

# **Delineation of High-end Recreational Fishing Sites on Mahseer water in Bhutan**



**Department of Forests and Park Services  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
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## 1. High-end recreational fishing sites in Mahseer water

Bhutan's river system is classified into two types, Mahseer water and Trout water based on the presence and absence of Mahseer species in them. For the ease of delineation, Mahseer waters are delineated with clear description of the stretches (Fig. 1), and all other stretches that are not delineated as Mahseer water falls under the category of Trout water. Further, the waters are classified into High-end recreational fishing sites and normal fishing sites, for the ease of regulating both normal fishing and recreational fishing.

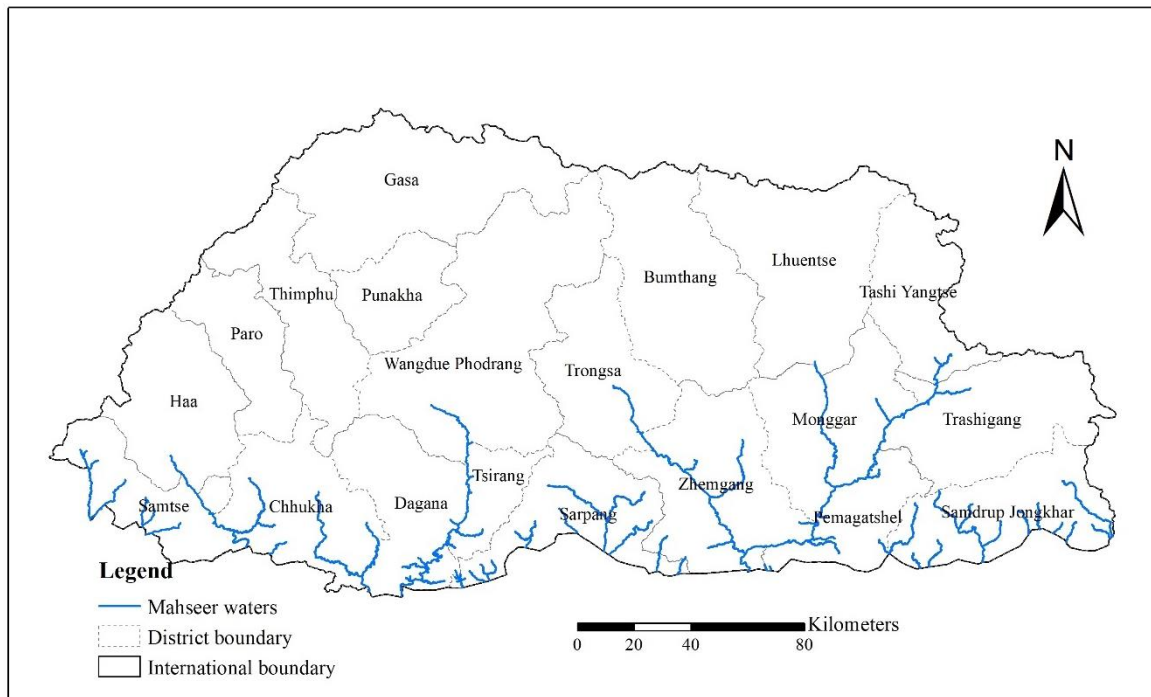


Figure 1. Map of Bhutan showing the delineated mahseer waters.

'High-end recreational fishing sites' as defined in the FNCRR (Amendment) 2022 shall mean a stretch of Bhutan's major river or waterbody delineated exclusively for recreational fishing and they are being managed to produce and maintain robust populations of Mahseer and Trout species for providing excellent fishing opportunities.

While the initial delineation may be exclusively based on the wilderness of the sites for recreational fishing, additional infrastructure such as eco-lodges and camping sites with basic facilities required for anglers like drying rack and easy access to the fishing sites may be developed to make the fishing trip more comfortable. For international anglers, local fishing guides shall remain a requisite for fishing.

The preliminary basis for delineation of High-end recreational fishing site for Mahseer is based on the information that the stretch identified are the main rivers through which Mahseer migrate up and down, and often the river stretches pass through undisturbed pristine landscapes which offers anglers with an utmost peace and concentration while angling. The fact that the classified stretches are also pliable by rafts gives an added value to the adventure. Notwithstanding this delineation, stoppage and fishing shall be strictly prohibited on the prohibited fishing sites as described under the FNCRR 2022 and mapped by the Department.

## **II. Classified High-end recreational fishing sites in Mahseer water**

### **1. Zone I: Manas River**

**1.1.** The Manas River starting from the confluence of Drangmechhu and Mangdechhu until the Indo-Bhutan international boundary is being classified as High-end recreational fishing site throughout the year.

Start point (Higher elevation): **26.837839°; 90.949272°**

End point (Lower elevation): **26.783858°; 90.957922°**

### **2. Zone 2**

#### **2.1. Basin I: Drangme chhu**

The upper stretch of Drangmechhu starting from the confluence of Sherichhu and Drangmechhu until the confluence of Drangmechhu and Mangdechhu; and 1 km upstreams from the confluence on Sherichhu and Kurichhu shall be classified as Mahseer water High-end recreational fishing sites on the Drangmechhu Basin.

Start point (High elevation) on Drangmechhu: **27.252845°; 91.410231°**

End point (Low elevation) on Drangmechhu: **26.837839°; 90.949272°**

#### **2.2. Basin II: Mangde chhu**

The upper stretch of Mangdechhu Mahseer water starting from below the Tingtibi prohibited fishing site until the confluence of Drangmechhu and Mangdechhu; and Mahseer water stretch on Chamkhar chhu from Bortegang confluence till the Mangdechhu confluence shall be classified as Mahseer High-end recreational fishing sites on the Mangdechhu Basin.

Start point (Higher elevation) on Mangdechhu: **27.149413°; 90.698255°**

Start point (Higher elevation) on Chamkharchhu: **27.064480°; 90.943715°**

End point (Lower elevation) on Mangdechhu: **26.837839°; 90.949272°**

#### **2.3. Basin III: Punatshangchhu**

The upper stretch of Punatshangchhu starting just below the Dekchhu Fishing Prohibited Site and down till Hurdung Bridge (bridge connecting Nichula Gewog and Karmaling Gewog) and inclusive of Harachhu Mahseer water shall be classified as Mahseer High-end recreational fishing sites on Punatshangchhu.

Start point (Higher elevation) on Punathangchhu: **27.251616°; 90.047539°**

Start point (Higher elevation) on Harachhu: **27.192075°; 90.085140°**

End point (Lower elevation) on Punatshangchhu: **26.739444° 89.879153°**

#### **2.4. Basin IV: Wangchhu**

The upper stretch of Wangchhu Mahseer water starting from Badina bridge (Below Badina Village under Bongo Gewog) and down till 1 km below the Jigme chhu bridge shall be classified as Mahseer High-end recreational fishing site on Wangchhu.

Start point (Higher elevation): **26.854624°; 89.590659°**

End point (Lower elevation): **26.747160°; 89.734544°**

### **3. Zone 3**

#### **3.1. Basin I: Amochhu**

The stretch of delineated Mahseer water on Amochhu river starting from above the Somchhu-Amochhu confluence and extending down till confluence of Amochhu and the stream 1 km below the bridge shall be classified as Mahseer High-end recreational fishing site on Amochhu.

Start point (Higher elevation): **27.027313°; 89.214677°**

End point (Lower elevation): **26.876891°; 89.329255°**

#### **3.2. Basin II. Nyera Amachhu**

The stretch of delineated mahseer water of Nyera Amachhu starting from Hyla bridge under Wangphu Gewog, until Khatoethang under Phuntshothang gewog, Samdrup Jongkhar shall be classified as Mahseer High-end recreational fishing site on Nyera Amachhu.

Start point (Higher elevation): **26.960172°; 91.607712°**

End point (Lower elevation): **26.900196°; 91.688352°**

#### **3.3. Basin III. Jomochhu**

A short stretch of delineated mahseer water of Nyera Amachhu starting from Sershingthang until Jampani Langchenphu gewog, Samdrup Jongkhar shall be classified as Mahseer High-end recreational fishing site on Nyera Amachhu.

Start point (Higher elevation): **26.943189°; 92.102346°**

End point (Lower elevation): **26.928645°; 92.107615°**

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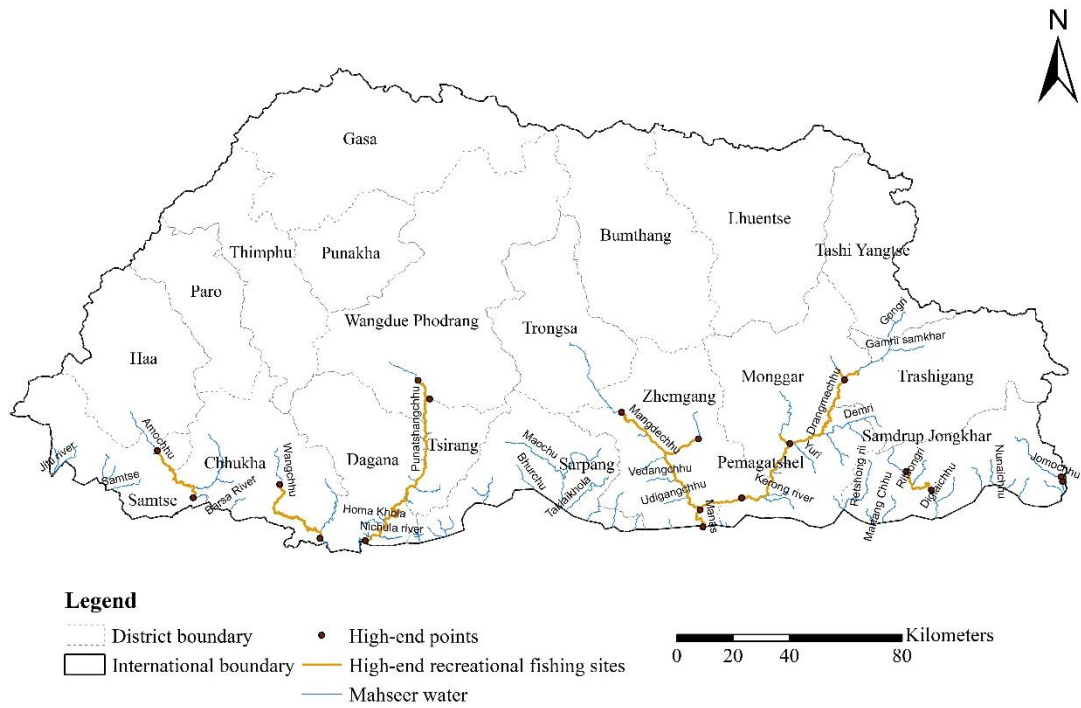


Figure II. Map of delineated High-end recreational fishing sites on Mahseer water in Bhutan.