

Supplementary material

Table 1: Final questionnaire used for collecting informant data from the Karnaphuli-Sangu rivers complex.

For Interviewer Use Only		
Date	_____ Interview number _____ Interviewer & translators names _____	
Village name	_____ Waypoint of village _____	
Interview location (e.g. at fisher house)	_____ Gender of interviewee _____	
Religious affiliations of village	Hindu Muslim Buddhist Other (<i>please detail</i>) _____	
How was the interviewee selected?	Found Volunteered himself	Comments on the interview (<i>please describe the informants behaviour</i>):
Start time of interview		

1.	How old are you?
2.	How many fishers live in this village?
3.	<p>Have you always lived in this village? (<i>Circle an answer</i>)</p> <p>Yes No</p> <p>(<i>Yes – go to question 6. No – go to question 4.</i>)</p>
4.	Where is the village that you used to live at?
5.	How long have you lived in this village?

6.	For each of the following (show them ID flashcards), please describe:					
	1 - Don't know live in fishing range	Name: _____	Lives in the forest/ sea/ river/ other _____	Does/ doesn't		
	2 - Don't know live in fishing range	Name: _____	Lives in the forest/ sea/ river/ other _____	Does/ doesn't		
	3 - Don't know live in fishing range	Name: _____	Lives in the forest/ sea/ river/ other _____	Does/ doesn't		
	4 - Don't know live in fishing range	Name: _____	Lives in the forest/ sea/ river/ other _____	Does/ doesn't		
	5 - Don't know live in fishing range	Name: _____	Lives in the forest/ sea/ river/ other _____	Does/ doesn't		
	6 - Don't know live in fishing range	Name: _____	Lives in the forest/ sea/ river/ other _____	Does/ doesn't		
7.	Do you still fish, or are you retired or have you changed occupation? (Circle an answer)					
	Still fishing Retired Changed occupation					
	<i>(Still fishing – go to question 10. Retired or Changed Occupation – go to question 8)</i>					
8.	When did you retire or stop fishing?					
9.	Why did you retire or stop fishing?					
10.	How many years have/were you been fishing?					
11.	What fishing gear do you use?	How many years have you been using this gear?	What months of the year do you use this gear?	How many days a week do you use this gear?	How many other people do you fish with when you use this gear?	Where do you use this gear?

<p>1.Phasha Jaal</p> <p>Mesh _____</p> <p>Material _____</p> <p>Length _____</p> <p>No. of nets _____</p>	<p>Boishakh</p> <p>Joishtho</p> <p>Asharh</p> <p>Srabon</p> <p>Bhadro</p> <p>Ashvin</p>	<p>Kartik</p> <p>Ogrohayo</p> <p>n</p> <p>Poush</p> <p>Magh</p> <p>Falgun</p> <p>Choitro</p>		
<p>2.Ilish Jaal</p> <p>Mesh _____</p> <p>Material _____</p> <p>Length _____</p> <p>No. of nets _____</p>	<p>Boishakh</p> <p>Joishtho</p> <p>Asharh</p> <p>Srabon</p> <p>Bhadro</p> <p>Ashvin</p>	<p>Kartik</p> <p>Ogrohayo</p> <p>n</p> <p>Poush</p> <p>Magh</p> <p>Falgun</p> <p>Choitro</p>		
<p>3.Geera Jaal</p>	<p>Boishakh</p> <p>Joishtho</p> <p>Asharh</p> <p>Srabon</p> <p>Bhadro</p> <p>Ashvin</p>	<p>Kartik</p> <p>Ogrohayo</p> <p>n</p> <p>Poush</p> <p>Magh</p> <p>Falgun</p> <p>Choitro</p>		
<p>4.Hat Jaal (Jaki, Jai)</p>	<p>Boishakh</p> <p>Joishtho</p> <p>Asharh</p> <p>Srabon</p> <p>Bhadro</p> <p>Ashvin</p>	<p>Kartik</p> <p>Ogrohayo</p> <p>n</p> <p>Poush</p> <p>Magh</p> <p>Falgun</p> <p>Choitro</p>		
<p>5.Borshi</p> <p>No. of hook _____</p> <p>Type (circle one):</p> <p>Long line Bora Macher</p> <p>Rod and line Bora Macher</p> <p>Chingri</p>	<p>Boishakh</p> <p>Joishtho</p> <p>Asharh</p> <p>Srabon</p> <p>Bhadro</p> <p>Ashvin</p>	<p>Kartik</p> <p>Ogrohayo</p> <p>n</p> <p>Poush</p> <p>Magh</p> <p>Falgun</p> <p>Choitro</p>		
<p>7.Behundi Jaal</p> <p>Mesh _____</p>	<p>Boishakh</p> <p>Joishtho</p> <p>Asharh</p> <p>Srabon</p>	<p>Kartik</p> <p>Ogrohayo</p> <p>n</p> <p>Poush</p>		

		Bhadro Ashvin	Magh Falgun Choitro			
	<i>Length</i> _____					
	9.Thirom Jaal (<i>Thela, Doka</i>)	Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
	10.Keski Jaal (<i>ask how it works</i>) <i>Mesh</i> _____ <i>Length</i> _____	Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
	11.Deema Jaal	Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
	12.Ber Jaal	Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
	13.Hand Push Net	Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
	14.Dharma Jaal	Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh			

				Falgun Choitro			
	15.Current Jaal		Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayo n Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
	<i>Mesh</i> _____ <i>Material</i> _____ <i>Length</i> _____						
	16.Poona Jaal		Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayo n Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
	<i>Mesh</i> _____ <i>Material</i> _____ <i>Length</i> _____						
	Other _____ - _____ -		Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin	Kartik Ogrohayo n Poush Magh Falgun Choitro			
12.	Are there any fishing gears that you used to use but have now stopped using?						
	Yes No						
	<i>(Yes – go to question 13. No – go to question 16).</i>						
13.	What are they?						
14.	Why have you stopped using them?						
15.	When did you stop using them?						

16.	<p>Is there a fishing ban on the river that you fish on?</p> <p>Yes No Was for the last _____ year(s)</p> <p><i>(Yes – go to question 17. No – go to question 19).</i></p>
17.	<p>What months of the year is/was the fishing ban?</p> <p>Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh Falgun Choitro</p>
18.	<p>What year did the fishing ban first start?</p>
19.	<p>Has the number of fish in the river increased, decreased, or stayed the same since you started fishing?</p>
20.	<p>Why?</p>
21.	<p>During a year, how far upstream and downstream do you fish? <i>(Ask fishers to mark the range with the presence of towns, bridges, road, or give a kilometre range if possible)</i></p> <p>Upper limit =</p> <p>Lower limit =</p>
22.	<p>Do you have any other sources of income? If so, please describe.</p> <p>Yes No Description _____</p> <p><i>(No – go to question 24. Yes – go to question 23)</i></p>
23.	<p>What months of the year do you do this other job? <i>(Circle an answer)</i></p> <p>Boishakh Joishtho Asharh Srabon Bhadro Ashvin Kartik Ogrohayon Poush Magh Falgun Choitro</p> <p>All the months that I am not fishing</p>

24.	<p>Have you seen the <i>uchu mach</i> take fish from your nets?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	
25.	<p>Are there more <i>uchu mach</i> in the area where you go fishing during Hemanta (late autumn) or Sheeth (winter)?</p> <p><i>(No – go to question 28. Yes – go to question 26)</i></p>	
26.	<p>Why does the <i>uchu mach</i> number increase/decrease/ not change?</p>	
27.	<p>How do you know the number of <i>uchu mach</i> increases, decreases, doesn't change?</p>	
28.	<p>Is there a season where you see more <i>uchu mach</i> in the river where you go fishing?</p> <p><i>(No – go to question 30. Yes – go to question 29).</i></p>	
29.	<p>Why does the <i>uchu mach</i> number increase/decrease/ not change?</p>	
30.	<p>What are your feelings towards the <i>uchu mach</i> – do you like or dislike or are not bothered?</p>	
31.	<p>Why do you like/dislike <i>uchu mach</i>?</p>	
32.	<p>Do you ever find <i>uchu mach</i> caught in your nets? <i>(Circle an answer)</i></p> <p>Yes No</p> <p><i>(Yes – fill in the section opposite. No – go to question 33)</i></p>	<p>How many have you caught in your life? _____</p> <p>How many have you caught in the last year? (please describe each event from the last year) _____</p>
33.	<p>Do you know of anyone else who has ever caught an <i>uchu mach</i>? <i>(Circle and answer)</i></p> <p>Yes No</p> <p><i>(Yes – fill in the section opposite. No – go to question 35)</i></p>	<p>When did you/ they catch it? _____</p> <p>Size? _____</p> <p>Where? _____</p>

		<p>Were you on your own at the time? _____</p> <p>Fishing gear type? _____</p> <p>Season? _____</p> <p>What part of the uchu mach was entangled in the net? _____</p> <p>What did you/ they do with the uchu mach – kill it, release it? _____</p> <p>Was it dead or alive when it was found? _____</p> <p>Was the net or the uchu mach cut to release it from the net? _____</p> <p>Do you ever kill any uchu mach that you catch? _____</p> <p>If they kill the uchu mach, why? _____</p>
34.	Why do you think uchu mach get caught in fishing nets?	
35.	<p>Have you ever seen any dead uchu mach floating down the river or lying on the river bank?</p> <p>Yes No</p> <p><i>(Yes – go to question 36. No – go to question 41)</i></p>	
36.	How many months or years ago did you find it?	
37.	What season or month did you find it?	
38.	Where was it when you found it?	
39.	Why do you think it died?	
40.	In your lifetime, how many dead uchu mach have you seen?	

41.	<p>Would you say in the last ten years the number of uchu mach living in the river has stayed the same, increased, decreased or you don't know?</p> <p>Increased Decreased Stayed the same Don't know</p> <p><i>(Increased, Decreased, Stayed the same – go to question 42. Don't know – go to question 44)</i></p>
42.	<p>Why has the uchu mach numbers increased/decreased/ not changed?</p>
43.	<p>How do you know the number of uchu mach has increased/decreased/ not changed?</p>
44.	<p>When did you last see a live uchu mach?</p>
45.	<p>Have you, or do you know anyone else who has used uchu mach oil?</p> <p>Yes No , but heard about it</p> <p><i>(Yes, No but heard about it – go to question 46. No – go to question 51)</i></p>
46.	<p>What do you/ or the other person use uchu mach oil for?</p>
47.	<p>Is there a particular place and person that you buy uchu mach oil from?</p> <p><i>(If the informant sells the oil – go to question 48, otherwise go to question 50).</i></p>
48.	<p>How much do you sell the oil for?</p>
49.	<p>How much oil do you sell in a month?</p>
50.	<p>How much does uchu mach oil cost per millilitre?</p>
51.	<p>Do you of any law protecting the uchu mach?</p> <p>No law Don't know of any law Yes there is a law _____</p>
<i>Time at end of interview:</i>	
Additional questions regarding compliance with fishery laws and compensation schemes	
A1	<p>Are there any types of fishing gear or fishing restrictions in place on the river where you fish?</p>
A2	<p>Do you comply with these restrictions?</p>

A3	Why do you not comply with these restrictions?
A4	Is there any compensation scheme in place for the fishing restrictions?
A5	How often do you receive compensation?
A6	Are you pleased with the compensation?
A7	Why are you pleased/ not pleased with the compensation?

Table 2: Final questionnaire (Bangla version) used for collecting informant data from the Karnaphuli-Sangu rivers complex.

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Estimation of fishing gear units of measurement

Fishing gear-related questions revealed that informants commonly use ‘hands’ and ‘fingers’ as units of measurement to describe net length, net depth and mesh size. A ‘hand’ is the distance from the inner elbow to the tip of the longest finger, and ‘finger’ is the width of a finger. Length and depth of nets was simply the number of hands that fit along the edge of the net, and mesh size is the number of fingers that fit into a stretched mesh. To validate informant measurements we asked a sub-set of informants ($n = 28$) if they were happy for me to measure their gear, hands and fingers. Informants were asked to describe the mesh size, net length and net depth of a gill net they owned (measurements were provided in hands and fingers). I asked them to indicate the length of a ‘hand’ and ‘finger’ to measure (mean length of one hand and one finger was 35 cm ($SD = 2.6$) and 1.55 cm ($SD = 0.21$), respectively). I then measured the gear directly in centimetres and compared the results with those estimated using hands and fingers converted into centimetres. There was a significant relationship between the reported and observed measurements for mesh size (adjusted $R^2 = 0.68$, $p < 0.001$), net depth (adjusted $R^2 = 0.47$, $p < 0.001$) and net length (adjusted $R^2 = 0.56$, $p < 0.001$), although there was considerably more variability for longer length nets (Figure 1).

Boat-based surveys to quantify gear use and river depth

Between December 2011 and February 2012, five boat surveys were carried out across each waterway to quantify the level of fishing effort for each gear type. On each occasion a gear was sighted, GPS location, type of gear (i.e. drag net, gill net, hand net, long line, long shore net, rod and line, seine net, set bag net) and quantity of active gear were recorded. Gear use is dependent on tidal state and time of day with the majority of fishing activity taking place in the early morning or late afternoon. Two surveys were carried out on the incoming tide (one am and one pm), and three surveys on the outgoing tide (two am and one pm).

Depth readings were taken using a hand-held depth sounder (Hondex PS-7), on two of the five surveys, along two transects that ran approximately 50 - 100 m from the river bank on either side of the river. Depth readings and GPS waypoints were taken approximately every 350 m. A depth value was also assigned to each gear type. Using the area over which the informant uses each gear type, geo-referenced depth readings from the two boat surveys were overlaid. The depth profiles of river dolphin habitat can exhibit considerable heterogeneity over relatively small areas with the occasional presence of deep pools and shallow sand bars (e.g. Braulik et al., 2012b), and so median river depth was assigned to each gill net to avoid over or under-estimating river depth across the range.

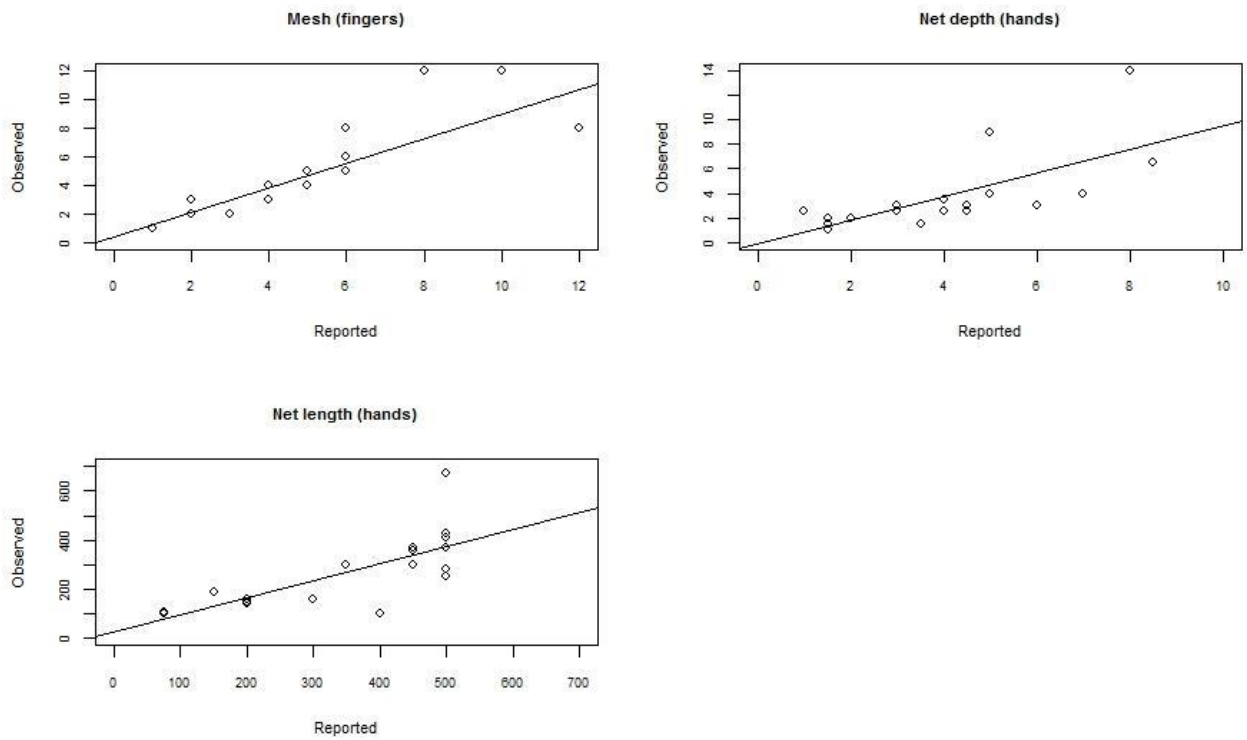


Figure 1: Correlation between fisher-reported and observed values for mesh size (fingers), net depth (hands) and net length (hands) from a survey of 28 informants.

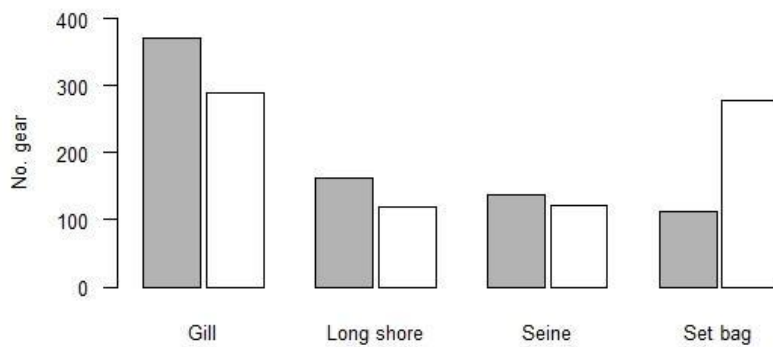


Figure 2: A comparison of informant-reported numbers of each gear type used in February (grey bars) and numbers observed during boat-based surveys during the period (white bars).

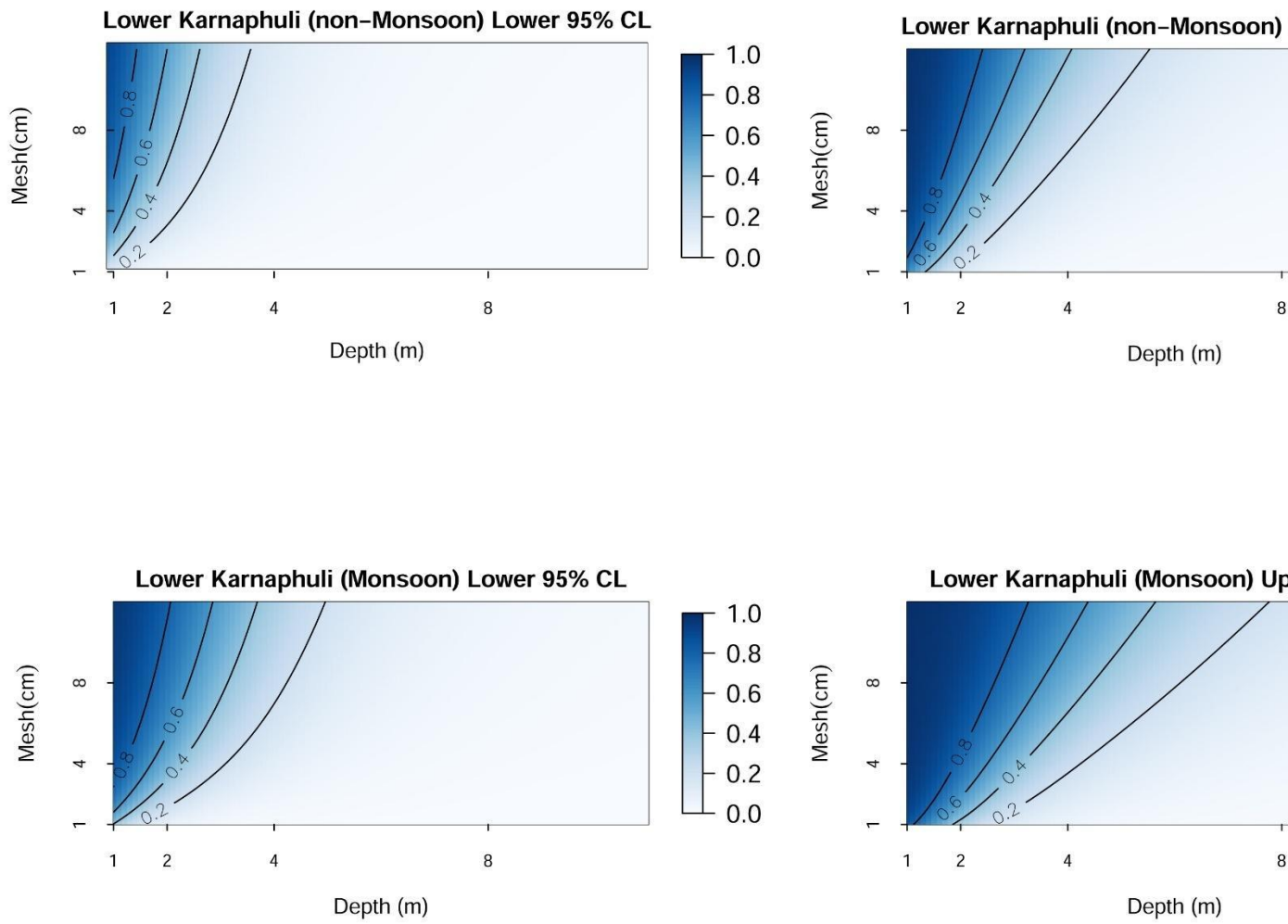


Figure 3: Confidence limits for the probability of bycatch in gill nets during non-monsoon and monsoon seasons in the Lower Karnaphuli river. Contour lines and shading represent the lower confidence interval and upper confidence interval for the probability of bycatch.

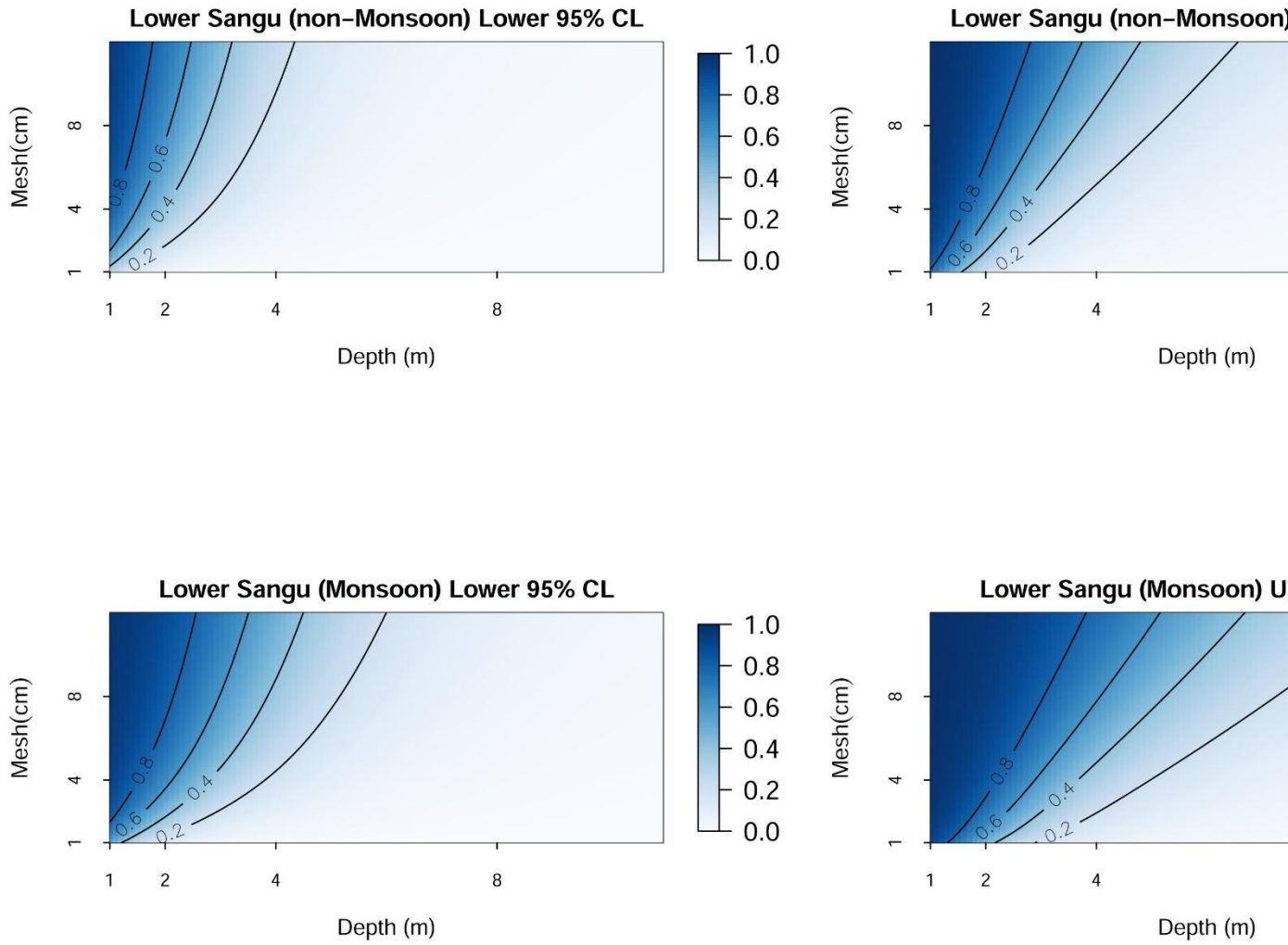


Figure 4: Confidence limits for the probability of bycatch in gill nets during non-monsoon and monsoon seasons in the Lower Sangu river. Contour lines and shading represent the lower confidence interval and upper confidence interval for the probability of bycatch.

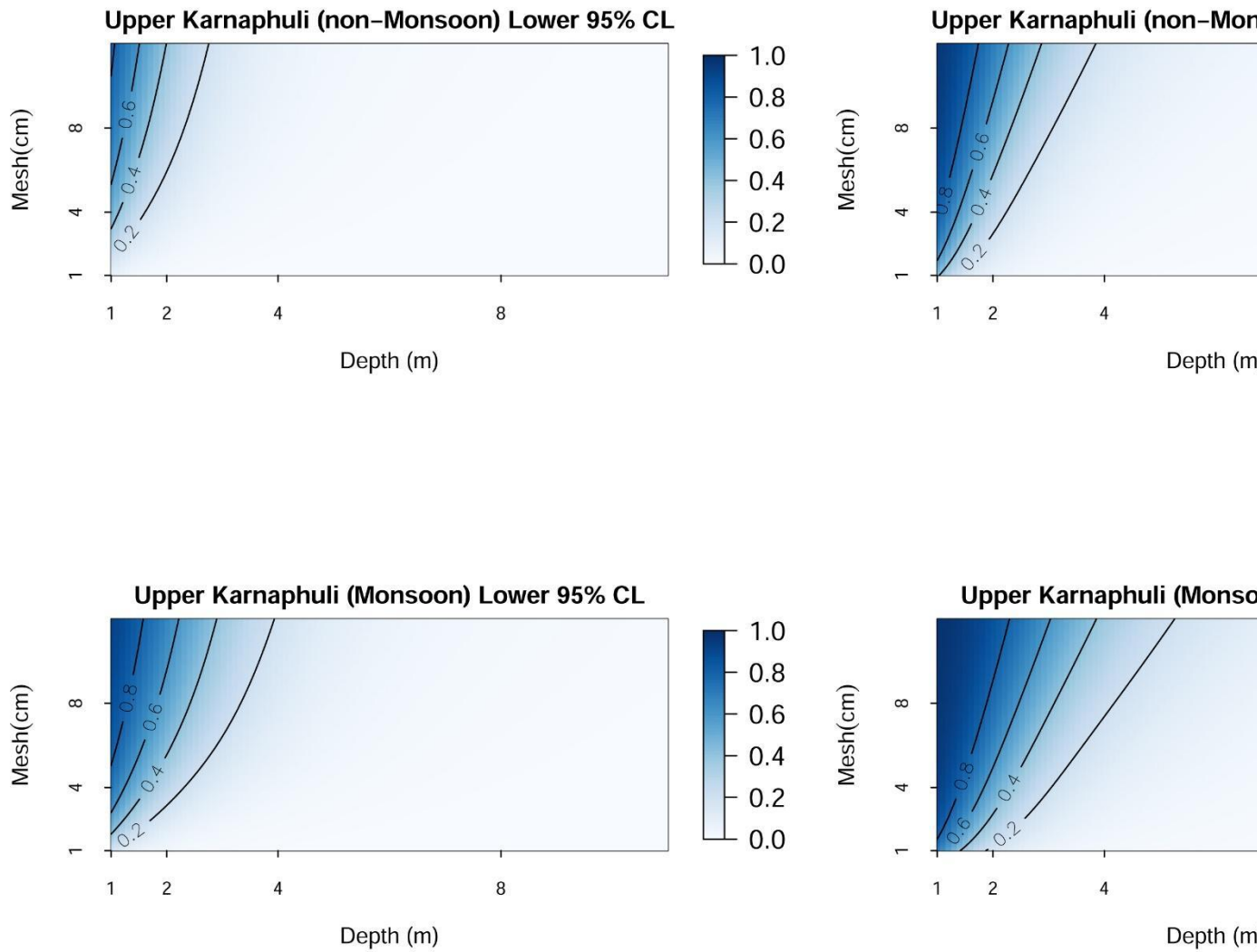


Figure 5: Confidence limits for the probability of bycatch in gill nets during non-monsoon and monsoon seasons in the Upper Karnaphuli river. Contour lines and shading represent the lower confidence interval and upper confidence interval for the probability of bycatch.