hirakud Reservoir, Orissa. Similarly, Govt. of Assam also issued some rules and regulations regarding the conservation and management of beel fisheries vide '*Assam Fisheries regulation Act, 1953*' (Phukan, 2001).

## METHODOLOGY

To study the level of effectiveness of different mesh sizes of gears on the basis of cost and return analysis the requisite data have been collected from the beels using the

same questionnaire as for chapter-V. To estimate the level of effectiveness on the basis of perception of fishermen responses have been recorded in five categories, such as most effective (+++), effective (++) , partially effective (+), not effective (0) and harmful (-).

## OBSERVATIONS

### RECOMMENDED MESH SIZE OF NETS IN THE BEELS OF ASSAM

Table 8.1 shows the recommended mesh size fishing nets available in the beel fisheries of Assam. Of the entangling nets (Gill nets) *Goroi langi*, which belongs to recommended mesh size of 25 to 30 mm. is found in 33 beels of Assam. It is observed in maximum number of beels (9 beels) in Morigaon district followed by Karimgunj (7 beels), Dhubri (6 beels), Cachar (4 beels), Golaghat (3 beels), Darrang (3 beels), and Nalbari (1 beel).

*Ari langi*, which also belongs to recommended mesh size of 75 mm. is found in 44 beels and is observed in maximum beels (9 beels) of Morigaon district followed by Karimgunj and Dhubri (7 beels), Nagaon and Golaghat (5 beels), Cachar (4 beels), Sibsagar, Kamrup and Darrang (2 beels), and Hailakandi (1 beel).

*Ilisha phansi* with its mesh size of 25 to 30 mm. also belongs to recommended mesh size and has been observed in 43 beels during the study period. It is found in maximum beels of Golaghat district (8 beels) followed by Morigaon (7 beels), Karimgunj and Dhubri (5 beels), Nagaon, Cachar and Darrang (4 beels), and Kamrup, Nalbari and Sibsagar (2 districts).

Likewise, *Rau phansi* (mesh size, 105 mm.) is observed in 51 beels of Assam. In Golaghat district it is found in maximum beels (8 beels), which is followed by Dhubri, Morigaon and Karimgunj (7 beels), Nagaon and Cachar (5 beels), Kamrup

**Table-8.1 Recommended mesh size of fishing nets in the beels**

Gears	Mesh Size (mm.)	Category	District	Beels (Total Nos.)
Goroi langi	25 – 30	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, Jaluguti, Kasodhora, Kujibalipatti, Deora, Thekera, Udori, and Nandini-Karmari. <b>Total Nos. 9</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Sagar, Gopharchang, Angang, Sone beel, Rata, and Saitali. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Hakama, Nandini, Harinchora, Barundanga, and Bhoispuri. <b>Total Nos. 6</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Moridisoj, and Bihdia. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Mailata-Diplinga, and Gathia. <b>Total nos. 3</b>
			Nalbari	Btua-kamakhya. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Ari langi	70 – 75	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, Jaluguti, Kasodhora, Kujibalipatti, Deora, Thekera, Udori, and Nandini-Karmari. <b>Total Nos. 9</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Sagar, Gopharchang, Angang, Sone beel, Rata, and Saitali. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Nandini, Harinchora, Barundanga, Jogra and Bhoispuri, Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Siyalckhaity, Dighali-patali, and Brahmamajjan. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-dubai-duba, Goroimari-bihdia-jopora, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>

			Cachar	Baskandi, Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhow. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Kamrup	Deepar, and Solmari. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Darrang	Raumari, and Gathia. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Hailakandi	Digar-bakri. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Ilisha phansi	25-30	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-dubai-duba, Goroimari-bihdia-jopora, Merkolaberia, Tinsuli-borbil, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, Kasodhora, Deora, Thekera, Udori, and Nandini-Karmari. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Gopharchang, Sone beel, Rata, and Saitali. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Nandini, Barundanga, Jogra and Bhoispuri. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Dighali-patali, and Brahmamajjan. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Roumari, Mailata-Diplinga, and Gathia. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Kamrup	Deepar, and Solmari. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Nalbari	Borbila, and Botua-kamakhya. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhow. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
Rau phansi	105	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-dubai-duba, Goroimari-bihdia-jopora, Merkolaberia, Moridisoi, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>

			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Nandini, Harinchora, Barundanga, Jogra, Chandakhhal, and Bhoispuri. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, Jaluguti, Deora, Thekera, Udori, and Kujibalipatti. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Sagar, Gopharchang, Angang, Sone beel, Rata, and Saitali. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Siyale khaity, Dighali-patali, and Brahmamaijan. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Kamrup	Deepar, Siligurijan, and Solmari. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Roumari, and Gathia. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Nalbari	Borbila. and Botua-kamakhya. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhow. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Barpeta	Sagmara. <b>Total No. 1</b>
			Hailakandi	Digar-bakri. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Karal phansi	130 – 140	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Dhubri	Kalidanga, Hakama, Nandini, Harinchora, Barundanga, Jogra, Chandakhhal, and Bhoispuri. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-dubai-duba, Goroimari-bihdia-jopora, Merkolaberia, Moridisoi, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Sagar, Gopharchang, Angang, Sone beel, Rata, and Saitali. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>

			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Siyale khaity, Dighali-patali, and Brahmamajjan. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Roumari, and Gathia. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Kamrup	Deepar, Siligurijan, and Solmari. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhow. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Nalbari	Borbila. and Botua-kamakhyia. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Barpeta	Sagar. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Musarijal	1.0 – 1.5	Encircling Gear	Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, Jaluguti, kasodhora, Kujibalipatti, Deora, Thekera, Udori, and Nandini-karmari. <b>Total Nos. 9</b>
			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Hakkama, Harinchora, Barundanda, Bhoispuri, Jogra, and Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Goroimari-bihdia-jopora, Merkolaberia, Tinsuliboril, Moridisoi, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Sagar, Gopharchang, Angang, Sone beel, and Rata. <b>Total Nos. 6</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Siyale khaity, Dighali-patali, and Brahmamajjan. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Roumari, Mailata-diplinga, and Gathia. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Nabari	Borbila, and Botua-kamakhyia. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Kamrup	Siligurijan, and Deepar beel. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhow. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Barpeta	Sagmara. <b>Total No. 1</b>



			Hailakandi	Digar-bakri. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Berjal	25 - 30	Encircling Gear	Dhubri	Kalidanga, Hakama, Nandini, Harinchora, Barundanda, Bhoispuri, Jogra, and Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Baskandi, Anti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-Dubai-Duba, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Nagaon	Satiyan, and Dighali-patali. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna and Gopharchang. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhow. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Kamrup	Deepar beel. <b>Total No. 1</b>
			Morigaon	Thekera. <b>Total No. 1</b>
			Hailakandi	Digarbakri. <b>Total No. 1</b>

and Darrang (3 beels), Nalbari and Sibsagar (2 beels), and Barpeta and Hailakandi (1 beel).

*Karal phansijal* (mesh size, 130 to 140 mm.), which also belongs to recommended mesh size is found in 44 beels of Assam. In this case Dhubri and Golaghat district showed the maximum number of beels (8 beels) where it is available. These two beels are followed by Karimgunj (7 beels), Cachar and Nagaon (5 beels), Darrang and Kamrup (3 beels), Sibsagar and Nalbari (2 beels), and Barpeta (1 beel).

*Musarijal*, which belongs to encircling gear has a mesh size of 1.0 to 1.5 mm. and is observed in 51 beel fisheries of Assam. It is found in maximum beels of Morigaon district (9 beels) followed by Dhubri and Golaghat (7 beels), Karimgunj (6 beels), Nagaon and Cachar (5 beels), Darrang (4 beels), Nalbari, Kamrup and Sibsagar (2 beels), and Barpeta and Hailakandi (1 beel).

Similarly, *Berjal* with its mesh size of 25 to 30 mm. also belongs to recommended mesh size of nets. During the study period it is observed in 25 beels of Assam. Dhubri district showed the maximum use of this mesh sized *Berjals* where it is found in 8 beels followed by Cachar and Golaghat (4 beels), Nagaon, Sibsagar and Karimgunj (2 beels), Morigaon, Kamrup, and Hailakandi (1 beel).

#### **NON-RECOMMENDED MESH SIZE OF NETS IN THE BEELS OF ASSAM**

Table 8.2 shows the non-recommended mesh size of fishing nets available in the beel fisheries of Assam. *Puthi langi*, which has non-recommended mesh size of 8 to 10 mm. is observed in 24 beels of Assam. It is observed in maximum beels of Cachar district (5 beels) followed by Golaghat and Karimgunj (4 beels), Dhubri and Morigaon (3 beels), Nagaon and Kamrup (2 beels), and Darrang district (1 beel).

**Table-8.2 Non-Recommended mesh size of fishing nets in the beels**

<b>Gears</b>	<b>Mesh Size (mm.)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Beels (Total Nos.)</b>
Puthi langi	8 - 10	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Cachar	Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-Dubai-Duba, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia, . <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Sagar, Sone beel, and Rata. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Nandini, and Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, and Nandini-karmari. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, and Satiyan. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Kamrup	Solmari, and Deepar beel. <b>Total No. 2</b>
			Darrang	Batha. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Mola langi	12.5	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Dhubri	Kalidanga, Hakama, Nandini, Harinchora, Barundanda, Bhoispuri, Jogra, and Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Morigaon	Mori, Jaluguti, kasodhora, Deora, Thekera, and Nandini-karmari. <b>Total Nos. 6</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Sone beel, and Rata. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Golaghat	Merkolaberia, Tinsuliborbil, and Bihdia, <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Darrang	Batha, and Raumari. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Kamrup	Siligurija, and Solmari. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Nalbari	Borbila. <b>Total No. 1</b>

			Sibsagar	Teliadanga. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Kaoi langi	15 - 17	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Dhubri	Kalidanga, Hakama, Nandini, Harinchora, Barundanda, Bhoispuri, Jogra, and Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Merkolaberia, Tinsuliboril, Moridiso, . Botalikhosa, and Bihdia, . <b>Total Nos. 6</b>
			Morigaon	Mori, Jaluguti, kasodhora, Deora, Thekera, and Nandini-karmari. <b>Total Nos. 6</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Siyalekhaity, Dighali- patali. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Roumari, Mailata- diplinga, and Gathia. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Kamrup	Solmari, Siligurijan, and Deepar. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Karimgunj	Rani-megna, Sone, and Saitali. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, and Baskandi. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhow. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Nalbari	Butua kamakhya. <b>Total No. 1</b>
			Barpeta	Sagmara. <b>Total No. 1</b>
			Hailakandi	Digar-bakri. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Sittica langi	40.0	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, Jaluguti, Kasodhora, Kujiballipati, Deora, Thekera, Udori, and Nandini-karmari. <b>Total Nos. 9</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-duba- duba, Merkolaberia, Tinsuliboril, Moridiso, . Botalikhosa, and Bihdia, . <b>Total Nos. 7</b>

			Karimgunj	Rani-Megna, Gopharchang, Angang, Saitali, Sagar, Sone beel, and Rata. <b>Total Nos. 7</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Siyalekhaity, Dighali-patali, and Brahmamaijan. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Cachar	Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Hakama, Harinchora, Bhoispuri, and Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Nalbari	Borbila, and Botua-kamakhya. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Kamrup	Siligurijan, and Deepar. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Mailata-Diplinga. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga, and Moridikhov. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Barpeta	Sagmar. <b>Total No. 1</b>
Ari phansi	150 – 165	Entangling Gear (Gill net)	Morigaon	Mori, Bormonoha, Kasodhora, Kujiballipati, Deora, Thekera, Udori, and Nandini-karmari. <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Golaghat	Pungani, Ganak-dubaduba, Merkolaberia, Tinsuliboril, Gorimari-Bihdia-Jopora, Moridisoi, Botalikhosa, and Bihdia, . <b>Total Nos. 8</b>
			Dhubri	Kalidanga, Nandini, Hakama, Barundanga, Bhoispuri, and Chandakhal. <b>Total Nos. 6</b>
			Nagaon	Lakhanabandha, Satiyan, Siyalekhaity, Dighali-patali, and Brahmamaijan. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>

			Cachar	Salchapra, Sibnarayanpur, Baskandi, Auti-Bauti, and Tapang. <b>Total Nos. 5</b>
			Darrang	Batha, Raumari, Mailata-Diplinga, and Gathia. <b>Total Nos. 4</b>
			Kamrup	Solmari, Siligurijan, and Deepar beel. <b>Total Nos. 3</b>
			Nalbari	Borbilla, and Botua-kamakhya. <b>Total Nos. 2</b>
			Barpeta	Sagmara. <b>Total No. 1</b>
			Sibsagar	Teliadanga. <b>Total No. 1</b>
			Hailakandi	Digar-bakri. <b>Total No. 1</b>

*Mola langi* (12.5mm) on the other hand, has been observed in maximum beels of Dhubri district (8 beels) and is followed by Morigaon (6 beels), Cachar (5 beels), Karimgunj and Golaghat (3 beels), Darrang and Kamrup (2 beels), and Nalbari and Sibsagar district (1 beel). Thus it has been observed in a total number of 31 beels of Assam.

*Kaoi langi*, which also belongs to non-recommended mesh size (15 to 17 mm.), has been found in 41 beels of Assam. It is observed in maximum beels of Dhubri district (8 beels) followed by Golaghat and Morigaon (6 beels), Nagaon, Darrang (4 beels), Kamrup (3 beels), Cahar, Karimgunj and Sibsagar (2 beels), and Nalbari, Barpeta and Hailakandi (1 beel).

In case of *Sittica langi*, which has the non-recommended mesh size hasa been observed in 47 numbers of beels of Assam. Morigaon district showed the use of the gear in maximum beels (9 beels). It is followed by Golaghat and Karimgunj (7 beels), Nagaon, Cachar and Dhubri (5 beels), and Nalbari, Kamrup, Darrang and Sibsagar districts (2 beels), and Barpeta (1 beel).

Likewise, *Ari phansi* with its mesh size of 150 to 165 mm. also belongs to non-recommended mesh sized nets in the beel fisheries of Assam. It is found in a total number of 44 beels. Morigaon and Golaghat district showed the maximum use of this mesh sized gill nets (8 beels), which are followed by Dhubri (6 beels); Nagaon and Cachar (5 beels); Darrang (4 beels); Kamrup (3 beels); Nalbari (2 beels); and Barpeta, Sibsagar and Hailakandi districts (1 beel).

#### **EFFECTIVENESS OF RECOMMENDED MESH SIZE OF NETS**

The level of effectiveness of recommended mesh size of fishing nets (Table-8.5) has been worked out on the basis of cost and return analysis (Table-8.3) and on the perception of fishermen (Table-8.7). The results of the analysis are as follows:

### Effectiveness based on Cost and Return Analysis

The level of effectiveness on the basis of cost and return analysis of different recommended mesh size gill nets (phansijals and langijals) and encircling nets (musarijal and berjal) has been shown in Table-8.3. The mesh size of *Goroi langi* (25.0 to 30.0 mm) falls within the recommended mesh size of simple gill nets, i.e., 25.0 to 30.0 mm. Out of 9 beels *Goroi langi* is found most effective in all the 9 beels (100%). Thus it is found as effective gear showing all the economic criteria within the feasible range. Similarly, the analysis shows that out of 14 cases *Ari langi* (m.s., 70.0 to 75.0 mm) is effective in all the cases.

Among the Phansijals, the mesh size of *Ilisha phansi* (25.0 to 30.0 mm) belongs to the recommended mesh size of simple gill nets. The economic analysis on the basis of CTOR (Capital Turn Over Ratio), ROR (Rate of Return), NPV (Net Present Value), BCR (Benefit-Cost Ratio), IRR (Internal Rate of Return) and NKR (Net Investment-Benefit Ratio) shows that the gear is able to provide benefit at least cost, i.e., effective in all the 8 beels where it is found in operation during the study period. *Rau phansi* (m.s., 105 mm), on the other hand, is found in 15 beels and in all the cases the gear is found effective in all economic criteria. Likewise, *Karal phansijal* with its mesh bar 130 to 140 mm is found as most effective in all the 16 beels where the study was conducted.

Among the encircling gears *Musarijal* possesses the smallest mesh size, i.e., 1.0 to 1.5 mm. The economic analysis on the basis of certain criteria such as CTOR, ROR, NPV, BCR, IRR, and NKR as have been worked out in chapter-IV and V. Table-8.3 shows that *Musarijal* is most effective in 46 beels (90.19%) out of 51 beels. In another 4 beels (07.84%) certain economic parameters are found below the viable range, hence it is considered as partially effective (Table-8.3). In another one case (01.96%) the gear is found as affective because the economic parameters like CTOR, ROR, BCR, IRR, and NKR are found below the feasible range. Moreover, the NPV is found in negative.



Table-8.3 Economic analysis of recommended mesh size of fishing nets

Gear	Beel	Ci (Rs.)	Depr. (Rs.)	TO C. (Rs.)	TC (Rs.)	TR (Rs.)	PAT (Rs.)	CTOR	ROR	NOI (Rs.)	PBP	T.Cat.Y	Days	CPGH (Kg)	NPV (Rs.)	BCR	IRR	NKR	
Goroi langi																			
	Hakama	4800	561.9	7980	851.9	13860	5348.1	2.88	1.11	5910	0.81	630	180	0.129	30844.2	6.76	117	7.38	
	Barundanga	4700	558.32	7940	8498.32	13860	5361.68	2.95	1.14	5920	0.79	630	180	0.129	30050	5.56	110	7.39	
	Botua-kamakhya	4650	495.83	19900	20385.83	23760	3384.17	5.1	0.72	3860	1.2	1080	240	0.083	18217.05	4.2	77	4.92	
	Jaluguti	4700	508.78	10170	10678.33	18480	7801.67	3.93	1.66	8310	0.57	840	120	0.129	45633.6	8.86	164	10.71	
	Thekera	4600	504.75	7820	8324.75	8910	585.25	1.94	0.13	1090	4.22	405	90	0.083	1199.7	1.21	17	1.26	
	Mondison	4700	533.33	5200	5733.33	8470	2736.67	1.8	0.58	3270	1.44	385	110	0.084	14436	3.48	65	4.07	
	Baitha	4300	468.77	5380	5848.77	10560	4711.23	2.46	1.09	5180	0.83	480	120	0.148	28501	5.76	110	7.16	
	Maitate-upling	4850	545.83	7950	8495.83	13860	5364.17	2.86	1.1	5910	0.82	630	170	0.137	30390.75	5.91	111	7.27	
	Gaitha	4800	441.66	11450	11891.66	16632	4740.34	3.46	0.98	5182	0.93	756	140	0.1	26802.88	6.08	104	6.58	
Ari langi																			
	Jogra	4850	570.83	6450	7020.83	10780	3789.17	2.17	0.76	4330	1.14	490	140	0.128	20865.27	4.51	82	5.21	
	Chandakhal	4950	544.44	7170	7714.44	13200	5485.56	2.67	1.11	6030	0.82	600	160	0.138	31388.27	6.28	114	7.34	
	Deepar	4950	570.83	6450	7020.83	9000	1978.17	1.8	0.39	2550	1.92	360	120	0.111	9847.07	2.65	48	2.98	
	Bomoncha	5300	552.78	15920	16472.78	18700	2227.22	3.53	0.42	2780	1.9	850	190	0.092	12096.38	3.36	57	3.52	
	Kujbalipatti	5250	541.66	11725	12288.66	20020	7933.34	3.81	1.51	8475	0.62	910	140	0.12	46430.7	8.7	150	9.84	
	Udon	5300	575	5360	5935	15840	9805	2.99	1.87	10480	0.51	720	120	0.111	56308	9.88	183	12	
	Tapang	5600	689.28	8125	8814.28	11088	2273.72	1.98	0.41	2963	1.89	504	160	0.103	11597.63	2.72	50	3.07	
	Digarbakti	5100	608.33	7250	7858.33	9680	1821.67	1.89	0.36	2430	2.1	440	160	0.101	8798.38	2.41	45	2.72	
	Pungani	5350	563.88	7375	7988.88	11220	3281.12	2.09	0.61	3845	1.39	510	85	0.111	17108.4	3.56	66	4.19	
	Ganak-Dubar-Duba	5000	517.85	6200	6717.85	9240	2522.15	1.85	0.5	3040	1.64	420	140	0.111	13297.9	3.41	59	3.66	
	Coroma-Bihdia-Jopora	5300	552.78	5550	6102.78	8470	2367.22	1.99	0.45	2920	1.82	385	110	0.084	11943.28	2.95	53	3.25	
	Teliadanga	5100	546.43	3845	4391.43	5280	888.57	1.04	0.17	1435	3.56	240	80	0.111	3159.01	1.55	24	1.62	
	Mordikow	5200	530.55	7330	7860.55	12155	4294.45	2.34	0.83	4825	1.08	552.5	85	0.12	23555.26	4.74	64	5.53	
	Rauman	4950	544.44	7170	7714.44	13200	5485.56	2.67	1.11	6030	0.82	600	160	0.138	30925.65	5.83	111	7.31	
Ilisha phansi																			
	Kaldanga	4350	480.84	5370	5850.84	10560	4709.46	2.43	1.08	5190	0.84	480	120	0.148	26942.62	6.19	113	7.26	
	Nandini	4250	505.94	4250	4755.94	5544	788.06	1.3	0.18	1294	3.28	252	90	0.103	3379.91	1.73	27	1.78	
	Barundanga	3800	366.66	6100	6466.66	7700	1233.34	2.03	0.32	1800	2.98	350	140	0.092	5952.02	2.5	42	2.56	
	Bhoispuri	4450	502.77	6250	6752.77	10780	4027.23	2.42	0.9	4530	0.98	490	140	0.129	23109.43	5.68	99	6.19	
	Nandini-karman	4150	454.16	4380	4834.16	7315	2480.84	1.76	0.6	2935	1.41	332.5	95	0.129	13688.36	4.06	68	4.29	
	Baskandi	4350	574.99	7750	8324.99	17820	9495.01	2.18	2.18	10070	0.43	810	180	0.083	57552.69	13.03	226	14.23	
	Raan-Megna	4150	508.32	6550	7058.32	13200	6141.68	3.18	1.48	6650	0.62	600	150	0.074	36684.21	9.18	157	9.84	
	Gopharchang	4100	508.32	17300	17808.32	18480	671.68	4.45	0.16	1180	3.52	840	210	0.074	2874.91	1.65	26	1.7	





D.patali	40000	2916.66	30550	33486.66	38250	4783.34	0.96	0.12	16100	2.17	1530	0.066	-5002	0.9	9	0.87	
B.majjan	28000	3566.66	41800	45186.66	60000	14833.34	2.31	0.57	18400	1.41	2400	0.078	81817	3.55	67	4.15	
satchap	42500	7589.28	58200	65789.28	131625	65835.72	3.09	1.55	73425	0.58	5265	0.13	391212.75	7.18	150	10.21	
Sitararay	74000	14500	34100	48600	135750	87150	1.83	1.17	101850	0.72	5430	0.235	503243.5	4.99	112	7.8	
Baskanadi	59000	9777.77	48700	58477.77	117000	58522.23	1.98	0.99	68300	0.86	4680	0.135	327398	4.43	97	6.55	
A.bauti	45000	8303.57	77200	85503.57	202500	116996.43	4.5	2.59	125300	0.36	8100	0.14	707220.5	11.34	239	16.72	
Tapang	28000	4333.32	41700	46033.32	112500	68466.88	4.02	2.37	70800	0.39	4500	0.146	397779.2	10.83	222	15.21	
D.bakri	51000	10321.41	28800	39121.41	70500	31378.89	1.38	0.61	41700	1.22	2800	0.163	175941	3.14	68	4.44	
Ranimeg	45000	8303.57	77000	85303.57	168750	83446.43	3.75	1.85	91750	0.49	8750	0.117	498546	8.3	175	12.1	
Sagar	47500	8125	17100	25225	80750	35525	1.28	0.75	43650	1.09	2430	0.105	262895	3.7	79	5.19	
Gopnar	48000	8657.14	106300	115157.14	430500	315342.86	8.96	6.5	324200	0.15	17220	0.213	1933852.4	27.5	580	41.28	
Angang	45500	6986.11	41800	48786.11	157500	108713.89	3.46	2.39	115700	0.39	6300	0.218	646776.8	10.31	218	15.21	
Sone	45500	6986.11	135400	142386.11	303750	161363.89	6.67	3.5	168350	0.27	12150	0.117	972680.3	15.01	317	22.38	
Rala	46000	6888.88	64700	71588.88	81250	9661.12	1.77	0.21	16550	2.78	3250	0.065	33577.7	1.49	31	1.73	
Pungani	30500	3652.77	37900	41552.77	68750	27197.29	2.25	0.89	30850	0.99	2750	110	0.097	152146.3	4.92	94	5.99
G.B.Jop.	52000	9142.85	78600	87742.85	118125	30382.15	2.27	0.58	39525	1.32	4725	135	0.078	166674.75	3.13	66	4.2
M.beria	41000	7484.32	62100	69584.32	125000	55435.68	3.05	1.35	62900	0.65	5000	125	0.104	327563	6.3	132	8.99
T.borbil	41000	6319.44	78600	84919.44	155250	70330.66	3.79	1.71	76650	0.53	6210	135	0.102	412675.5	7.68	161	11.06
M.disci	25000	3250	45500	48750	62500	13750	2.5	0.55	17000	1.47	2500	100	0.071	75164	3.49	60	4
B.khosa	27000	4678.5	38900	44578.5	150000	105421.5	5.56	3.9	110100	0.25	6000	80	0.195	642046.2	17.26	356	24.78
Bihdia	28000	4000	43350	47350	91000	43650	3.25	1.56	47250	0.59	3640	130	0.109	254480.7	7.28	149	10.08
T.danga	25000	3472.22	45700	49172.22	62500	13327.78	2.5	0.53	16800	1.49	2500	100	0.078	68598	2.94	59	3.74
M.dikhow	54000	8686.66	39600	48286.66	87500	39233.34	1.62	0.73	47900	1.13	3500	100	0.121	211319	3.99	75	4.91
Batha	38000	5333	129200	134533	393750	259217	0.09	7.2	264550	0.14	15750	190	0.181	1591965	35.91	662	42.89
M.dip	28000	3733.32	41800	45533.32	67500	21966.68	2.41	0.78	25700	1.08	2700	70	0.082	129836	3.93	81	5.64
Rauman	39000	5750	76200	81950	256500	174550	6.58	4.47	180300	0.22	10260	120	0.163	1069458	23.95	440	28.42
Gathia	37500	4875	70700	75575	82250	6675	2.19	0.17	11150	3.25	3290	100	0.073	23856	1.35	22	1.49



Table-8.4 Economic analysis of non-recommended mesh size of fishing nets

Gear	Beel	CI (Rs.)	Depr. (Rs.)	TO C. (Rs.)	TC (Rs.)	TR (Rs.)	PAT (Rs.)	CTOR	ROR	NOI (Rs.)	PBP	T.Cat/Y	Days	CPGH (Kg)	NPV (Rs.)	BCR	IRR	NKR
Puthi langi	Solman	250	125	7225	7350	9000	1650	36	6.8	1775	0.14	360	180	0.074	10342.5	17.04	460	42.37
	Lakhanabandha	3850	391.66	4150	4541.66	7425	2883.34	1.93	0.74	3275	1.78	337.5	90	0.069	15869.6	4.8	81	5.12
	Rata	4100	463.08	5640	6103.08	6600	496.92	1.61	0.12	980	4.27	300	120	0.092	1218.78	1.25	18	1.29
	Botalikhosa	4250	506.66	4750	5256.66	5940	683.34	1.39	0.16	1190	3.57	270	100	0.1	2336.55	1.46	73	1.65
	Kalidanga	4300	468.77	5380	5848.77	10560	4711.23	2.46	1.09	5180	0.83	480	120	0.148	26932.68	6.24	113	7.26
Mota langi	Nandini	4400	548.8	7200	7748.8	12320	4571.2	2.8	1.03	5120	0.86	560	160	0.129	25738.34	5.28	107	6.85
	Kasodhora	4250	458.32	10135	10593.32	18480	7886.68	4.35	1.87	8345	0.51	840	120	0.129	47026	9.85	182	12.06
	Merkolabena	4300	469.44	8700	9169.44	9900	730.56	2.3	0.17	1200	3.58	450	100	0.083	1864.8	1.33	23	1.43
	Tinsultorbil	4300	469.44	11330	11799.44	19305	7505.56	4.49	1.75	7975	0.54	877.5	135	0.12	43802.05	8.87	168	11.18
	Bihdia	4250	541.66	6200	6741.66	9480	2718.34	2.22	0.64	3250	1.3	430	70	0.113	14745.15	3.71	70	4.46
Kaoi langi	Bhoispun	4400	491.66	6420	6911.66	11550	4638.34	2.63	1.05	5130	0.86	525	140	0.138	25933.6	5.45	105	6.89
	Nandini-karmari	4450	563.08	6380	6943.08	7700	759.92	1.73	0.17	1320	3.37	350	140	0.092	3389.37	1.7	27	1.75
	Dighail-patelli	4350	433.33	11450	11883.33	17620	5936.67	4.09	1.36	6370	0.68	810	270	0.111	34716.51	8.36	143	8.98
	Saichapra	4400	548.8	6420	6968.8	8470	1501.2	1.92	0.34	2050	2.15	385	140	0.101	7354.04	2.38	44	2.87
	Baakandi	4400	516.66	7980	8506.66	11880	3373.24	2.7	0.77	3890	1.13	540	180	0.111	18743.64	4.51	83	5.26
Sihica langi	Ram-megna	4450	563.08	5620	6183.08	6600	416.92	1.48	0.09	980	4.54	300	120	0.092	628.77	1.11	15	1.14
	Sone	4000	458.32	22500	22958.32	26730	3711.68	6.68	0.94	4230	0.94	1215	270	0.083	21394.2	5.25	99	6.35
	Saitali	4450	563.08	6390	6953.08	7700	746.92	1.73	0.17	1310	3.39	350	140	0.092	2671.47	1.49	24	1.6
	Hannchora	4850	545.83	7950	8495.83	13860	5364.17	2.86	1.1	5910	0.82	630	180	0.129	60849.41	6.38	115	7.36
	Sagamara	4900	533.33	4250	4783.33	6930	2146.67	1.41	0.44	2680	1.8	315	90	0.064	10887.1	2.72	52	3.22
Deora	Borbilla	4800	441.66	11450	11891.66	16632	4740.34	3.46	0.96	5182	0.93	756	270	0.051	28802.88	6.08	104	6.58
	Siligunjan	4900	558.83	7350	7908.33	10560	2651.67	2.16	0.54	3210	1.53	480	160	0.111	13548.6	3.14	59	3.76
	Mori	4800	450	15790	16240	18810	2570	3.92	0.54	3020	1.59	855	190	0.083	13581.98	3.65	62	3.83
	Deora	4900	558.33	7230	7788.33	8800	1011.67	1.79	0.21	1570	3.12	400	160	0.092	3882.24	1.66	28	1.79
	Satyan	4850	576.18	7140	7716.18	9880	1963.82	2	0.4	2540	1.91	440	160	0.101	9989.11	2.74	49	3.06
Sibnarayanpur	Siyalekhaty	4900	558.33	7080	7638.33	8800	1161.67	1.79	0.24	1720	2.85	400	160	0.092	4811.34	1.82	31	1.98
	Brahmanaijan	4900	590.47	6410	7000.47	10780	3779.53	2.2	0.77	4370	1.12	490	140	0.128	21214.84	4.64	84	4.94
	Sibnarayanpur	4900	558.33	7190	7748.33	9680	1931.67	1.98	0.39	2490	1.97	440	160	0.101	9577.64	2.64	48	2.85
	Auti-bauti	4850	504.16	7980	8484.16	9800	1415.84	2.27	0.33	1920	2.27	450	180	0.092	6651.31	2.27	41	2.53



Likewise, out of 25 beels, *Berjal* (m.s., 25.0 to 30.0 mm) is found most effective in 19 beels (76%) as far as the economic analysis is concerned. Only in one case (4%) the gear is found partially effective. In another 2 beels (8%) it is found as not effective where all the economic criteria are found below the feasible range. Moreover, in 3 beels (12%) the gear is found to be affective where all the economic criteria are found in negative.

### **Effectiveness based on Perception of Fishermen**

Table-8.7 shows the perception of fishermen on the level of effectiveness of different recommended mesh size of gill nets (langijal and phansijal) and encircling nets (*Musarijal* and *Berjal*) in the beels of Assam. The mesh size of *Goroi langi* is found within the recommended mesh size for simple gill nets in Hirakud Reservoir, i. e., 25 – 30 mm. According to the perception of fishermen the gear is found most effective in 23 beels (41.82%), which supports the recommended mesh size. Moreover, in another 12 beels (21.82%) the gear is found effective. Accordingly the study shows that in 8 beels (14.54%) the gear is partially effective but in 12 beels (21.82%) it is found as not effective. The mesh size of *Ari langi* (70 to 75 mm) is larger in comparison to other types of langijal. The study on the level of effectiveness shows that *Ari langi* is most effective in 27 beels (49.09%), and effective in 12 beels (21.82%). Thus, it is evident that the gear is effective in most of the cases, i.e., 39 beels (70.91%) out of 55 beels. In another 9 beels (16.36%) the gear is found in partially effective category whereas in 7 cases (12.82%) it is recorded as not effective.

Among the phansijals *Ilisha phansi* with its mesh bar 25 to 30 mm belongs to the recommended mesh size. As far as the perception of fishermen is concerned the gear is found most effective in 19 beels (34.54%), effective in 17 beels (30.90%), partially effective in 13 beels (23.67%) and not effective in 6 beels (10.90%). In this case also maximum beels show effectiveness of the gear.



As far as the perception of the fishermen is concerned *Rau phansi* (m.s., 107.5 mm) is found most effective in 29 beels (52.72%) whereas effective in 11 beels (20%). Thus the gear is found either most effective or effective in 40 beels (72.72%) showing a high rate of effectiveness over the other types. Only in 7 beels (12.72%) the gear is found to be partially effective. In another 8 beels (14.54%) it is recorded as not effective.

As far as the *Karal phansijal* is concern, which has the mesh bar of 120 to 135 mm, it has been observed that the gear is most effective in 27 beels (49.09%) and effective in 13 beels (23.67%). Only in 10 beels (18.18%) it is found as partially effective. But in 5 beels (09.09%) the gear is reported as not effective. This is due to the non-availability of major fish groups in these beels.

The perception of fishermen on the level of effectiveness of encircling gears (*Musarijal* and *Berjal*) has been shown in table-8.4. Among the encircling gears *Musarijal* has the smallest mesh size (1.0 to 1.5 mm), which are similar to mosquito nets. Due to their smaller mesh size the gear is able to capture all types of fish groups including the fries and fingerlings of Indian Major Carps (IMC). According t the perception of fishermen on the level of its effectiveness, it has been found that the gear is most effective in 25 beels (45.45%), effective in 14 beels (25.45%), and partially effective in 8 beels (14.54%). Further, in 2 beels (03.63%) it has been reported as not effective whereas it reported to be affective in 6 beels (10.90%) out of 55 beels where the present works have been conducted. In these 6 beels the gear is found to deplete fish stock by capturing fries and fingerlings of IMC.

Finally, the study shows that *Berjal* with its mesh size 25 to 30 mm is most effective in 36 beels (65.45%) and effective in 12 beels (21.82%). Thus, the gear has been reported as most effective and effective in 48 beels (87.27%). Only in 4 beels (07.27%) it is found to be partially effective. But in another 3 beels (05.45%) it has been reported as not effective.

**Table-8.5 Level of Effectiveness of recommended mesh size of fishing nets on the basis of cost and return analysis**

Gears	Category	Mesh Size (mm)	Level of effectiveness	Number of beels	Percent
Goroi langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	25.0 – 30.0	++	09	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Ari langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	70.0 – 75.0	++	14	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Ilisha phansi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	25.0 – 30.0	++	08	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Rau phansi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	105.0	++	15	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Karal phansi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	130.0 – 140.0	++	16	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Musari jal	Encircling Gear	1.0 – 1.5	++	46	90.19
			+	04	07.84
			0	00	00
			-	01	01.96
Ber jal	Encircling Gear	25.0 – 30.0	++	19	76
			+	01	04
			0	02	08
			-	03	12

**N.B.** In the table '++' represents as *Most Effective*, '+' as *Partially Effective*, '0' as *Not Effective*, and '-' as harmful.

**Table-8.6 Level of Effectiveness of non- recommended mesh size of fishing nets on the basis of cost and return analysis**

<b>Gear</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Mesh Size</b>	<b>Level of Effectiveness</b>	<b>Nos. of Beels</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Puthi langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	8.0 – 10.0	++	04	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Mola langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	12.5	++	06	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Kaoi langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	15.0 – 17.0	++	07	87.5
			+	01	12.5
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Sittica langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	40.0	++	11	100
			+	00	00
			0	00	00
			-	00	00
Ari phansi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	150 - 165	++	09	81.82
			+	02	18.18
			0	00	00
			-	00	00

**N.B.** In the table '++' represents as *Most Effective*, '+' as *Partially Effective*, '0' as *Not Effective*, and '-' as harmful.

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF NON-RECOMMENDED MESH SIZE OF NETS**

The level of effectiveness of non-recommended mesh size of fishing nets (Table-8.6) has been worked out on the basis of cost and return analysis (Table-8.4) and on the perception of fishermen (Table-8.8). The results of the analysis are as follows:

### **Effectiveness based on Cost and Return Analysis**

In case of gill nets the mesh size are found between 8.0 mm (*Puthi langi*) to 165.0 mm (*Ari phansi*). Cost effectiveness studies (Table-8.4) shows that out of 4 cases *Puthi langi* with its mesh bar 8.0 – 10.0 mm is found most effective in all the 4 beels (100%). Similarly, *Mola langi* with its mesh bar of 12.5 mm is also found most effective in all the cases where the study was conducted. Likewise, the analysis shows that out of 8 beels *Kaoi langi* (m.s., 15.0 – 17.0 mm) can provide maximum benefit, i.e. most effective in 7 beels (87.5%) where all the economic parameters are found within the viable range. In 1 beels (12.5%) it is found as partially effective where the ROR was found below the economic feasible range. *Sittica langi* (m.s., 40.0 mm) was observed in 11 beels during the study period and are found as effective in all the beels as far as the cost effectiveness study is concern. Likewise, out of 12 beels *Ari phansi*, which has the largest mesh size (150.0 to 165.0 mm) in comparison to other gill nets, is found most effective in 9 beel (81.82%) and partially effective in another 2 beels (18.18%) where CTOR in one beel and ROR in another beel are found below the economic feasible range (Table-8.4).

### **Effectiveness based on Perception of Fishermen**

As shown in the Table-8.8 *Puthi langi* (m.s., 8.0 – 10.0 mm) has been found as most effective in 18 beels (32.72%), effective in 20 beels (36.36%), partially effective in 11 beels (20%) and not effective in 6 beels (10.90%). *Mola langi* with its mesh size of 12.5 mm has been found as most effective in 18 beels (32.71%), effective in 19 beels (34.54%), partially effective in 13 beels (23.33%), and not effective in 5 beels

**Table-8.7 Level of Effectiveness of recommended mesh size of fishing nets on the basis of perception of fishermen**

Gears	Category	Mesh Size (mm)	Level of effectiveness	Number of Beels	Per cent
Goroi langi	Entangling nets	20 - 25	+++	23	41.82
			++	12	21.82
			+	08	14.54
			0	12	21.82
Ari langi	-do-	55 - 60	+++	27	49.09
			++	12	21.82
			+	09	16.36
			0	07	12.73
Ilisha phansi	-do-	25 - 30	+++	19	34.54
			++	17	30.90
			+	13	23.67
			0	06	10.90
Rau phansi	-do-	107.5	+++	29	52.72
			++	11	20.00
			+	07	12.72
			0	08	14.54
Karal phansi	-do-	120 - 135	+++	27	49.09
			++	13	23.67
			+	10	18.18
			0	05	09.09
Musarijal	Encircling nets	1.0 - 1.5	+++	25	45.45
			++	14	25.45
			+	08	14.54
			0	02	03.63
			-	06	10.90
Ber jal	-do-	25 - 30	+++	36	65.45
			++	12	21.82
			+	04	07.27
			0	03	05.45

**N.B.** In the table '+++' represents as *Most Effective*, '++' as *Effective*, '+' as *Partially Effective*, '0' as *Not Effective* and '-' as *harmful*.

**Table-8.8 Level of Effectiveness of non-recommended mesh size of fishing nets on the basis of perception of fishermen**

Gears	Category	Mesh Size (mm)	Level of Effectiveness	Number of Beels	Per cent
Puthi langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	8.0 – 10.0	+++	18	45.46
			++	20	29.10
			+	11	14.54
			0	06	10.90
Mola langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	12.5	+++	18	32.71
			++	19	34.54
			+	13	23.66
			0	05	09.09
Kaoli langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	15.0 – 17.0	+++	21	38.18
			++	17	30.90
			+	13	23.65
			0	04	07.27
Sittica langi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	40.0	+++	13	23.66
			++	18	32.72
			+	12	21.82
			0	12	21.82
Ari phansi	Entangling Gear (Gill Net)	150.0 – 165.0	+++	31	56.36
			++	12	21.82
			+	08	14.54
			0	04	07.27

**N.B.** In the table '+++’ represents as *Most Effective*, ‘++’ as *Effective*, ‘+’ as *Partially Effective*, ‘0’ as *Not Effective* and ‘-’ as *harmful*.

(09.09%). Likewise, the study shows *Kaoi langi* with its mesh size of 15 to 17 mm, are most effective in maximum of the cases (21 beels, i.e., 38.18%) under study. Moreover, the gear is found effective in 17 beels (30.90%), partially effective in 13 beels (23.65%), and finally as not effective in only 4 cases (07.27%). Similarly, according to the perception of the fishermen *Sittica langi* (40.0 mm) is found most effective in 13 beels (23.66%), effective in 18 beels (32.72%), partially effective in 12 beels (21.82%) and not effective in 12 beels (21.82%). Thus, in comparison to recommended one (i.e., mesh size, 25 to 30 mm) the gear with mesh size of 40.0 mm is found less effective as far as the perception of fishermen is concerned.

Finally, among the phansijals *Ari phansi* (m.s., 150 to 165 mm), which has the largest mesh size among the gill nets is reported to be most effective in 31 beels (56.36%) and effective in 12 beels (21.82%). Thus, it is found as most effective and effective in 43 beels (78.18%) out of 55 beels. In another 8 beels (14.54%) the gear is reported as partially effective. But in only 4 beels (07.27%) it is reported as not effective.

## DISCUSSION

The study on the availability of recommended mesh size of fishing nets (Table-8.1) shows that *Rau phansi* (m.s. 105 mm) among the gill nets, and *Musarijal* (m.s. 1.0 to 1.5 mm) among the encircling nets are extensively used in the beel fisheries of Assam. Both the gears have been observed in 51 beels during the study period. As far as the availability of other gears are concerned these two gears are followed by *Ari langi* (m.s 70 to 75 mm) and *Kaoi phansi* in 44 beels, *Ilisha phansi* (25 to 30 mm) in 43 beels, *Goroi langi* (m.s. 25 to 30 mm) in 33 beels, and *Berjal* in 25 beels.

As far as the availability of non-recommended mesh sized nets are concerned (Table-8.2) *Sittica langi* (m.s. 40 mm) has been observed in maximum numbers of beels (47

beels, i.e. % of the total sample). It is followed by *Ari phansi* (m.s. 150 to 165 mm) in 44 beels, *Kaoi langi* (m.s. 15 to 17 mm) in 41 beels, *Mola langi* ( m.s. 12.5 mm) in 31 beels, and *Puthi langi* (m.s. 8 to 10 mm) in only 24 beels. Thus it is evident from the study that the recommended mesh sized nets are used in more beels in comparison to non-recommended mesh sized nets in the beel fisheries of Assam.

Generally under intensive fish culture in stagnant cultivated water, the periodic harvesting and marketing of fish in small quantities is always desirable for more profit. The economic study on the basis of certain economic criteria such as CTOR, ROR, BCR, NPV, IRR and NKR (Table-8.3) reveals that among the recommended mesh sized nets the gill nets such as *Goroi langi*, *Ari langi*, *Ilisha phansi*, *Rau phansi*, and *Karal phansi* are economically most feasible in the beels of Assam. The study supports the view given by Khan et al. (1980) that the simple gill nets of 25 to 30 mm are highly suited for the capture of smaller species and that gill nets ranging from 75 to 105 mm are highly effective for the capture of larger species of fishes. On the other hand, among the encircling gears *Musarijal* is found effective in maximum beels (46 beels, i.e. 83.64 %) in comparison to *Berjal* (19 beels, i. e. 76%). But both the gears are found to be harmful where the vital economic parameters such as ROR, NPV, and NKR are found in negative. Though the encircling gears such as *Musarijal* and *Berjal* are found economically effective in most of the beels of Asasm (Table-8.5) their application during breeding season (beginning from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month of May and ending on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of July) is prohibited by the Govt. of Assam, vide Assam Fisheries Rules, 1953 (Phukan, 2001).

As far as the non-recommended mesh sized nets are concerned *Puthi langi*, *Mola langi*, and *Sittica langi* are found economically effective in respect of all economic criteria (Table-8.4). On the other hand, the level of effectiveness shows that *Kaoi langi* and *Ari phansi* are partially effective in one beel and 2 beels respectively (Table-8.6).

According to the perception of fishermen on the level of effectiveness of recommended mesh sized nets (Table-8.7) it has been observed that larger mesh sized



gill nets, such as *Ari langi* (55 to 60 mm), *Rau phansi* (105 mm), and *Karal phansi* (120 to 135 mm) are most effective in maximum number of beels of Assam in comparison to the smaller mesh size gill nets, such as *Goroi langi* (25 to 30 mm) and *Ilisha phansi* (25 to 30 mm). The study also supports the findings of Rout (1986) that the operation of gill nets with mesh size of 120 to 135 mm are more suited for the effective harvesting in stagnant cultivated water. Similarly, among the encircling gear *Berjal* (25 to 30 mm) has been observed as most effective in maximum beels (36 beel, i.e. 65.45% of the total surveyed beel) in comparison to *Musarijal* (25 beels, i.e. 45.45% of the total surveyed beel). Moreover, *Musarijal* is also found as harmful in 6 cases (10.90%).

The study on the perception of fishermen of the non-recommended mesh size of nets (Table-8.8) reveals that the level of effectiveness of *Ari phansi* (150 to 165 mm), which has the largest mesh size in comparison to the other fishing nets, is most effective in maximum numbers of beels (31 beels, i.e. 56.36%).

## CONCLUSION

The present work on the level of effectiveness of recommended mesh size and non-recommended mesh size of fishing nets reveals that among the recommended mesh sizes larger mesh size gill nets, such as *Ari langi* (55 to 60 mm), *Rau phansi* (105 mm), and *Karal phansi* (120 to 135 mm) are highly effective in the beel fisheries of Assam in comparison to the smaller mesh size gill nets, such as *Goroi langi* (25 to 30 mm), and *Ilisha phansi* (25 to 30 mm). Among the recommended encircling nets *Berjal* is found as the most effective net as far as the perception of fishermen is concerned. But according to the economic analysis *Musarijal* is found to be effective in most of the beels. On the other hand, among the non-recommended mesh sizes *Ari langi* (150 to 165 mm) is found as the most effective net as far as the study on perception of fishermen and economic analysis is concerned.

Thus the findings on the basis of economic analysis support the hypothesis that the recommended mesh sizes of different gears are the most effective one for the beel fisheries of Assam and there is no significant variation in the level of effectiveness across the different beels of Assam. But the study on the perception of fishermen reveals the there are significant variations in the level of effectiveness across the different beels. Moreover, the mesh sizes other than the recommended one are also found effective in the beel fisheries of Assam. Therefore, null hypothesis cannot be rejected according to the present findings.