

soni-alam-2017-01-16.mp4

Alam Soni [00:00:16] Started fishing in, 1993.

Interpreter [00:01:08] How old were you? [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:01:08] [unintelligible]... sixteen.

James Thull [00:01:08] About sixteen?

Interpreter [00:01:08] Yeah.

James Thull [00:01:08] What made you want to start fishing? Why fishing?

Alam Soni [00:01:08] It's my interest.

[00:01:08] So did you have an interest in it? Was it just something that you decided you wanted to do?

Interpreter [00:01:08] Can I interrupt? I think if he answers in Hindi, then he can give the proper answer.

James Thull [00:01:08] That is just fine.

Interpreter [00:01:08] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:01:08] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:01:08] He loves fishing from his very childhood. So he took it as a profession. He was a guide in a private company, a fishing guide. So he was working for them for a very long period of time. And now he work as freelancer, freelance work.

Alam Soni [00:01:25] [Speaking Hindi]

Interpreter [00:01:56] [Unintelligible], guiding is a good career, he enjoys teaching it. And when someone catches a big fish, it is a big pleasure. [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:02:35] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:02:36] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:02:36] After March and from September and October on spinner, is before the Indian droughts.

James Thull [00:02:36] So before and after the monsoon? And mainly with a spinner?

Alam Soni [00:03:18] Yes.

James Thull [00:03:18] I see.

Interpreter [00:03:18] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:03:18] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:03:18] The morning and the afternoon is good for the spinning, but the daytime, they feed on the baits. And for baits, he mostly use the ground flour and small fishes, live bait.

James Thull [00:03:33] Live bait, okay.

Alam Soni [00:04:19] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:04:19] For goonch, they use a local fish. It belongs to almost like a carp group. And they gotta catch it from the river or buy from the local market. Then they keep it for some time so they're grow smelly. So that is important for the goonch fishing. And for the mahseer fishing [unintelligible] the small live baits, and the wheat, flour... ground flour, and the spinners.

Alam Soni [00:04:54] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:04:54] He wants him to be an angler. But, he doesn't want him to be in the profession, why is important. [Speaking Hindi]

Alam Soni [00:05:13] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:05:13] That isn't why he doesn't want his son to come into business of fishing, it is first the money is not good enough. It is difficult for a sustainable livelihood. And second is the number of fishers is getting more day by day, so the fishing itself becoming a problem. So if there is no fish, how can he be [Unintelligible]. So, coming back to the same point, we need fish!

Interpreter [00:06:17] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:06:17] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:06:17] Climate change is a big reason, not enough rain in the monsoons. Second is overpopulation. More roads, they are making roads through the mountains, so that is one of the reasons. And the water level becomes very low. Which is very difficult for the big fish to survive.

Interpreter [00:06:37] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:06:37] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:07:23] He thinks that the poaching should be stopped, because there are only a few fishes left. And that if people just kill for consumption, then nothing will be left. There will be no angling, there will be no fishing [unintelligible].

Interpreter [00:07:47] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:07:47] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:07:47] Government is less bothered about the river, and there are few people in the office, who in this term, remove the places. When you go to the office to

collect the permit, they don't know, like where this guy is going, what he is going to do there. So I think more ordinance is required.

Interpreter [00:09:16] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:09:16] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:09:16] They should have some knowledge about the fishing, otherwise they will not understand the importance of it.

Interpreter [00:09:35] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:09:36] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:09:36] What happened is initially, they used to have a big system so that you can have a permit for a particular area, not the whole river. At that time, they used do the patrolling and everything, after the people stopped it. And the same thing happened, the government stopped angling permits in certain parts of the river, the poaching started, people started poaching. So he doesn't see much good things is happening at all.

Interpreter [00:11:12] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:11:12] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:11:12] He thinks there should be few dedicated people only for the river in the forest department, for the patrolling and everything. Because if they protect the river, that is good for everyone, for the anglers, for the tourists, for all the resource and the law units here, they can then help the animals to come increase there. So that would be good for the local economy also, but it will all, the whole tourism thing will come to an end.

Interpreter [00:12:34] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:12:34] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:13:38] One experience is he was fishing with the Jeff Currier, and Jeff Currier made a world record, a mahseer on fly, in that particular trip. And Jeff Currier told him "Alam, see there is a tiger," and he thought the tiger was a little bit farther, so he took position to take a picture. But the tiger was just besides him, and when he was standing there, the tiger just passed him, of course. That is one experience.

Alam Soni [00:13:38] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:13:38] When he was fishing with [unintelligible] for goonch, the line got tangled. So, [unintelligible] with the fishing rod in hand jumped in the river. So, they are swimming for some time, then somehow they manage to get back to the land, and then untie the line, landed that goonch.

Interpreter [00:13:38] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:13:38] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:13:55] There is a new organization here in India in this area who is working to protect the river; they, these local guys, and their friends, they tried to protect the river, but not in organized form.

Interpreter [00:15:35] [Speaking Hindi].

Alam Soni [00:15:35] [Speaking Hindi].

Interpreter [00:15:35] He thinks that the individual should concentrate more on not polluting the river, don't, we are asking them, please do not throw your garbage or anything. Even the fishing consumer lose something, so try to pollute rivers as less as possible. This is for the individuals. And for the government, they should concentrate more on protecting the river and stop poaching.