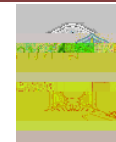
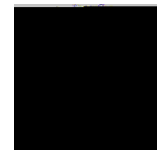
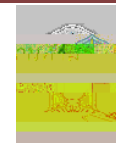
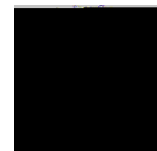


Transboundary Fish Trade in the Lower Mekong Basin: Impacts on Fisheries and Rural Employment in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

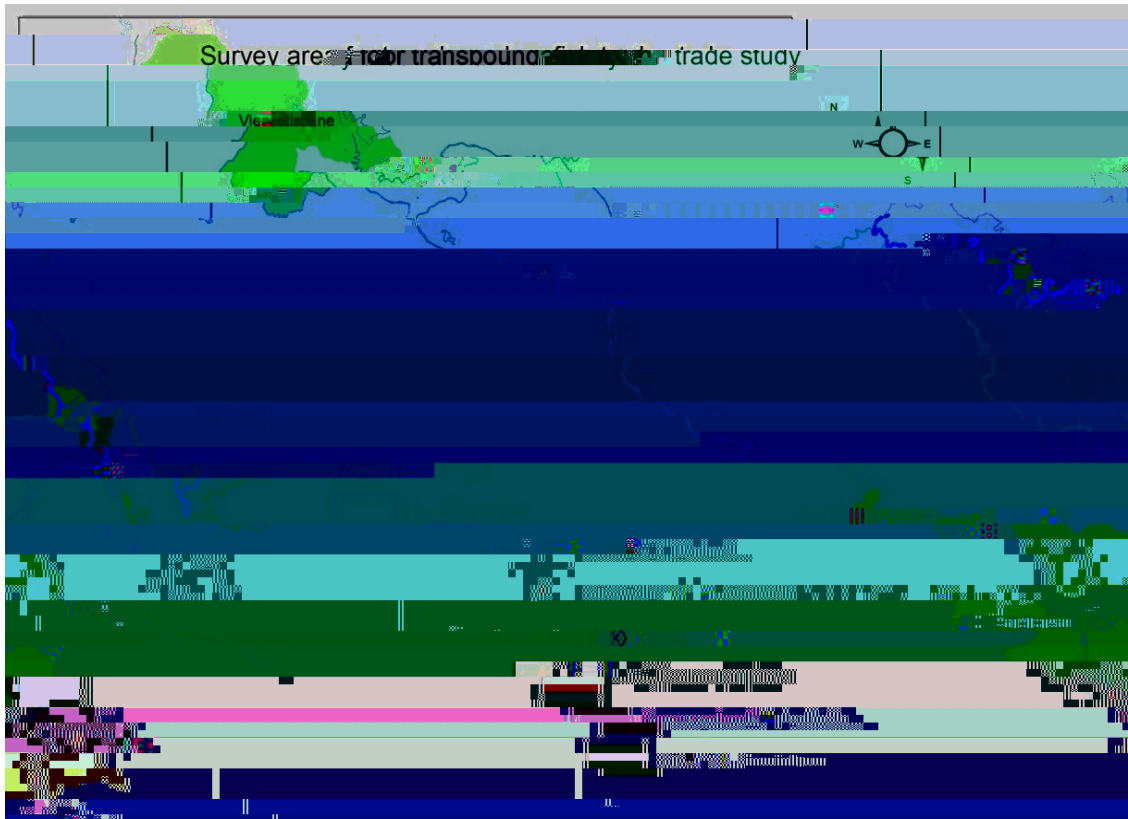


Background

- Fish stock & ecology of Lower Mekong Basin has been well documented [MRC & LARReC]
- Fish trade 9.3% of Cambodian GDP (IMF 2006), 13% of Lao PDR GDP (UNDP 2009).
- Fish trade culturally and economically important to the region
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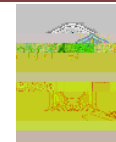
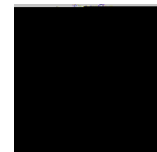


Study Area



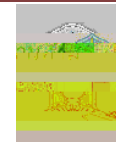
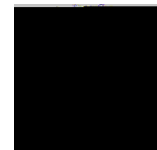
Transboundary trade route from Stung Treng province, Cambodia to Champassak province and Vientiane district, Lao PDR and Ubon Ratchathani province, Thailand

One of three major routes of LMB fish out of Cambodia. The other 2 are larger, so the results of this study can be assumed to have an even more substantial impact.



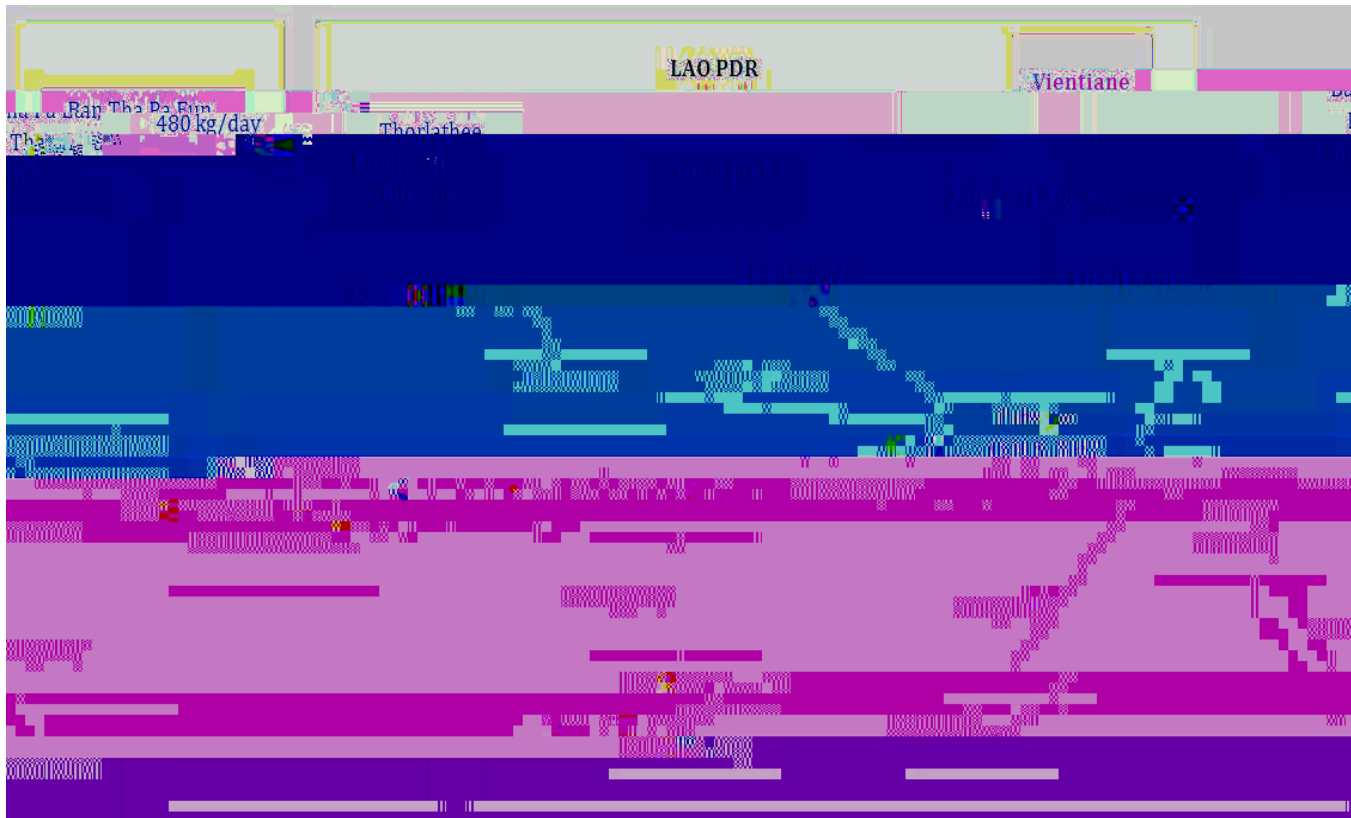
Methods & Research Activities

- In Cambodia:
 - Interviewed 40 fishermen, 9 farmers, 14 traders, 42 consumers with structured questionnaires
 - Key informant interviews with 6 local, regional, and national officials
 - Focus group discussions with 30 fishers and 10 consumers
- In Lao PDR:
 - Interviewed 40 fishermen with structured questionnaires
 - Key informant interviews with 4 local, regional, and national officials
 - Focus group discussions with 64 fishermen in 4 group interviews, as well as 5 farmers, 10 traders, 40 consumers and 4 key informants
- In Thailand:
 - In-depth interviews to assess informal trade with restaurant owners, traders, and fishers
- Desk study: policy, law and regulation review
- Vulnerabilities Analysis

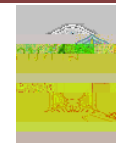
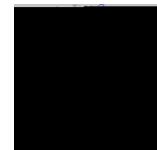


Key Results

Summary of the average quantity of fish sold per day over the past year (mid 2011-mid 2012)

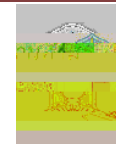
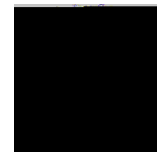


- Size of trade from Cambodia to Lao has increased from 86,000 kg/yr to 530,000 kg/yr since 2001 baseline established by Phonvisay & Bush
- Transboundary trade to Thailand along this route has ceased, replaced by Vientiane due to road improvements and growing demand in Vientiane.



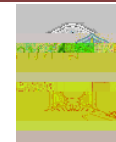
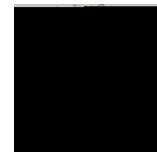
Key Results

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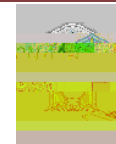
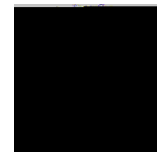


Key Results

- Vulnerabilities Analysis:
 - Lack of financial capital
 - Low education
 - Lack of other employment opportunities
 - When people need more income they tend to leave villages



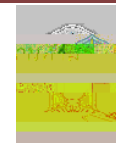
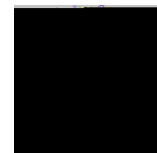
Key Results



Key Results

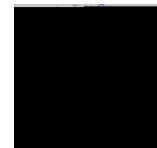
Analysis of Perceptions:

- Fishers and fish farmers concerned over perceived and potential environmental changes, feel that they are not included in decision-making processes



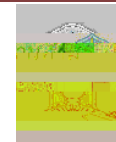
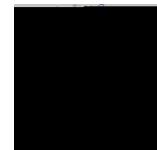
Recommendations

- Primary regional recommendations:
 - Increased transboundary cooperation and communication is needed
 - Strengthen & simplify law enforcement
 - Create national fisher & fish trader associations
 - Include the income generated from the fish trade in



Lessons Learnt & Suggestions for Further Research

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Thank you

