PROGRESS REPORT 2024

Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Maligawatta, Colombo 10

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Ministry of Fisheries,Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Vision

Sri Lanka to be the leader of conservation and sustainable utilization of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the South Asian Region.

Mission

Managing the utilization of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for the benefit of the present and future generation **.**

Policy Objectives

- Sustainable manegement of resources using science based information.
- Compliance with regional and international obligations.
- Increased marine fisheries production.
- Increased aquaculture and inland fisheries production.
- Minimized post-harvest losses and increased value addition.
- Increased per capita consumption of fish.
- Increased export earnings.
- Improved opportunites for leisure, employment and enterprises development.
- Improved socio-economic conditions of the fisher community.

Key Functions

- Development of marine, brackish water and inland fisheries industry
- Formulation of policies and programmes
- Development and sustainable utilization of national aquatic resources
- Implementation of programmes to the effect that production quality is enhanced to the international standards
- Provision of fish products at an affordable price satisfying the requirements of the consumers
- Facilitation for the exportation of fish products

Institutions under the Ministry of Fisheries,Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (DFAR)	**Desired objectives -** Management, Development and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka **Responsibilities-** Introduction of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No*2, 1996* and updating the fisheries management activities and legal provisions in compliance to the regional and international conventions and regulations.
National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency (NARA)	**Desired objectives** – To conduct researches on Aquatic resources and development, conservation and management of the same **Responsibilities-** NARA, having been established in terms of the National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency Act No *54* of *1981* is responsible for aquatic resources and aquaculture, fisheries technology, fish and post-harvest technology and environmental, oceanographic and hydrographic studies
National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA)	**Desired objectives -** Development and Management of culture – based inland fisheries and aquaculture **Responsibilities-** NAQDA having been established in terms of the National Aquaculture Development Authority Act No **53** of **1998**, is responsible for supply of fish seed in aquaculture and extension services for inland fisheries and aquaculture, shrimp culture monitoring and aquaculture training faculties
Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (CFHC)	**Desired objectives** -Planning, construction and operation of Fishery harbors and Anchorages **Responsibilities-** CFHC, having been established in terms of the State Industrial Corporations Act No 49 of 1957, is responsible for the operation of 23 fishery harbors and 58 anchorages.
Ceylon Fisheries Corporation (CFC)	**Desired objectives** – Intervention in fish marketing providing the best advantage to both the supplier and the consumer **Responsibilities-** CFC, having been established in terms of the State Industrial Corporations Act No 49 of 1957, is responsible for purchasing and sale of fish and ice, operation of cold room facilities and sale of fishery by-products..
Cey-Nor Foundation	**Desired objectives**- Supply of fisheries inputs and gears **Responsibilities-** Cy-Nor, having been registers under the Companies Act No 7 of 2007, is responsible for manufacture and sale of fiberglass boats and supply of fishing nets and gears
Northsea Ltd	**Desired objectives**- Supplying adequate high grade fishing nets and other fishing gears **Responsibilities-** A fishing net manufacturing company incorporated under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982 and re-registered under the New Companies Act No. 7 of 2007
Central Fish Market- Peliyagoda	Establishment of a Management Trust by Cabinet Memorandum bearing No. 10/0958/438/001 **Responsibility -** Formulating relevant policies regarding the management and operational activities of the fish market complex

Contribution of the Fisheries Sector to the Growth of the National Economy

Overall Progress of Fisheries Sector in the Year 2024

The resource base of Sri Lanka's fisheries industry consists of an exclusive economic zone of 517,000 square kilometers, a territorial sea of 21500 square kilometers, 1,580 square kilometers of lagoons and estuaries and 2,600 square kilometers of man-made reservoirs. The bays, lagoons, reservoirs and coastal lands as well as the reservoirs themselves provide the necessary resource base for aquaculture development.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources the number of fishermen in this country is 318,470, of which 223,720 are employed in the marine fisheries sector, about 85% are coastal fishermen. 34,550 people are engaged in offshore and deep-sea fishing on multi-day fishing vessels. The number of fishing families in this country is 273,240 and the number of people who are directly engaged in the fishing industry is about 1,123,000. It is also estimated that the number of people who are indirectly employed and other dependents related to this sector is about 2.7 million. Accordingly approximately 18%of the total population of Sri Lanka derives their livelihoods from the fishing industry.

During the period from January to November 2024, the Marine fisheries production is 279,260 Mt. and the freshwater fisheries production is 96,415 Mt. Accordingly, the total fish production is 375,675 Mt.

Fish consumption is popular as the main source of animal protein for the people. During the period from January to November of the year 2024, per capita fish consumption was 36.85 grams per day. It is an increase of 7.4% compared to last year. At present, about 72% of the total amount of fish required for consumption in this country is provided by domestic fish production.

During the period from January to November 2024, the value of fish exports is Rs.Mn.78,969 (US Dollars 260.2). The contribution of the fisheries sector to the national export earnings is 2.3%. According to export data, 42.9% of Sri Lankan fish products are exported to Europe out of which 29.3% are exported to the European Union and the remaining 13.6% are exported to Non-European countries. In addition, it has been possible to get an income of Rs.Mn. 6,812.8 through ornamental fish exports during the same period.

Capital allocation of Rs.Mn.7,173.41 and recurrent allocations of Rs.Mn.1,981.99 has been allocated under the expenditure head 151 to the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean resources for the year 2024 and its financial progress is respectively Rs.Mn.6,057.44 (84%) and Rs.Mn.1,828.20 (92.24%). Capital allocation of Rs.Mn.102.08 and recurrent allocations of Rs.Mn.1,657.99 has been allocated to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under

the expenditure head 290 and its financial progress is Rs.Mn.36.42 (36%) and Rs.Mn.875.38 (53%) respectively.

Development of the fishery harbors is an important program that was implemented in 2024 with the aim of bringing high quality fish products into the country by improving the living standards of the fishermen and reducing post-harvest losses. Further work related to construction of on-shore facilities at Gandara fishery harbor was completed by this project. Second phase of work at Millady fishery harbor was also done by this project. Under the 2024 budget proposal, the necessary approvals for the development of fisheries landing sites and anchorages in the Northern Provinces have been obtained and are continuing to be implemented. Initial Environmental Evaluation reports related to the development of Hikkaduwa, Ambalangoda, Valachchena and Dodanduwa fishery harbors are being prepared for this purpose. A cabinet paper has been submitted to clean the Nandikadal lagoon under public – private partnership with the aims of developing the aquatic productions through the conservation and development of lagoons and reservoirs.

The World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has proposed the deployment of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) in coastal areas and to ensure the growth of fish population for food security through the concept of "Blue Growth" for climate change adaptation and food security. The aggregation of edible fish has considerably high around these devices. Also, the fishing community of the area has already expressed their appreciation for this program due to the aggregation of fish around these devices.

Granting of 1,630 Mt. of rice, 500 prefabricated houses and 75,000 fishing nets which are worth Rs.1,804.00 Mn. were given to low-income fishing families in Northern and Eastern provinces under the Chinese grant assistance.

The Government of Japan, together with the Ministry of Fisheries, has provided a grant of 3 million US dollars through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen inland fisheries and improve rural livelihoods and necessary measures are being taken to implement several projects under the aids granted by FAO organization and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

A sustainable management of quality fish stocks, with the aims of making fish products available at a fair price to the consumer and improving the quality of life of the industry workers using scientific methods and practical strategies, is stated as a key principle in the framework of the "Rich country, beautiful life policy" of the new government. Accordingly programs/projects will be implemented in the year 2025.

Contribution to the Overall Fish Production

1.1 Increase of the Annual Fish Production

The total fish production of the country is 375,675 Mt. from January to November in 2024. Coastal fishery industry has contributed the larger propotion of it. It is 40.1% of fish production from coastal fisheries and 34.2% from deep sea fisheries and 25.7% from inland fisheries & aquaculture.

1.2 Marine Fish Production (Coastal ,Offshore /Deep Sea)

The contribution of the coastal and deep sea sectors towards the total fish production could be increased gradually. During January to November, harvest of 128,600 Mt. from Deep Sea fish production and 150,660 Mt from Coastal fish production could be obtained and the total marine fish production was 279,260 Mt.

1.3 Inland & Aquaculture Fish Production

During January to November 2024, the total inland fish & aquaculture production was 96,415 Mt and its contribution was 25.7% to the total fish production.

The total fish fingerling production was 74.03 million by 31st Dec 2024 and 27.50 Million out of the above was produced at the Aquaculture breeding development centres and the balance was produced by community based mini hatcheries, private ponds, cages and pens in reservoirs.

The total shrimp and post larva production was 34.71 Million by 31st Dec 2024 and 25.06. Million out of the above was produced at the Aquaculture breeding development centres and the private sector has contributed to produce the balance.

Also, the private sector has produced 426 Milion freshwater prawn post larvae.

National Aquaculture Development Authority has launched Various activities for development related to culture based fisheries, brackish water and coastal aquaculture in various districts with the objective of obtaining maximum contribution towards increasing the nutritional level of the general public , generation of jobs , improving exports and strengthening the rural economy while the possibility of increasing local fish production in the year 2024.

Table 1.1 Statistics for the Total Fish Production								
Fish Production (Mt.)								
Fishing Sub-Sector		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan-Nov)	Change in 2024-2023 (%)	Percentage share (%)
1	Off shore//Deep Sea	144,370	153,415	131,170	128,950	128,600	9.20	34.2
2	Coastal	182,560	178,260	149,440	164,995	150,660	0.26	40.1
	Total Marine	**326,930**	**331,675**	**280,610**	**293,945**	**279,260**	**4.19**	**74.3**
3	Inland Capture	84,310	80,720	94,860	93,440	82,195	(2.73)	21.9
4	Inland Culture	10,140	9,105	7,680	8,085	7,470	(3.24)	2.0
5	Shrimp Farms	7,360	14,410	14,080	11,600	6,750	(35.28)	1.8
	Total Inland	**101,810**	**104,235**	**116,620**	**113,125**	**96,415**	**(6.07)**	**25.7**
	Total Production	**428,740**	**435,910**	**397,230**	**407,070**	**375,675**	**1.35**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Unit of Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Table 1.2 Monthly Fish Production Statistics (2024 Jan – Nov)								
Fish Production by Sectors (Metric tons)								
	Marine Fish Production			Inland Fish Production				Total Catch
	Off Shore	Coastal and Lagoon	Total Marine	Capture	Aq. Culture	Shrimp Farms	Total Inland	
2024								
Jan	10,140	15,270	25,410	12,750	280	680	13,710	39,120
Feb	11,010	16,380	27,390	6,550	230	480	7,260	34,650
Mar	12,570	14,290	26,860	6,890	400	560	7,850	34,710
Apr	11,410	13,430	24,840	7,080	355	640	8,075	32,915
May	11,100	10,380	21,480	7,015	500	515	8,030	29,510
Jun	12,050	12,880	24,930	6,935	715	780	8,430	33,360
July	12,010	13,410	25,420	7,635	1,380	725	9,740	35,160
Aug	12,560	13,670	26,230	8,135	1,135	905	10,175	36,405
Sep	10,650	13,680	24,330	7,385	1,565	450	9,400	33,730
Oct	12,060	14,990	27,050	5,710	570	550	6,830	33,880
Nov	13,040	12,280	25,320	6,110	340	465	6,915	32,235

Source: Statistics Unit of Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

1.4. Increasing Per Capita Fish Consumption

Increasing fish consumption paves the way for the public to minimize nutritional deficiencies, eradicate malnourishment and improve good health.

The per capita fish consumption during the period January to November 2024 was 36.85 grams per day. The local, marine and inland fish production and imported fish products contributed to increase the per capita fish consumption.

1.5. Import of Fish and Fishery Products

Sprats, Dry fish, Maldive fish, canned fish and feed fish are the main commodities of imported fish and fishery products which are paramount in fulfilling the gap between the domestic fish consumption requirement and local fish production. Dried fish and sprats are the major contributors the total imports. Part of the quantity of imported fish is value added and re-exported and the rest is used for local consumption. This is important to reduce the gap between the local fish production and consumptions. From January to November 2024, a quantity of 53,192 Mt has been imported as fish and fishery products amounting to a value of Rs.Mn 33,740.1

Table 1.3 Value of Imported Fish and Fishery Products (Rs.Mn)

Item	2021	2022	2023	2024 (Jan-Nov)	වෙනස % 2024/ 2022	Change % 2024/ 2023	Percentage to Total
Dried Fish	4,871	3,470.0	3,510.8	4,906.0	49.3	52.7	14.5
Dried Sprats	9,119	9,955.5	9,010.9	13,247.4	43.3	65.8	39.3
Maldives Fish	1,453	925.7	925.6	1,280.3	50.3	45.7	3.8
Caned Fish	4,891	2,671.9	6,172.6	3,316.5	33.6	-39.5	9.8
Food Fish	3,401	2,107.9	2,744.2	4,621.5	126.2	75.3	13.7
Live Fish	253	430.0	368.6	449.3	17.4	35.6	1.3
Othe	1,091	2,103.2	4,001.1	5,919.0	206.0	67.6	17.5
Total	**25,080**	**21,664.2**	**26,733.7**	**33,740.1**	**66.8**	**40.2**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Unit of Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

1.6. Fish Exports

The fisheries sector provides a priority contribution to the growth of national economy through the exports of fish and fishery products, ornamental fish and sea weed. Necessary measures have been taken to improve fish exports sector by providing proper guidance and assistance to the stakeholders in order to export high-quality and healthy fish products adhering to the regulations of the imported countries.

Table 1.4 Export quantity and value of fish and fish products

Item	Export Quantity (Mt..)		Export Value (Rs Mn.)	
	2023	2024 Jan-Nov	2023	2024 Jan-Nov
Live fish	n.a	n.a	8,641	6,812.8
Prawns	4,020	3,219.1	10,393	8,352.3
Lobster	127	65.1	1,437	638.6
crabs	1,678	1,964.2	7,878	8,248.9
Sea Cucumber	401	232.6	4,897	3,011.7
Other Mollusca	3,115	1,974.5	6,084	3,933.7
Shark	100	85.2	1,314	1,074.6
Shark Maws	7	7.9	238	258.8
Oysters & shells	269	411.4	255	214.0
Processed fish	14,380	12,210.5	56,703	45,436.4
Other	407	331.7	1,277	987.3
Grand Total	**24,503**	**20,502.1**	**99,118**	**78,969.2**

Source: Statistics Unit of Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

1.7. Ornamental Fish Exports

Introduction of new ornamental fish species, breeding activities, prevention of spreading diseases, conducting trainings & awareness programmes on provision of quality foods, production of new fish species with the assistance of NARA, technical development, diagnosing fish diseases, extending assistance to obtain loans by the farmers are the strategies adopted by National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) in order to encourage ornamental fish exports.

Rs.6,812.8 Mn could be earned through Ornamental fish exports during the period of January to November 2024.

Progress of the Project Implemented Under the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

It is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries to plan, direct and manage all the development programs aimed at the development of the fisheries sector and to prepare policies that affect the overall development of fisheries. Accordingly, the main role of this ministry is to coordinate and implement all programs necessary to achieve the objectives of increasing marine fisheries production, increasing aquaculture and freshwater fisheries production, reducing post-harvest losses and increasing value addition, increasing per capita fish consumption, increasing export earnings, increasing opportunities for recreational activities, employment and commercial development, and improving the socio-economic activities of fishing communities.

1 .Cleaning and Conservation of Lagoons

With the primary strategy of the development and conservation of the aquatic environment around lagoons and inland reservoirs. The lagoon development and conservation project was initiated in 2018 with the goal of increasing fish and aquatic life production.

The direct objectives of this project are to increase the natural fish population in the lagoons by cleaning them up and deepening the canals to make the water exchange in the lagoons occur systematically, develop infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses, develop aquaculture, prevent illegal encroachment and landfills, demarcate the lagoons, develop livelihood opportunities, protect the mangroves, remove prohibited gear, strengthen lagoon management, and increase fish production by stocking fish fries. It is also expected to achieve the goals of creating new job opportunities and expanding the tourism industry through this project. Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, National Aquaculture Development Authority, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation together with other public institutions are implementing the following projects under this program allocating Rs.100 million of provision for this project in the year 2024.

1.1 Deepening and cleaning of lagoons.

Rs. 65.10 million of provisions have been allocated for deepening and cleaning the lagoons under the lagoon cleaning and conservation programme, and Rs. 4.99 millions of provisions have been spent by 31.12.2024. Arugambe, Nandikadal, Nayaru, and Lanka Patuna lagoons have been included in this program,while an investor has come forward to carry out the cleaning work of Nandikadal lagoon, and the Cabinet decision has been received for the Cabinet Memorandum submitted to complete this work under a public-private partnership . According to that decision, and the Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries was directed to take necessary steps, taking into consideration the observations made by the Minister of Finance , Economic Stabilization and National Policies and the Ministress of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation .

The Bill of Quantities (BOQ), estimates and initial environmental evaluation report for Arugambay Lagoon have been completed and procurement activities are scheduled to be carried out. The NARA Institute has conducted the initial environmental evaluation related to the cleaning of Nayaru Lagoon and is currently preparing the final report.

1.2 Lagoon Productivity Enhancement Programme

This research project uses local brooders to produce post-larvae in hatcheries to improve the quantity of shrimps in the lagoons. In the year 2024, Rs.Mn.15 was allocated for this project. Out of this, financial provision of Rs.Mn.3.7 was used to stock 1,128,916 shrimp post-larvae in the Batticaloa lagoon by the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency.Also arrangements are made by he National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency to stock 5.05 million freshwater shrimp post-larvae in the Koggala Lagoon using financial provision of Rs.11.1 million.

1.3. Demarcation of Selected Lagoons

The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources expects to demarcation of boundaries in Chilaw, Mundalam, Nandikadal, Kokilai and Puttalama lagoons for the purpose of demarcating lagoons using the provisions of Rs.3 million in this year.
The transportation of 2,164 of manufactured demarcation posts from Chilaw Lagoon to puttalam lagoon has been completed.Necessary arrangements have currently been made to transport those posts.

1.4 Lagoon Management

Rs.0.50 million of provision has been released to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for lagoon management and a physical progress of 30% has been achieved by 31.12.2024.

• Setting up lagoon management committees and conducting awareness programs:-
Lagoon Management Commitees have been established with the participation of fisheries community and nine awareness programs of lagoon management committee have been completed in Matara, Garaduva, Puttalam and Chilaw lagoons.

• Lagoon Conservation and Management:-
In the year 2024, 03 lagoon development and management plans for Chilaw, Garaduva and Koggala lagoons are scheduled to be gazetted. (Legal drafts are currently being sent for printing by the Department of Government Printing.)

1.5 Lamasuriya Canal Development

Lamasuriya Canal development has achieved a physical progress of 5% by 31.08.2024.

1.6 Payment of administrative expenses related to the implementation of Fishermen's Pension Scheme

Administrative expenses which is to be paid in the Agricultural Insurance Fund for the year 2024 , were incurred by the ministry for the implementation of Fishermen's Pension System in the 3 rd quarter of this year.

1.7 Development of Negombo Lagoon

1. Project Description:

This project is implemented under 3 phases. Under phase I, 7 packages were implemented.The total cost for the Phase I is Rs.Mn. 1,000.

I Package III - Development of lagoons in Rajina Road area

Dredging of the lagoon near Rajina Road under Package III was started on 20.07.2018 and at present the physical progress of the lagoon is 90%.

a) Reasons for delay

During the implementation of the 3rd phase of the project, the lagoon silt was removed and stored in the project boundary until it dried.A case has been filed under Section 20 (1) mentioning that it has caused damage to the mangrove environment.
(Phase 3 of the project) The silt removal is to be resumed after the Negombo Police provide proper protection to the soil deposited in the project boundary until the lagoon silt is removed and dried.

Projects implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries

1. Development of freshwater fisheries

Rs.200 million has been allocated, for stocking fish fingerlings, fresh water prawn post-larvae and fry under the 2024 budget proposal.This project implemented by the National Aquaculture Development Authority, directly benefits 55,880 inland fishermen and 2,100 people indirectly. The main objectives of this project are to improve the living standards of the fishing community and to improve employment opportunities by increasing the income of the fishing community.

This project is operational in other districts except in Jaffna district and in this project, 30 Mn. fingerlings, 24.53 Mn. freshwater prawn post - larvae and 19.68 Mn. fry were stocked in the year 2024.

2. Development of the fishing industry in the Northern Province

Under the 2024 budget proposal, Rs. Mn. 500 were allocated for development of fisheries landing sites and anchorages

The existing 62 landing sites in Jaffna, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi districts will be developed.
Financial progress of the project: Rs. 34.92 million (as ot 31.08.2024)
The procurement related to Mullaitivu and Mannar districts has been completed and the main contract has been awarded.
Four landing sites are being developed in Mannar district.

- Dredging of the channel Pallimunai landing site-81%


Cleaning the canal

- Construction of Saveriyapuram Beach Road– 700 m 100%
- Construction of Thomaiyarpuram - Chilavathurai Beach Road - 500m -100%
- Construction of Kondachchi kuda/Kakkupudaiyan - Beach Road – 100%

Mulativue District

Four fishing piers are being developed in Mullaitivu district

- Development of Iranapalai - Anthoniyar Church Road (500 m) – 100%
- Construction of Theethakarai - Net mending Building – 100%
- Development of Chammalai - Village Council Road (900m) – 100%
- Development of Neithal Mulliwaikkal - Sinnappar Church Road (900m) – 100%
- Development of Uppamaweili Road (900m)-35%

Iranapalai-Anthoniyar
Church Road

Theethakarai-Net mending building

Kilinochchi District

9 fisheries landing sites in kilinochchi districts are developed.

Out of them, Cleaning of 03 access channels,

- ✓ Clening of the existing access canal, Nachikuda Iranimatha Nagar-10%
- ✓ Cleaning of the existing access canal ,Nachikuda Yagabar-10%
- ✓ Cleaning of the existing access canal, Poonakary Valaimathi-10%

Cleaning of the Existing Access Poonakary

- Construction of 1 Net mending hall

Counstration of the aucton hall Nachikuda & Nallayan

- ✓ Construction of the net mending hall ,Nachikuda & Nallayan-38%
- ✓ 01 Renovation of fish auction hall
- ✓ Renovation of the auction hall ,Nachikuda Kumlamuani -65%

Renovation of Naachikuda Kiranchi auction hall and net mending hall

- 02 renovations of the auction hall and the net mending hall
  - ✓ Renovation of auction hall & Net mending hall ,Nachikuuda Kiranchi-30%


Renovaition work of aucton hall & Net mending hall Nachikuda Kiranchi

- ✓ Renovation of auction hall and Net mending hall, Poonakary Kavutharimunai-10%

Auction hall and Net mending hall, Poonakary

- 01 Road Development

- ✓ Development of St.Anne's temple road ,Nachikuda Valaipadu (700m)-55%

Development of St.Anne's temple road ,Nachikuda Valaipadu

- Fixing of Beacon lamp
- ✓ Fixing of Beacon lamp, Palai Kilaly-60%

Jaffna District

The development of fisheries landing sites in Jaffna district are implemented under phase I and II.Its procurement activities have been completed and the contract has been awarded.

➢ Phase I –Procurement activities have been completed and the contract has been awarded.From that,

- ✓ Cleaning of 25 channels is carried on.
- ✓ Solar light is fixed in fisheries landing site and the road in 17 fisheries landing sites.

➢ Phase II-Procurement activities have been completed and the contract has been awarded.From that,

- ✓ Construction of Culvert at Katkovalm theerthakkarai beach road -23%
- ✓ Renovation of Uthayapuram Beach road (1700m)-40%
- ✓ Construction of the parking area in Gurunagar auction hall-84%

Projects implemented by Ministry of Fisheries

1 **Construction of Gandara Fishery Harbour**

i. Project Description:

This project constructs the following items.

- Breakwater construction
- Quey wall construction
- Construction of Shore facilities

Construction of Fish Auction Hall, Net mending hall, Sanitary Facilities, shoping complex, Staff Hostel, Offices for Fishery Inspector and Coast Guard Force,Accommodation facilities , Pumping Stations, Garbage Collection Station, Weighing Station, Oil Supply Works and Water Tanks,

ii. Commencement of the project : 07.12.2020

iii. Completion of the Project: December 2026 (Cabinet approval has been received)

iv. Revised Project Value : Rs. 11,354 (excluding contingent charges of 10% and VAT)

v. Financial progress of the project:

Year	Financial Provisions Rs.Mn.	Cost Rs.Mn.	Note
2020	408	202.48	Progress as at 31.12.2024
2021	1,710	1,595.30	
2022	1,599.44	1,145.43	
2023	2,534.59	2,353.00	
2024	3,199.90	2,795.2	

vi. Physical progress:

Approval was given to restart the land works at Gandara Fishery Harbour and to carry out a feasibility study and environmental assessment regarding the erosion of the harbor by the Cabinet decision No CP/24/1077/606/015. Accordingly, the project is being revised. Accordingly, the progress is mentioned below.Accordingly,the expected physical progress of the construction of Gandara Fishery Harbour as at 31.12.2024 is 81.86% and its physical progress is 72.17%.

Project name and items	**Expected Progress (%)**	**Progress achieved (%)**
Gandara Fishery Harbour	**81.86**	**72.17**
Basic activities	100	100
Breakwater construction	100	100
Dredging of the basin	100	100
Preparation of pre- cast blocks	100	100
Platform construction	100	100
Construction of buildings	30	8.77
External construction works	44	5.57
Provisional sums	33	0.4
Land acquisition and resettlement	91	88.5

Approval has been given to restart the land works at Gandara Fishery Harbour by the cabinet decision bearing CP/24/1077/606/015 and to carry out a feasibility study and transit study regarding the erosion of the fishery harbourt. Accordingly, the project is being revised.

Breakwater construction

Construction of the quey wall

Construction of travel lift bay

Establishment of the Fuel office

Construction of the quey wall

Underground water sump

2 Mailidy Fishery Harbour

The project has received Cabinet approval under several phases for renovation of break water in this fishery harbour, jetty and vessel lighting, dredging of harbor basin including access canal, auction hall for provision of shore facilities, net mending hall, repair of fuel station with storage tank, community hall, administrative office , quarters for administrative officers, public facilities and shore facilities. Accordingly, the work in phase I and II has been completed and handed over for operations and estimates are being prepared for phase III.

Rs.200 Mn has been allocated for this project in the year 2024 and the cost of the bill for phase II is Rs.145.55Mn and the physical progress of phase II is 100%.

Project Phase III

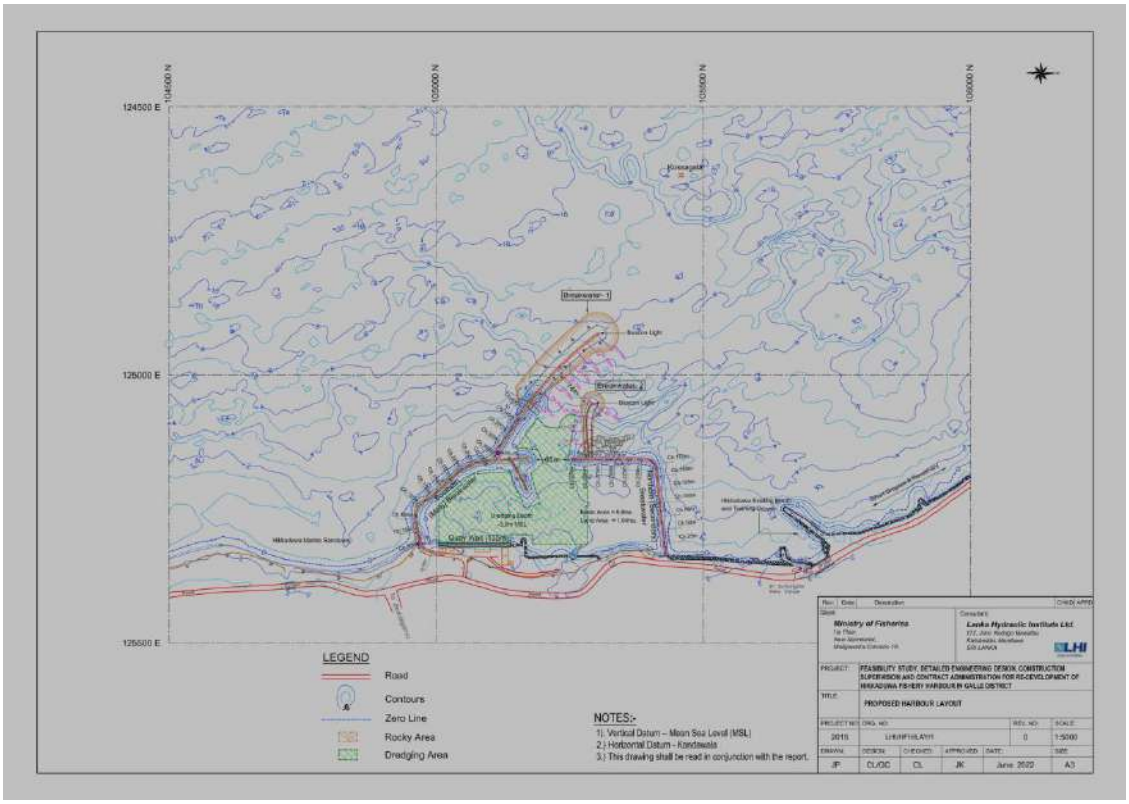
Under Phase III, auction hall, administrative office, quarters for administrative officers, public facilities will be constructed to provide with shore facilities.

This project is scheduled to be completed in the year 2026.

3 **Feasibility study, planning and environmental impact Assessment**

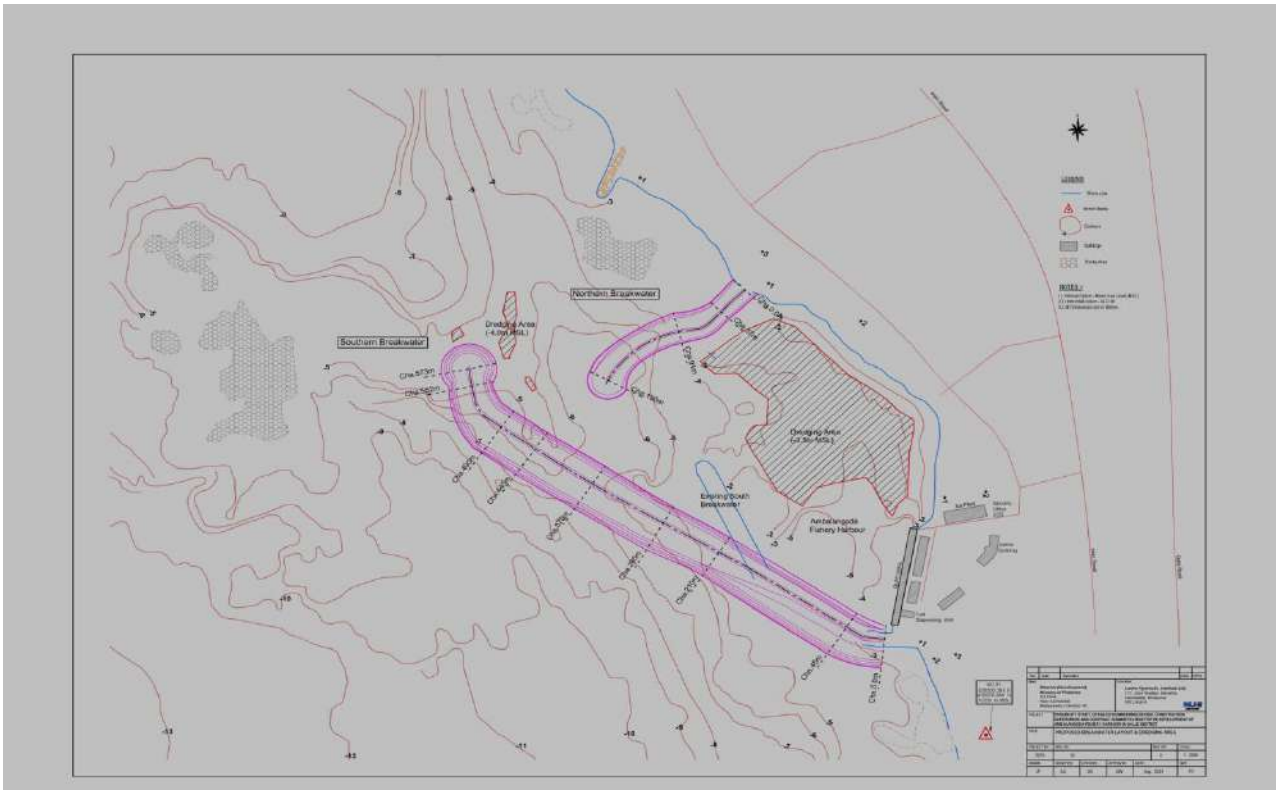
Development of Ambalangoda Fishery Harbour

• Development of Ambalangoda Fishery Harbour - Planning has been completed. The consulting firm has been selected to prepare the Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).



Development of Hikkaduwa Fishery Harbour

• Development of Hikkaduwa Fishery Harbor - Planning has been completed. The consulting firm has been selected to prepare the preliminary environmental impact Assessment (EIA) and that report is being prepared.



Development of Valachchena Fishery Harbour

• Development of Valachchena Fishery Harbour - Planning has been completed. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been approved.NPD approval is pending.

Develpment of Dodanduwa Fishery Harbour

• Development of Dodanduwa Fishery Harbour - Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) preparation is in progress.

4**. Construction of Mawella anchorage**

The Department of Coastal Conservation has been approached for environmental approval and a discussion was held with the stakeholders for the construction. Stakeholders did not agree with the design, which was developed for erosion mitigation.

5. **Construction of Rakawa Anchorage**

• Planning has been completed. NPD approval is pending.

6. **Opening the Oluvil Fishery Harbour mouth and making the harbour operational**

A discussion regarding the isssues arising in relation to the Oluvil Fishery Harbour was held on 23.08.2023 under the patronage of Hon.Prime minister and this issue was also subject to discussion. The political authority as well as officials representing the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation, this Ministry, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, the Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management and the Fishery Harbours Corporation participated in the meeting. It was decided to appoint a three-member expert committee from the Ocean University and academic institutions related to the field, provide an opportunity for all parties to submit their views/suggestions to the committee, and submit the committee report to the Hon. Prime Minister with a more practical proposal, taking into account all relevant factors.

According to the decisions reached, a committee consisting of the following experts nominated from the Ocean University and the following academic institutions related to the said field was appointed on 01.12.2023 to obtain the necessary recommendations to make the Oluvil Fishery Harbour an active harbour .

Professor J.J. Wijethunga	Head - Department of Civil Engineering, University of Peradeniya	Member
Mr. E.P. Rohan Edirisooriya	Senior Lecturer, Department of Marine Engineering, Ocean University of Sri Lanka	Member
Professor Turney Pradeep Kumara	Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, University of Ruhuna	Member
Mr. Aslam Suja	Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, Southeastern University of Sri Lanka	Member
Dr. Nimal Wijayaratne	Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa	Member
Mr. Harsha Ratnasooriya	Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa	Member

Several discussions were held and relevant information documents were forwarded to the expert committee. However, it is observed that further work on this has been halted since then. Later , when the Engineering Division of the Ministry was asked about this, the Division suggested that it would be appropriate to select an institution with expertise in marine construction and conduct a feasibility study . Accordingly, further work is scheduled to be carried out after obtaining the approval of the Secretary to the Ministry for the said proposal next year.

Information with regard to projects implemented under Foreign Aids

Grant Projects from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		
Project	Cost (USD) Mn	Current Status
Development of Self-sustained Culture-based Inland Fisheries to ensure Food and Nutritional Security and Livelihood Improvements in Rural Communities in Sri Lanka	3.0	Fortify resilience by establishing four community operated mini hatcheries in Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Anuradhapura and Monaragala districts, upgrade four NAQDA Aquaculture Development Centres and one community operated mini fish breeding centres to increase breeding and rearing capacity, enhance fingerling stocks in selected reservoirs, develop broodstock for breeding units and promote cage culture for seed rearing among fisher communities.
Ensuring food security through minimizing post-harvest losses in fishery industry	7.8	The modernized multi-day vessel has conducted two successful trials and under this project, a fishing vessel manufactured with all new technological methods and new equipment was launched for its first fishing trip at the Dikowita Fisheries Harbor on 24.10.2024.
Smart and sustainable aquaculture through effective biosecurity and digital technology	1.2	NPD approval on 27.10.2022. Established Technical Working Groups (TWG) on Bio Security (BS) and Big Data (BD)
Technical assistance in sea cucumber aquaculture and processing, restocking and management of depleted wild resources	2.0	NPD approval on 20.10.2022 and is in operation.

Project proposals implemented under the assistance of the Chinese government		
Project	Cost Rs.Mn	Current Status
Granting of 1,630 MTt of rice ,500 prefabricated houses and 75,000 fishing nets which are worth Rs.1,804.00 million under the Chinese Republic aids were granted to low-income fishing families residing in Northern and Eastern provinces.	1,804.00	The relevant subsidies have been distributed to low-income fishing families in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

Project proposals implemented with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)		
Project	Cost (USD)	Current Status
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing 4 maldives drying machines, primarily to mitigate the impacts of weather and climate change on the fisheries sector.	84,199.38	Beneficiaries are being selected to provide 4 maldives drying machines to maldives producers in the Kudawella area of the Hambantota District in the Southern Province. It is expected that 120 people will be trained in this regard. The Industrial Service Bureau (ISB) is preparing the relevant equipment in collaboration with the NARA Institute.

Project proposals implemented under the assistance of the Government of Thailand		
Project Proposal	Amount Rs. Mn	Present Progress
Training and expertise in marine ornamental fish breeding	54	National Planning Department has given approval on 13.09.2023

The project proposals implemented under the grants from the Japanese government		
Project Proposal	Amount USD	Present Progress
Supply of necessary equipment for the fishing industry in the northern and eastern provinces (Providing supportive equipment for fisheries industry)	3,000,00	The approval of the Department of National Planning (NPD) has been received by letter dated 04.07.2023 under No. NPD/AGC/PP/FIS/2023/05. Equipment will be provided in 2 phases. - Under the first phase, the following equipment will be provided related to the promotion of fishing activities and chilling and freezing purposes. - Ice Making Machine - Digital Platform Scale - Fishing Net, Refrigerator

		- Cargo Truck - Prefabricated Refrigerator/ Freezer Under the second phase, the following equipment will be provided for the safety of the fishermen. - Patrol Boat - Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RIB) - Lighted Buoy - HF Radio Transceiver (The Japanese fiscal year runs from April to March, so it is a project for that fiscal year.)

Other Activities Being Implemented

Expansion of local canned fish industry

Development of the Domestic Canned Fish Industry

Sri lanka spends a huge amount of foreign exchange annually on the import of fish and fish products such as dried fish, wet fish, sprats, Maldives fish as well as canned fish. Thus in the year 2019, about Rs.37,500 million was spent on the said imports, of which the largest amount of Rs.13,600 million,36% out of the total imports was spent on the import of canned fish .Accordingly, by boosting the domestic canned fish industry, it is possible to save a large amount of foreign exchange that is spent on the import of canned fish in the country, to raise employment opportunities in the domestic canned fish industry, and to provide the local fishermen with a fair and stable price for their fish products Accordingly, the Ministry of Fisheries has taken various measures to boost the canned fish industry, among which, in particular,

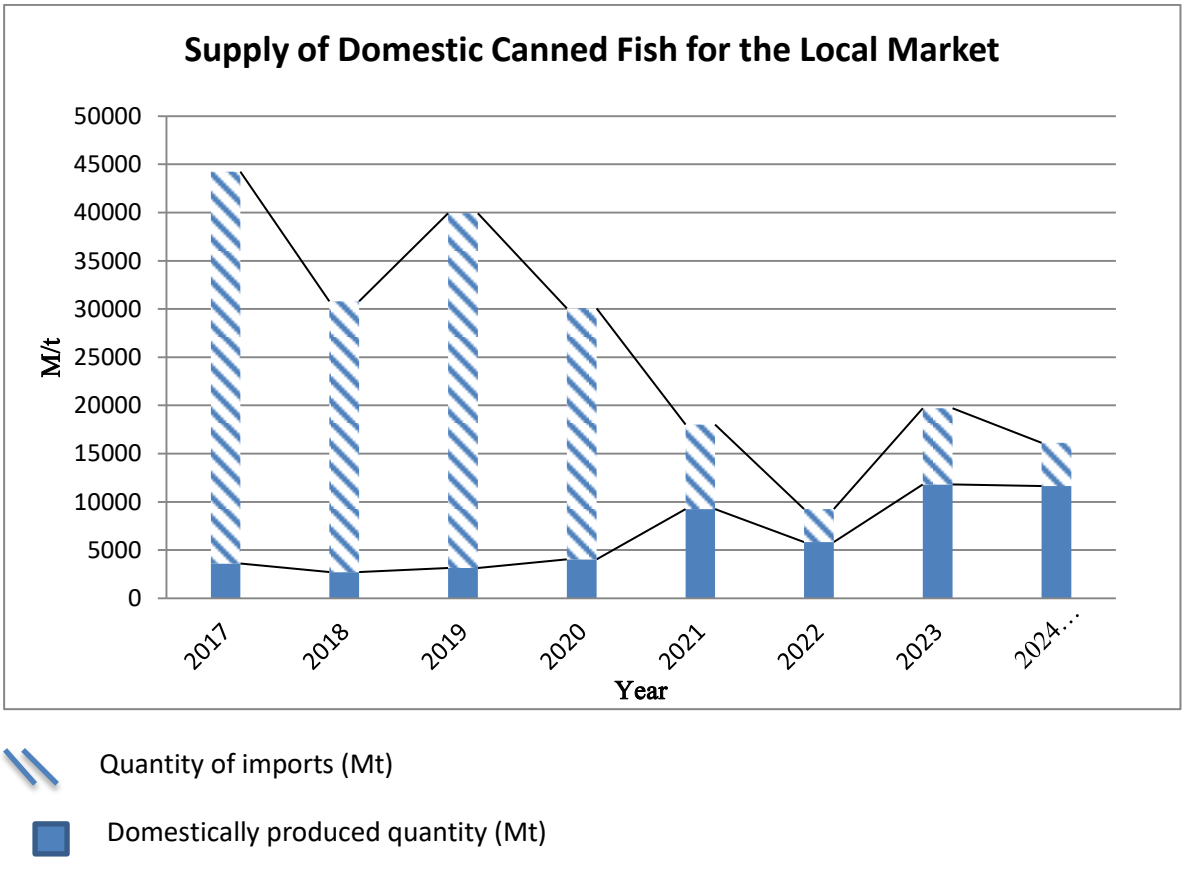
- Permitting the import of mackerel fish on special tax concessions when the price of linna fish /mackerel which is widely used as raw material for the canned fish industry hikes in the local market.
- Intervening to remove obstacles in the importation of fish as raw material for the domestic canned fish industry.
- Preparing regulations to register and properly regulate all canned fish factories under the Department of Fisheries.
- Ministry's intervention in making necessary tax amendments to sell domestic canned fish under fair price competition with imported canned fish.
- Intervention of the Department of Fisheries in the quality control of all canned fish factories and in the task of giving instructions to develop the necessary infrastructure.

- Setting up a committee made up of relevant institutions and parties to discuss the problems in the canned fish industry and doing follow up on the implementation of the decisions made in the said committee.

Before the year 2019, the number of domestic canned fish factories that had been registered with the Sri Lanka Standards Institution was 6, and the quantity of domestic canned fish that was produced by these factories was 3,100Mt.However,the number of canned fish factories that are registered under Sri Lanka Standards Institution have rapidly increased to 20 by the end of the year 2024 and a huge quantity of about 11,700 Mt of canned fish has been produced by 16 factories out of such canned fish factories that are registered with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources until the month of November in the year 2024.In addition, about 5 canned fish factories have already made requests to get registered under Sri Lanka standards Institution and it is expected that a significant quantity of canned fish would be produced by these factories in future.

Supply of Canned Fish For the Local Market

When considering the data of canned fish produced by the major domestic canned fish factories in the nation that have received standard certificates and the data of imported canned fish with throughout the last seven years (2017–2024),



After 2019, a rapid decline in the consumption of canned fish is apparent and during the period from 2020 to 2023, the consumption of canned fish decreased to 19,000 tons per year indicating half of the previous consumption. It can be believed that factors such as the decrease in the buying power of the people of the country along with the economic crisis caused by the spread of the Covid epidemic in the country after the year 2019 have had a strong impact on the drop in the

consumption of canned fish. Furthermore, more than 70% of canned fish has been supplied by the aforesaid major canned fish factories until November in the year 2024.
Also, the amount of canned fish produced in 2024 has shown a growth of about 300% compared to the amount of canned fish produced by domestic canned fish factories in 2019. The average annual expenditure for the import of canned fish was Rs. 13,600 million (US$76 million) in 2019, but by November in the year 2024, that amount had dropped sharply to Rs. 3,316.5 million. Accordingly, though the lack of local consumption of canned fish considerably has affected the decrease in the quantity of canned fish that is imported to some extent, it is mainly the growth of the domestic canned fish industry in the year 2024 that has strongly affected this rapid drop of import of canned fish.

Furthermore the highest consumption of canned fish in this country has been recorded for 5 years before the year 2020 and when considering the data during this period, an average of 263,000 cans of 425g canned fish had been consumed daily in this country. Accordingly, considering the production capacities of the existing canned fish factories in the country, it is apparent that these factories have the ability to produce more quantity of canned fish than these requirements.

Moreover by now, these major canned fish factories have already provided about 2000 direct employment opportunities, and a large number of other indirect employment opportunities such as the production of empty cans of fish, the supply of labels and selling etc. Also, the factories of this country have the potential to develop the domestic canned fish industry into an export industry. Hence the necessary instructions for developing the necessary infrastructure are currently being provided by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. This industry has the ability to produce canned fish in the country at an affordable price for the local canned fish consumer as well as to avoid the foreign exchange spent on importing canned fish products and instead earn foreign exchange. Apart from those, fishermen who are engaged in the Linna fish industry receive a fair price for their product as a result of the industry's expansion.

Providing Compensation for the Damage Caused to the Fishing industry as a result of the ship X-Press Pearl accident.

On 21.05.2021, the ship X-Press Pearl caught fire and sank in Sri Lanka's territorial waters, causing severe damage to the marine ecosystem on the west coast of Sri Lanka due to the release of plastic, oil, chemicals etc. from the ship's containers into the marine environment. Due to this ecological disaster , the government took steps to impose a fishing ban area with immediate effect to ensure the safety of fishermen, fishing gear and boats in the area from Kalutara to Negombo. Compensation was obtained from the insurers of the shipping company for the fishermen who lost their livelihood due to the fishing ban.

As at now , the insurance company of the ship has given an amount of 2980 million rupees as interim payment to compensate the fishermen who lost their livelihood due to the fishing ban area .Arrangements have been made to grant this compensation to 15,032 fishermen who are directly employed and 4,888 people who are engaged in related jobs. In addition, an amount of Rs. 6,541,925/- has been paid as compensation to the fishermen whose nets were damaged due to the debris released from the ship.

02
Department Of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR)

Vision

Making an optimum contribution towards the national economy by strengthening socio-economic status of the fisher community while maintaining the sustainability in fisheries and aquatic resources.

Mission

Management of fisheries and aquatic resources by adopting new technological methods in accordance with the national and international maritime laws and conventions to make an effective contribution towards the Sri Lankan economy through the sustainable development in the fisheries industry.

Purpose

- Management, regularization, conservation and sustainable development in fishing activities in compliance with local and international maritime laws and conventions.
- Encouraging local and foreign investment in the fisheries sector.
- Introduction of new technology for exploiting fishery resources in local and international waters.
- Improving socio-economic status of the fisher community.
- Ensuring the quality and hygiene of exporting fish products in keeping with the international standards.
- Minimizing post-harvest losses and improving the quality of local fish products.
- Ensuring that fishing operations are conducted in accordance with the international statutes and regional conventions
- Execution of port services in accordance with the Implementation of Port State Measures
- Regulations
- Monitoring the operations of fishing vessels at High Seas and ensuring their safety
- To provide optimum service to the fishermen and the other clients via online using information technology
- Enabling to retrieve data and information related to the fisheries sector quickly and accurately via online using information technology.

Main Functions

- Formulation, enacting, updating and implementation of Fisheries Operations Regulations.
- Formulation, enacting, updating and implementation of Fisheries Management Regulations.
- Formulation, enacting, updating and implementation of Aquaculture Management Regulations.
- Registration of fishing vessels, mortgaging and issuance of fishing operations licences.
- Issue of permits for the export of live fish.
- Issue of fish landing permits for foreign fishing vessels.
- Improving the awareness on fisheries management among the fisher families.
- Coordination of institutional credit facilities for obtaining capital goods.
- Registration, regulation and supervision of boat building companies.
- Registration, regulation and supervision of fisheries input suppliers.
- Providing guidance to bring the fisheries cooperative societies to an efficient level.
- Coordination and monitoring of regional fisheries organizations established under the National Fisheries Federation.
- Collection of data related to the fisheries industry.
- Repatriation of fishermen and fishing boats taken into custody by foreign countries.
- Bringing the fishermen and fishing boats stranded at sea back to Sri Lanka.
- Quality inspection of export fish.
- Registration of fish processing establishments and issue of health certificates for fish export.
- Upgrading the standard of local fish sale outlets.
- Installation of VMS devices on multiday fishing boats engaged in High Seas fishing operations.
- Providing radio communication facilities between the fishing vessels and land.
- Obtaining reports on fishing boats which are involved in border crossings.
- Providing daily weather reports and weather advisories on a daily basis.
- Making aware of fishing boats based on the information given by VMS.
- Making the respective institutions aware of illegal foreign fishing vessels and fishermen.
- Taking action to provide licenses and call signs for communication purposes of fishing boats.
- Substantiation of information for insurance in case of accidents encountered by fishermen and fishing crafts.
- Taking action to save fishing boats adrift in international maritime boundaries.
- Conducting training programmes for the vocational education of the members of fisher families.
- Fisheries social security through the implementation of fishermen’s insurance and pension schemes.
- Implementation of lagoon development programmes and infrastructure development in fishery villages.
- Implementation of alternative income generating programmes for fisher women.

02. Progress of Development Programmes 2024

2.0 Development Division

Prime responsibility of the Fisheries Development Division is to increase fish production through development and regulation of fisheries sector by means of efficient and introducing new environment friendly technological methods in order to achieve a greater contribution towards the National Economy of Sri Lanka and to take necessary steps to upgrade socio economic status of the fisher folks.

2.1. Main function of the Fisheries Development Division

- Registration, regulation and supervision of fishing boat building yards.
- Granting approvals for boat designs.
- Registration, regulation and supervision of fishing gear suppliers.
- Introduction and promotion of new technological methods to the fisheries industry.
- Granting recommendations to the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) pertaining to the construction projects in coastal areas so as not to cause obstruction to the fisheries industry.
- Development of infrastructure facilities in fisheries sector.
- Implementation of alternative income generating projects
- Implementation of fisheries subsidy schemes.
- Implementation of fisheries loan schemes.
- Ensuring social security of fishermen through the implementation of fisheries pension schemes.
- Dealing with fishermen's compensation.
- Implementation of the Diyawara Kekulu children's saving progrmme
- Taking necessary action to streamline the development and conservation of lagoon eco system.
- Implementation of lagoon development programmes
- Formulation and implementation of the annual action plan of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.
- Reviewing progress by coordinating all district offices.
- Resolving special fisheries disputes

2.2 **Ensuring safety of the fishermen**

Table 01: Progress of the activities related to ensuring the safety of fishermen

Activity	Progress up to 31.12.2024
Total number of fishing vessels insured	27,986
Total number of fishermen insured	23,756
Number of persons contributing to the Fisheries Pension Scheme	69,095
Issue of seaworthiness certificates	28,421
Registration of fishing vessels	55
Registration of fishing gear suppliers	19
Registration of fishing equipment suppliers	07

2.2.1 Introducing the Dheewara Rekuma" New Insurance Scheme.

According to the criteria of the International Labour Organization, the fishing occupation has been named as one of the most challenging, dangerous and risk prone occupations. Considering the fisheries industry in the country, the risk prone nature of the marine fisheries sector is higher than that of the freshwater fisheries sector. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Fisheries, the number of fishermen in Sri Lanka is 318,470, of which 223,720 are employed in the marine fisheries sector and out the said number, about 85% are coastal fishermen, and 34,550 are engaged in offshore and deep-sea fishing by means multi-day fishing vessels. The number of fisher families in the country is 273,240 and the number of people who are directly dependent on the fisheries industry is about 1,123,000. The number of people engaged in indirect employments related to this sector and its associated dependents are estimated to be around 2.7 million. Thus, about 18% of the total population of Sri Lanka earns their livelihood from and around the fisheries industry.

The total number of active fishermen in Sri Lanka is 318,470 Out of them, the people who have contributed to the insurance scheme that has been in operation so far, is approximately 1.73% out of the number of active fishermen. Since the necessity of implementing a new insurance scheme with a more effective and affordable installment for the fishermen, having identified shortcomings and issues of the existing insurance scheme, has arisen, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources jointly with the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation has introduced the "Dheevara Rakuma" personal accidental insurance policy.

Under the "Dheewara Rekuma" personal accidental insurance policy operated by the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation, the amount of compensation received on behalf of the fisherman in case of his death is granted to his dependents in such a way that is a half of the total amount to the wife and the other half among the minor children of the family. Three options have been introduced by the Insurance Corporation.

Table 02: Particulars of the "Dheewara Rekuma" Insurance Cover

Particulars of the Cover	Insured Amount (Rs.)		
01. Personal accidental insurance	Option 01	Option 02	Option 03
Accidental insurance	1,200,000	1,500,000	2,000,000
Permanent total disability	1,200,000	1,500,000	2,000,000
Permanent partial disability	600,000	750,000	1,000,000
02. Disappearances			
In case of disappearance of the fisherman due to an accident while engaged in fishing activities, the payment of benefits will be started after completion of 05 months since the date of disappearance.	At a rate of Rs.7,500 per month for up to 12 months	At a rate of Rs.7,500 per month for up to 12 months	At a rate of Rs.7,500 per month for up to 12 months
In case of disappearance for more than one year, the balance will be paid after deducting the above compensation from the insured amount	1,200,000	1,500,000	2,000,000
03. Hospitalization Allowance Claims for a maximum of 14 days per year is paid for a fisher family hospitalization in the event of hospitalization	Rs.500/= per day (maximu	Rs.500/= per day (maximu	Rs.500/= per day (maximum

for accidents or illness. Fisherman and spouse - 18 to 65 years Unmarried, unemployed children up to 21 years.	m 14 days)	m 14 days)	14 days)
04. Allowance of Educational Expenses Education expenses of school going children will be paid for a year at the rate of Rs.1000 per month for a maximum of two children.	1,000	1,000	1,000
05.Funeral Benefit (Payable on natural deaths only.)	200,000	200,000	200,000
06. Air ticket cover In case of drifting/arrest by another state due to fishing operations.	40,000	40,000	40,000

2.2.2 Compensation for natural hazards.

This program is jointly implemented by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Ministry of Finance under the direct financial allocation of the government. No any fee is charged from the beneficiary for this purpose and under this, a compensation of one million rupees is granted to the dependents of a fisherman who dies due to natural hazards encountered while engaging in fishing activities. Compensations have been granted to 5 selected families for the period from January 01, 2024 to December 31 2024. Furthermore, steps have been taken to provide Rs. 2,000,000.00 as a relief grant to the families of the four fishermen of the Devon 05 fishing vessel who died.In this case, it is required to confirm that the death has occurred due to a natural disaster. For that purpose, it is mandatory to provide a disaster incident report.

2.2.3 Diyawara Diriya Loan Scheme

Diyawara Diriya Low Interest Loan Scheme has been launched by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in collaboration with the Bank of Ceylon in order to upgrade the standard of fishing crafts and to provide relief for the fishermen with the objective of developing the fisheries industry and taking more qualitative fish harvest through the introduction of new technology.

Under this, loans are granted to each beneficiary subject to the maximum amount of Rs.15 million and the interest rate is as follows.

- 5% interest will be charged from the borrower if the amount of loan is less than Rs.2 million
- 7% interest will be charged from the borrower if the amount of loan is more than Rs.2 million
- In this loan scheme, 4 percent interest subsidy is granted for each fisherman by the government.
- When granting these loans, priority is given for undertakings such as improvement to the boat yards, construction of fishing boats over 55ft in length, advancement of new technology (RSW, CSW), installation of long lines and winch machines etc.
- Loans have been granted for 261 beneficiaries totaling a sum of one billion rupees under 01st phase of Diyawara Diriya while a sum of 1.8 billion rupees has been granted for 755 beneficiaries under the second phase of this loan scheme.

4 % premiums hereof are credited to the Bank of Ceylon by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and this has to pay until 2031.

2.2.4 Diyawara Kekulu Children's Savings Account

According to the criteria of the International Labour Organization, the fishing occupation has been named as one of the most challenging, dangerous and risky prone occupations. The economy of the vast majority of fishermen's families is entirely dependent on the income earned by the fisherman who is the head of the family. The nutrition, education and health security of those fisher families are completely dependent on the individual income of the fisherman. Due to the accidents encountered by the fisherman, the economy of the family collapses completely, and the education of the children of the fisher families is broken down at large. Accordingly, attention of the Department has been focused towards ensuring the social security of fisher families, attracting young people to the fisheries industry, and the promotion of thrift and investment/saving habits of fishermen for the future of their families. Accordingly, upon the request of the Ministry of Fisheries, the Bank of Ceylon has taken necessary steps to start a special 'Dheewara Kekulu' children's savings account for fishermen's children in order to provide wider cover for them.

Figure 01: Diyawara Kekulu Children's Savings Account

2.3. Various programs implemented by the Development Division of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the year 2024 and its progress

A recurring allocation of Rs.Mn.800 has been allocated to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to provide fuel subsidy to fishermen in order to promote the fishing industry, and out of this, Rs. 91,270,456.67 has been provided to fishermen by the end of December.

2.3.1. The programme of providing kerosene under the Chinese's aides for the small fishing vessels with outboard engine (OFRP) and traditional mechanized boats (MTRB) powered using kerosene as fuel, 2023-2024. **[OFRP (Out board fiber Reinforced Plastic Boat), MTRB (Mechanized Traditional Boat)]**

The programme of granting of fuel free of charge, that was provided by the People's Republic of China in aid was commenced under the leadership of Mr. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Fisheries, State Minister of Fisheries Mr. Piyal Nishantha de Silva and the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the People's Republic of China,Qi Zhenhong at Panadura Fishery Harbour on 23.05.2023.

The Petroleum Corporation Ltd decided to provide kerosene for the consumption of small-scale fishermen in place of the 3.79 million liters of diesel offered by the Republic of China and it was observed that there is a possibility to release 4.32 million liters of kerosene according to the prevailing price at that time. The release of this fuel was done in two phases and accordingly, it was decided to provide 75 liters in the first phase and 78 liters in the second phase totaling 153 liters of kerosene per fishing boat at the end of both phases.

Thus, it was expected grant the said relief to active OFRP and MTRB vessels engaged in fishing operations throughout the Island, powered with kerosene as fuel and which are registered in the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Accordingly, approval has already been given to grant this relief to 25,564 vessels identified as active fishing vessels in 15 fisheries districts of Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Tangalle, Kalmunai, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi, Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Puttalam, Chilaw and Negombo.

The release of the fuel is done by 96 filling stations and 1,825,500 liters of kerosene were released for 24,340 OFRP and MTRB vessels at a rate of 75 liters per vessel.

Fuel release under the second phase was done by 97 filling stations and 1,873,872 liters of kerosene was released to 24,024 OFRP and MTRB vessels at 78 liters per vessel and 153 liters per vessel to OFRP and MTRB vessels for which fuel was not released in the first phase and as such 624,852 liters of kerosene were released for 4,084. Accordingly, 2,498,724 liters of kerosene for 28,108 vessels have been distributed under the second phase by 05.03.2024.

Figure 02: The program of providing fuel to those vessels in free of charge, which was aided to Sri Lanka by the Republic of China.

Table 03: Distribution of kerosene under first and second phases

District	First Phase		Second Phase								
	Number of vessels approved to be provided with kerosene	Total number of vessels which received kerosene by 28.07.2023	Number of vessels approved to be provided with kerosene			Total number of vessels which received kerosene by 05.03.2024					
			78 (L)	153 (L)	Total Number of Vessels (Approved)	Only Second Stage (Vessels)	Kerosene released (75 L)	First and Second Phase (Vessels)	Kerosene released (153 L)	Total Number of Vessels (Issued)	Kerosene liters (Total)
Batticaloa	1796	1725	1727	124	1851	1711	133458	111	16983	1822	150441
Colombo	364	291	291	114	405	287	22386	112	17136	399	39522
Chilaw	1669	1430	1428	449	1877	1391	108498	395	60435	1786	168933
Galle	702	691	691	110	801	678	52884	105	16065	783	68949
Jafna	5478	5282	5283	642	5925	5271	411138	618	94554	5889	505692
Kilinochchi	1045	1021	1020	140	1160	1018	79404	139	21267	1157	100671
Kalutara	418	412	412	41	453	411	32058	39	5967	450	38025
Kalmunai	1000	973	973	155	1128	968	75504	146	22338	1114	97842
Mannar	2431	2309	2310	714	3024	2254	175812	634	97002	2888	272814
Matara	1015	982	982	76	1058	963	75114	70	10710	1033	85824
Tangalle	966	946	946	101	1047	939	73242	99	15147	1038	88389
Trincomalee	3545	3537	3542	380	3922	3535	275730	376	57528	3911	333258
Puttalam	2617	2502	2496	599	3095	2394	186732	456	69768	2850	256500
Negombo	1405	1207	1208	357	1565	1181	92118	334	51102	1515	143220
Mullaitivu	1113	1032	1032	461	1493	1023	79794	450	68850	1473	148644
Total	**25564**	**24340**	**24341**	**4463**	**28804**	**24024**	1873872	**4084**	624852	**28108**	2498724

2.4. Infrastructure Development of the Fishery Industry - (Minimizing the impact caused to the fishermen due to the mining sand for the development of the Western Terminal of the Colombo Port Expansion Project)

The Sri Lanka Port Authority and the Western Terminal Development Company have allocated a sum of Rs.Mn.140 to the Ministry of Fisheries to develop the infrastructure of the fisheries industry with a view to minimizing the impact of the Colombo Port Western Terminal expansion project on the concerned fishermen. The said amount is to be used for the development of fisheries infrastructure facilities in Gampaha and Colombo districts which will be highly affected by the project.

Simultaneously, 25 fishermen engaged in small scale fishing industry in Negombo district have been given teppans. The Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries gave approval to allocate 03 million rupees for this purpose. The objective of the project was to increase the active contribution of small-scale fishermen towards the fisheries sector, increase their fish harvest and improve their livelihoods. Through this initiative, a sustainable and prosperous future is envisaged for the local fisher community.

This theppan was produced by the Cey-Nor Foundation, and these were distributed to the selected beneficiaries on 26.01.2024, under the leadership of the Ministry of Fisheries.

The project of renovating the landing site/ breakwater near the bay of Lunawa which is another identified project is currently underway. The project has been approved by the Department of National Planning. This project is jointly implemented by the Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resource Management. The Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resource Management has been authorized to carry out those activities. Ministry of Finance Rs. 44,762,707.50 allocation has been released for the project. Accordingly, the relevant MoU was signed in June and further work related to the project is currently underway. The main objectives of this project are to increase the structural integrity and resilience of the breakwater, to withstand the currents and storms at sea and also to improve the protection and access of the landing site for fishing activities.

The new projects has been identifying for the remaining Rs.Mn.140.

2.5 Progress of the measures taken to regulate the impact on the fisheries sector due to the fire incident of the cargo ship New X Press Pearl on 21st, May.

On 20 May 2021, Singapore-flagged cargo ship "MV X-PRESS PEARL with 1,486 containers onboard carrying dangerous cargo; 25 tons of nitric acid, other chemicals, some cosmetics, 278 metric tons of bunker oil and 50 metric tons of marine gas oil from Hazira Port, India caught fire while anchored 9.5 km off the coast of Sri Lanka. Plastic pellets, oil and chemical spills caused a significant economic damage to the fisheries industry on the west coast of the country. Coastal pollution from Kalutara to Negombo has been observed with oil, chemicals and burnt particles especially plastic pellets. Plastic debris, oil and chemical spills have caused a high negative impact on coastal fisheries and marine ecosystems. Experts said that this accident will have a serious impact on the entire ecosystem such as coral reefs, sea grass, fish habitats, etc. The impact of the MV Xpress Pearl vessel is therefore wide-ranging and likely to have short-term, medium-

term and long-term impacts. The Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and other agencies under the purview of the Ministry of Fisheries have taken various measures to mitigate the adverse impacts on Sri Lanka's environmental, social and economic and health sectors and protect fishermen and seafood consumers. Accordingly, fishing activities were banned in the fisheries districts of Negombo, Kalutara and Colombo to reduce the immediate adverse effects on the fisheries sector. The temporary fishing ban was imposed on 21.05.2021 and it was implemented until 05.06.2022 based on the scientific recommendations of the NARA Institute.

Recognizing the potential for pollutant spillover based on numerical modeling studies as a precautionary measure against environmental pollution from pollutants and debris from the MV Xpress Pearl, NARA recommended that a 457 square kilometer offshore area of 65 kilometers of coastline be prohibited. Fishing was declared to be prohibited at the Mahaoya River estuary in the North and the Panadura in the South. Due to the long-standing fish ban in the area, a significant number of direct fishermen and indirect beneficiaries of the fisheries industry have been affected by this incident, and 23 categories of fishermen and 24 other professions related to the fisheries industry have been identified as the affected parties.

Table 04: Information of the Fishermen directly affected

District	No. of directly affected fisheries inspectors' division	No. of active fishermen	Affected vessels
Negombo	13	11,081	IMUL 40 IDAY 60 OFRP 2015 NTRB 1484 MTRB 02
Colombo	10	3,250	IMUL 11 IDAY 14 OFRP 446 NTRB 294 MTRB 01
Kalutara	02	701	OFRP 47 NTRB 33

Multi Fishing Vessels (IMUL), 1 Day Fishing Vessels (1 Day), (OFRP), (NTRB), Mechanized vessels (MTRB)

Table 05: Information of the affected Fishermen

District	No.of Fishermen
Negombo	3,866
Colombo	851
Kalutara	171

2.5.1 The amount of compensation approved by the Ministry of Fisheries

Table 06 : **The amount of compensation granted for direct and indirect fishermen**

District	Amount of compensation granted (Rupees)				
	1st Phase	2nd Phase	3rd Phase	4th Phase	Total
Negombo	206,197,500.00	242,825,000.00	551,220,000.00	998,237,548.00	1,998,480,048.00
Colombo	58,942,500.00	74,720,500.00	205,233,125.00	288,319,656.00	627,215,781.00
Kalutara	14,170,000.00	16,312,500.00	37,285,000.00	72,558,360.00	140,325,860.00
For the allowance of Rs. 5000	67,000,000.00				67,000,000.00
For netting gear	2,067,515.00			4,474,410.00	6,541,925.00
Compensation for damage to the aquaculture		1,154,930.00			1,154,930.00
Total	348,377,515.00	335,012,930.00	793,738,125.00	1,363,589,974.00	2,773,718,544.00

2.5.2 Provision of the Administrative Expenses Allowance

Several government institutions worked together to identify the damage caused due to the fire and sinking of the X-PRESS PEARL ship on the coast of Sri Lanka and to take necessary action in that regard. For this purpose, the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka, Marine Environment Protection Authority, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats have contributed a lot and these institutions are assisting for all the necessary activities even now.

Accordingly, necessary measures are being taken to pay an allowance for 292 officials of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for carrying out administrative tasks including assessing the damage caused to the fisheries industry, identifying people who lost their livelihood, and paying compensation during the period from 21.05.2021 to 31.12.2023.

2.6 Issuance of Fisheries Identity Cards

Issue of fisheries Identity cards and skipper licenses to verify the identity of the fisher community, who is engaged in fisheries industry, is carried out by the Development Division of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The particulars about the fisheries ID cards and skipper licenses issued by the Development Division from January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024 are as follows.

Total number of fisheries identity cards issued – 1,528

Total number of skipper licenses issued -871

2.7 Lagoon Development (Development Division)

2.7.1 Gazetting of Puttalam Lagoon in Puttalam Fisheries District

Puttalam Lagoon has been declared as a Management Area under Gazette Notification No. 1665/17 dated 04th of August, 2010. In accordance with the provisions of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment) Act No. 35 of 2013, the legal section is carrying out the necessary activities to re-gazette with GPS readings to ensure the conservation, development and management and safety of the Puttalam lagoon ecosystem.

2.7.2 Conducting the fishermen awareness programs in Puttalam Fisheries District

In the year 2024, 04 fishermen awareness programmes of the future activities of the Lagoon Management Committees of the Puttalam Lagoon in the Chilaw fisheries district and raising the livelihood of the fishermen were held on April 24, 25, 30 and May 09, 2024.

Figure 03: Photos showing the fishermen awareness program in Puttalam Fisheries

2.7.3 Conducting the fishermen awareness programs in Chilaw fisheries district

In the year 2024, 04 fishermen awareness programmes of the future activities of the Lagoon Management Committees of the Chilaw lagoon in the Chilaw fisheries district and raising the livelihood of the fishermen were held on April 08, 29 and May 03, 2024.

2.7.4 Conducting the fishermen awareness programs in Matara Fisheries District

In the year 2024, a fishermen awareness programme of the future activities of the Lagoon Management Committees of the Garanduwa Lagoon in the Puttalam fisheries district and raising the livelihood of the fishermen was held on February 22, 2024.

2.7.5 Necessary legal activities are being made to gazette the Fisheries Development and Management Plan of Chilaw, Koggala and Garanduva lagoons.

The Fisheries Development and Management Plan is to be gazetted with the aim of sustainably maintaining the Koggala lagoon in Galle district, Garanduwa lagoon in Matara district and Puttalam lagoon in Puttalam district and the ecological conditions of the said lagoon ecosystem, thereby securing the livelihood of the people around the lagoon.

2.7.6 Transporting demarcation posts for the fixation of them around Puttalam lagoon in Puttalam fisheries district.

After completion of the procurement process for transportation of demarcation posts for the fixation around Puttalam lagoon in Puttalam fisheries district, the transportation of such posts has now been started.

2.8 Rice subsidy program under the aid of the Chinese government for low-income fishing families in the Northern and Eastern provinces-2024.

1,630 mt of rice worth of Rs.Mn.555.4 has been donated to the government of Sri Lanka under the aid of the Republic of China and the progress of distributing the said subsidy of rice among the low-income fishermen engaged in the active fisheries industry in the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Kalmunai.

1,174 bags of rice weighing 50 kg each transported to Kilinochchi district were completed in distributing among 2,935 beneficiaries at a rate of 20 kg.

4,226 bags of rice weighing 50 kg each transported to Mannar district were completed in distributing among 8,007 beneficiaries at a rate of 20 kg,and the remaining 1,023 bags of rice(at a rate of 50 kg.) have been provided to distribute among the flood victims at the request of the district secretary of Mannar.

1,500 bags of rice weighing 50 kg transported to Mullaitivu district have been distributed to 3,750 beneficiaries at a rate of 20 kg each, while the remaining 1,332 bags of 50 kg rice transported to Mullaitivu district are scheduled to be distributed to beneficiaries in Trincomalee and Kalmunai districts. Rice was thus transported back to Mullaitivu district becauseMullaitivu is the district with the highest poverty rate as a percentage according to the Poverty Indicator Report-2019 released by the Department of Census and Statistics in April 2022.

6,504 bags of rice weighing 50 kg transported to Batticaloa district have been distributed to 16,260 beneficiaries at a rate of 20 kg each.

Out of 7,253 bags of 50 kg rice transported to Trincomalee district, 5,640 bags of 50 kg rice have been distributed to 14,100 beneficiaries at a rate of 20 kg each, while 1,293 bags of 50 kg rice remaining in Trincomalee district have been transported to Mullaitivu district.

Out of the 4,772 bags of rice weighing 50 kg transported to Kalmunai district, 4,288 bags of rice weighing 50 kg have been distributed to 10,720 beneficiaries at a rate of 20 kg each, while 30 bags have been damaged by flood. Another 301 bags of rice weighing 50 kg are yet to be

distributed to beneficiaries. The remaining 153 bags of rice weighing 50 kg were transported to Mullaitivu district.

2.9 Program to provide 500 prefabricated houses under the assistance of the Chinese government to low-income fishing families in the northern and eastern provinces 2024

500 prefabricated housing units valued at Rs.Mn.750 have been donated to the government of Sri Lanka under the assistance of the Republic of China and these prefabricated housing units are to be distributed to low-income fishermen engaged in active fisheries industry in the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Kalmunai. Although the prefabricated houses have been transported to the respective districts as follows, selection of beneficiaries and distribution of such houses was delayed due to the presidential election and the general election held recently.

Table 07: Summary of distributing prefab houses

District	No. of assigned prefab houses	No. of transported prefab houses	No. of prefab homes distributed
Jaffna	116	116	Still not distributed
Kilinochchi	64	64	
Mannar	64	64	
Mullaitivu	64	64	
Batticaloa	64	64	
Kalmunai	64	64	
Trincomalee	64	64	
Total	**500**	**500**	

One model housing unit has been built in Tricomalee,Mannar,Jaffna and Batticaloa districts and by showing it to the beneficiaries, their consent to get such a house is being taken.Tri forces have agreed to supply the required labour to build these prefabricated houses.

2.10 Program to provide 75,000 fishing nets for the low-income fisher families in the Nothern and Eastern provinces under the aid of the Chinese government 2024

75,000 fishing nets worth Rs. 500 million have been donated to the government of Sri Lanka under the aid of the Republic of China and the fishing nets are to be distributed to the low-income fishermen engaged in the active fisheries industry in the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Kalmunai. These fishing nets have been transported to the respective districts in the following manner**.**

Table 08: Summary of distributing netting subsidy

	District	Number of selected beneficiaries	Number of nets approved and transported to each district	Number of beneficiaries to whom nets were distributed
1	Jaffna	3,614	21,684	2,384
2	Trincomalee	2,625	15,750	1,196
3	Mannar	2,309	13,854	1,504
4	Batticaloa	1,589	9,534	1,583
5	Mullaitivu	583	3,498	437
6	Kalmunai	887	5,322	791
7	Kilinochchi	870	5,220	622
Total		**12,477**	**74,862**	**8,517**

Distribution of the fishing nets was delayed due to the presidential election and the general election held recently, however distribution has been started now.

2.11 Providing climate resilient boats under the support of World Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) handed over two climate-resilient fishing vessels designed at the research level to the Ministry of Fisheries in order to meet the challenges of sustainable development and climate change,

These two fishing vessels named SL20 and SL23 of 6.3 and 7 meters in length are designed for costal fishing in Sri Lanka. Complying with FAO/ILO/IMO standards, these boats prioritize the safety of fishermen and are built to with stand the challenges posed by climate change, including frequent and intense storms and cyclones, and to withstand capsizing. Designs of these climate-resistant boats are freely available through the FAO Fishing Vessel Designing Database.

Considering the performance of the boats, the wider footprint on the water of SL20 and SL23 is more than the traditional fishing boats. One of the advantages of a wider footprint is that the SL20 and SL23 can carry more ice and carry that load when loaded with crew. The SL20 and SL23 have an improved V-shaped bottom design. The advantage of the improved V-shape is that the SL20 and SL23 can maintain speed and efficiency, even in bad weather. Traditional fishing boats have a relatively flat bottom, which makes them less stable and less efficient in rough sea conditions.

Figure 04: Source https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/news/41439

The SL20 and SL23 are structurally stronger and more durable. If properly used and maintained, they have an operational life of 20 to 25 years. By transforming to these new boat standards, environmental pollution caused by (Fiberglass reinforced plastic -FRP) in Sri Lankan fisheries industry can be reduced by one third.

The approximate cost of Rs.Mn.9 for the design and construction of these boats were allocated from the financial funds generously credited by the Norwegian government to FAO's Trust Fund for projects related to "Responsible use of fisheries and aquatic resources for sustainable development".

These two boats have been officially handed over to the fisheries offices of Jaffna and Kalutara districts through a memorandum of understanding aiming at carrying out field tests and educating the people about these improved boats. Regular collection of data related to their use is essential and these data should be submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as required.

2.12 The programme of reviving the fisheries industry by minimizing the impact caused to the fisheries sector due to the economic Crisis - 2024

Under this program, about 6,500 one-day (IDAY) and multi-day (IMUL) fishing vessels using diesel as fuel and about 32,000 small vessels (OFRP, MTRB) using kerosene as fuel will be provided with the “Fisheries industry revival allowance”.

Fishermen using kerosene as fuel will be provided with a “Fisheries Industry Recovery Allowance” of Rs. 25/- per liter only for the days they are engaged in fishing, subject to a maximum of 15 liters of kerosene per day and a maximum of 25 days per month. Owners of MTRB and OFRP fishing vessels registered in the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, who are actively engaged in fishing, will be reimbursed with an amount of Rs. 9,375 per month for the kerosene purchased by them for 25 days of fishing operation subject to a maximum of 15 liters per day.

The government has decided to provide a “Fisheries Industry Recovery Allowance” to the owners of fishing vessels using diesel as fuel in such a way they receive Rs.25/ per liter of diesel purchased by thembased on the type of fishing vessel, type of operation, area of operation and number of days of operation, and accordingly, an amount of Rs. 25 per liter of diesel purchased for IMUL and IDAY fishing vessels using diesel as fuel , registered under the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and actively engaged in the fisheries industry will be reimbursed. However, the amount of fuel to be reimbursed for one trip should not exceed the fuel tank capacity of that vessel and the reimbursement will be subject to a maximum of Rs. 300,000/- per month.

This program will be implemented for a period of 06 months only. During that period, whenever the Petroleum Corporation revises the prices of diesel and kerosene, the benefit under this scheme will also be revised from the date of implementation of the revision. Accordingly, the benefit provided per liter will always be calculated by considering a percentage of 7.5% for diesel while 12.5% for kerosene.

The relevant “Fisheries Industry Recover Allowance” will be provided only to the fishing vessels registered with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in accordance with the Fishing Vessel Registration Regulations, 1980 and which have obtained a fishing license for the year 2024.

When providing the said allowance to the beneficiaries, the relevant receipts for the amount of fuel purchased by them should be submitted to the head office by the assistant director of the relevant fisheries district along with the reimbursement application, and thereafter the paymentswill be credited to the beneficiary's bank account by the head office.

Table 09: Summary of granting “Fisheries Industry Recovery Allowance” from 01.10.2024 to 31.12.2024

Ser.No.	District	No.of boats the allowancewas granted	Total amount paid (Rs.)
1	Batticalo	256	1,796,300.00
2	Colombo	185	693,050.00
3	Chilaw	343	37,419,460.00
4	Galle	93	4,839,075.00
5	Jaffna	726	3,954,437.75
6	Kilinochchi	108	645,375.00
7	Kalutara	232	8,604,388.00
8	Kalmunai	36	1,012,875.00
9	Mannar	72	337,500.00
10	Matara	553	24,113,000.00
11	Tangalle	374	15,370,383.76
12	Trincomalee	635	4,082,326.00
13	Puttalam	179	3,646,250.00
14	Negombo	141	7,867,197.50
15	Mullaitivu	0	-
	Total	3,933	114,381,618.01

3.0 Management Division

3.1 Sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources

Fisheries management is a multidisciplinary approach aimed at the sustainable use and conservation of fisheries and marine resources. It is governed by a strong regulatory framework and policies formulated under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996, with licensing, regulation and enforcement overseen by the management division. Community participation is encouraged through community-based management initiatives, ensuring local involvement in decision-making processes. Overall, fisheries management in Sri Lanka attempts to balance socio-economic interests with environmental conservation for the benefit of present and future generations. The management division of the department is responsible for carrying out the above activities and the main tasks of the division are given below.

Objective

The main objective of this Division is to manage fishery resources through the regulation of fisheries inputs and operations, and achieve sustainable development in fisheries sector of Sri Lanka through the conservation and management of fisheries resources in seas, lagoons and reservoirs with community participation.

Functions of the Division: -

- Formulation and implementation of fisheries regulations
- Registration of fishing vessels
- Transfer of multi day boats
- Mortgaging and settlement fishing vessels
- Cancellation of fishing boat registration
- Issue of licences to fishing operations at high seas
- Issue of licences to the fishing operations at local waters
- Issue of licences to the foreign vessels for fish landing
- Issue of import, export and re-export permits for ornamental fish
- Issue of permits for catching, possession, transportation and export of beach de-mer and lobsters
- Issue of permits for transportation and export of Chanks, sea shells and shark fins
- Issue of licenses for sea weed transport and export
- Issue of permits for catching, possession, transportation and export lobsters
- Issue of permits for the export of corals grown on artificial substrates
- Issue vessel skipper licenses.
- Registration of madel (beach seine) harbours and owners, and issuance of permits for coastal areas and settling of disputes
- Registration for the import of fish and fishery products and issue of management permits
- Registration for the export of fish and fishery products and issue of management permits

- Registration for the re-export of fish and fishery products and issue of management permits
- Allotment, approval and issuance of new vessel registration numbers
- All project activities related to financial management under foreign aid
- To prepare, maintain and report to relevant agencies the list of vessels operating in international waters.
- Allowing local fishermen to engage in fishing activities in foreign countries
- Granting approval for sale and transfer of locally manufactured vessels to foreign countries
- Identifying and announcing specific wetland management areas, preparing related regulations and implementing management provisions.
- Introduction and implementation of management methods based on the results of stock survey studies on target fish species
- Implementation of the National Action Plan to prevent illegal fishing
- Monitor shark management activities and implement the National Action Plan
- Issuance of fishing licenses for recreational fishing activity
- Granting approval through ASYCUDA system for customs clearance of export fish and fishery products

The sustainable management and regularization of marine and aquatic resources is a primary function of the Marine and Aquatic Resources Department, and for this purpose, measures are taken to prevent irregular, informal, and unreported marine activities by issuing management licenses for marine vessels and marine operations. Pertaining to the year 2024, licenses have been granted for various fishing operations and vessels as mentioned below.

The sustainable management and regularization of marine and aquatic resources is a primary task of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and towards this end, measures are being taken to issue management licenses for fishing vessels and fishing operations and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing operations. Pertaining to the year 2024, licenses have been granted for various fishing operations and vessels as mentioned below.

Table 10: Progress of each activity as at 31.12.2024 in the year 2024

Ser. No	Activity	Expected Target	Progress as at 31.12.2024
1	Registration of fishing vessels (New)	2,000	2,895
2	Issue of High Seas fishing operations licenses	1,020	1,443
3	Issue of skipper licenses	500	940
4	Issue of licenses for the import of ornamental fish	25	42
5	Issue of licenses for the export of ornamental fish	30	43
6	Issue of licenses for the reexport of ornamental fish	15	32
7	Issue of licenses for the export of spiny lobster	80	58
8	Keeping in possession, transport of spiny lobster	10	15

9	Issue of licences for transport and keeping Chanks in possession	80	82
10	Issue of permits for the export of Chanks	40	48
11	Issue of licences for taking, collecting, keeping in possession and transport of beche de-mer	200	193
12	Issue of licences for the import, export and reexport of beche de-mer	150	134
13	Issue of permits for collecting transporting of seashells and manufacture of fancy goods	20	32
14	Issuance of Permits for the export of Corals grown on artificial substrates	4	0
15	Registration for import of fish and fishery products	200	152
16	Registration for export of fish and fishery products	150	196
17	Registration for reexport of fish and fishery products	13	10
18	Allotment, approval and issue of registration numbers for new vessels	IMUL-100	66
		OFRP-1000	1,704
		MTRB-250	191
		NTRB-500	1,256
		NBSB--0	0
19	Issue of permits for the export of murex (Operculum of ***Chicoreusramosus***)	15	09
20	Issue of permits for keeping in possession, sale, exhibition and transport of murex (Operculum of ***Chicoreusramosu***s).	15	14
21	Issue of permits for keeping in possession, sale, exhibition and transport of murex flesh (Operculum of Chicoreusramosus***).***	30	25
22	Export permits of *Chicoreusramosus flesh*	15	19
23	Issue of permits for the Transport, keeping in possession and exhibition of dead sea shells.	20	7
24	Issue of permits for the transport and export of sea weeds	8	20
25	Issue of log books	1,000	1,400

3.2. Mapping of madel harbours with GPS readings and settlement of disputes

Mapping with GPS readings was done together with the Survey Department to overcome the issues in the areas, where the madel nets were located on the coast of Sri Lanka as a traditional fisheries industry, by the changes caused due to various development projects and coastal erosion.

Figure 05: Obtaining GPS readings joining with the Survey Department

3.3 ධීවර පනත පිළිබඳ දැනුවත් කිරීම

Figure 06: Conducting the awareness programs about the Fisheries Act

4.0 Quality Control Division

Sri Lanka has prioritized strict quality control measures for its fishery exports to meet international standards and ensure the safety of consumers. This process, governed by provisions under the fish and fishery products, export regulations, includes the adoption of certification, inspection, hygiene and hygienic practices. Discovery systems and laboratory tests further enhance quality assurance and improve the skills of industrial workers through capacity building. By meeting market access requirements and maintaining product integrity, Sri Lanka aims to maintain its reputation as a reliable source of high-quality sea food in the global market. The Quality Control Division of the Department is responsible for carrying out the above activities and the details of the main functions of the division are given below.
The quality control sub office was established at Katunayake Bandaranaike International Airport since 2014 and this office operates as an office providing services to local exporters day and night on seven days a week (throughout 24X7 working).

In addition to that, our attention has been focused on providing hygienic fish and fish products to the local consumers and necessary steps have been taken to implement the preliminary initiatives required for that purpose.

4.1 Goal

Having been established under the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to meet the requirements set by the European Commission regarding fish products exported to the European market, this division has been operating since 04.01.1999. Currently Sri Lanka is conforming to the obligations necessary to meet routine needs of all those countries to which fish are being exported by Sri Lanka at present.

4.2. Objective

Main objective of the division is to ensure the high standard of quality and safety of fish and fishery products exported to the international market from Sri Lanka for human consumption under the implementation of the fish products (export) regulations published in 1998

4.3. Activities

To achieve the above objectives, the following activities are being undertaken by the quality control division.

• Granting approval for fish processing establishments and issuing their respective licenses.
• Giving authority for fish processing establishments to process fish for export.
• Analyzing HACCP systems and approving.
• Regular inspection of fish processing establishments and guidance and necessary action to correct deficiencies.
• Inspecting fish landing sites and taking necessary measures to ensure the quality and health safety of fish products.
• Inspection of fishing vessels supplying fish for export and taking necessary measures to ensure the quality and hygiene of fish products.
• Inspection of the transport of fish from landing sites to processing establishments and taking necessary measures to ensure the quality and hygiene of fish products.
• Issuance of health certificates for each stock of fish/ fishery products for export.
• Approving laboratories for issue test reports confirming the health safety of exported fish products.
• Implementation of the official sample testing program for testing the samples taken from the relevant locations in the approved testing laboratories.
• Taking appropriate action in cases where fish processing establishment, boats and fish landing sites do not comply with the relevant conditions containing in the regulation.
• Taking appropriate action regarding complaints received from importing countries about the unsafe health conditions of exported fish products.

• Organization and implementation of awareness programs on the quality and health safety of fish and fishery products as well as the handling of fish for the crews of the fishing vessels supplying fish for export.

• Implementation of the Aquaculture Residue Monitoring Program to control antibiotics and chemicals used in aquaculture products (fish, shrimp) and organizing awareness programs under that program.
• Issuance of catch certificates to ensure legality of fish products.
• Issuance of health certificates under the online system for European countries by Quality Control sub-offices at Katunayake airport operating throughout 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
• Taking legal action for cases of non-compliance to the regulations and conducting investigations into notifications made by importing countries.

4.4 Fish processing establishments approved by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Number of fish processing establishments approved for export to the countries of European Commission -50
Number of fish processing establishments approved for export only to countries not belonging to the European Commission -23
Number of establishments approved for fish packaging -21

4.5 Inspection and monitoring of activities and implementation of official sampling program

This includes the inspection of fish processing establishments, shrimp farms, testing laboratories, fishery harbours, vessels supplying raw materials for export and the implementation of the official sampling program to verify the hygiene of fish products.

Microbiological tests: For water, ice and fish

Chemical Tests: Histamine Levels/ Heavy metals /Substitute Chemicals in Fish

4.6 Implementation of the National Aquaculture Chemical Residue Monitoring Program

Under this, inspection, sampling and analysis and legal measures related to the implementation of the Aquaculture Residue Monitoring Regulation published in 2002 will be taken. This program is implemented by taking water samples from shrimp hatcheries.

The parameters of the samples tested
- Antibiotics
- Pollutants (Heavy metals carbamates, Pyrethroids)
- Pesticide residues
- Pigments (Malachite Green, Leucomalachite, Brilliant Green, Crystal Violet)

4.7 Conducting awareness programs

Under this, programs to make the relevant stakeholders aware of the protection of the quality and hygiene of fish and fishery products are mainly carried out.

Table11: Progress of the Quality Control Division as at 31.12.2024 in the year 2024.

Activity		**Annual target**	**Progress**	**Percentage%**
Ensuring hygiene and quality of the fish products in the local market				
01. Conducting harbour inspection.		10	1	10%
02.Inspection of fish auction centers and public fish markets		4	1	25%
03.Awareness programmes (fishers/traders)		10	6	60%
Ensuring hygiene and quality of the exporting fishery products				
01.Obtaining official samples - Institutes		300	81	27%
02. Awareness programs (Quality Control Officers / relevant Field Officers)		10	5	50%
03.Awareness programs (Aqua-culturists / Officers of fish processing establishments/fishers)		10	4	40%
04.Inspection of hygiene and Sanitation at fishery harbours		20	1	5%
05.Inspection of hygiene, sanitary conditions and good practices of fishing vessels.		85	15	17.6%
06. Inspection fish processing establishments for exports	Number of inspections of establishments expected to be conducted	120	85	70.8%
	Number of inspections of packaging and lobster collecting centers expected to be conducted	15	4	26.67%

07.Inspection of laboratories		5	1	20%
08. Inspection of hatcheries, freshwater aquaculture farms and brackish water, marine aquaculture farms.		40	15	37.5%
09. Laboratory testing of aquaculture chemical residues		Determined annually in accordance with the plan recommended by the European Commission and the United Kingdom.	56	-
10. Organoleptic examination during landing/processing		70	19	27.14%
11. Implementation of statistical data programs established by Regional fisheries management organizations.		Depending on the occasion	2	-
12. Taking legal action for cases where the research results are not up to standard according to the official sampling program for export fish products.		Depending on if results exceed standard values of parameters	1	-
13. Notification by importing countries about the unsuitability of fish products.		Depending on the frequency of notifications about unfitness by the respective countries	12	-
14. Approval of Fish processing establishments for export.	Approval of new fish processing establishments	63	5	-
	Updating the registration of fish processing establishments.		60	-
15. Issue of fish catching certificates.		17,000	16,832	99%
16.Issue of health certificates for exports (for European countries)		18,000	13,636	75.7%
17. 16. Issue of health certificates for exports (for non-European countries)		10,000	12,574	125.74%
18. Inspection of fish stock being imported for re-export. (BIA)		Depending on the requests and granting approvals for importation of fish for re-export	1	-
19. Inquiries made from the Sri Lankan embassies established abroad or through the notifications made by the importing countries in order to maintain the necessary coordination with the European Commission and the competent authorities of other countries.		Depending on the requests to be made	34	-

4.8 Regulation of fish canning industry

The fish canning industry that is becoming popular in Sri Lanka today can be considered as a value-added product, and which is a product that can be prepared conveniently and with extending their self-lives for many years by using tuna, sardine and mackerel fish species which are rich in protein and continuously increasing in demand. The canned fish market in Sri Lanka was completely dependent on the import market and was currently taking necessary steps to turn this into a local industry. At present, around 30 local businessmen who contribute to the production of canned fish have been identified and the preliminary work to improve the hygiene and quality of those products has been started with the intervention of our department. Accordingly, it is expected to retain foreign reserves spent on the import of canned fish in the country.

Figure 07: Fish processing process in a fish processing establishment

4.9 Appearing in the special inspections conducted by importing countries.

The quality control division is also making arrangements to explore the new market for fish export and provide new export entrances to our country at international level.

Thus, our division performed a great service to get that new export opportunity for our country by facing the on-line audit process by the Republic of China to open up their market to all Sri Lankan fish products as a new fish export entrance.


Illustration 08: The on-line audit process conducted by the Republic of China

4.10 Quality Control Sub Office- International Air-Port Katunayake

The quality control sub office was established at Katunayake Bandaranaike International Airport on January 13, 2014. This office operates continuously around-the-clock (as 24X7) to as a service provider to exporters of fish and fishery products.

According to the strong demand of the exporters of local fish products, the necessary steps were taken to expand the Katunayake quality control sub-office and accordingly, the quality control office was established at a new premise on 2024-01-26 with a view to expanding and maintaining its duties. By taking initiatives to open this new office, the Department of Fisheries aims to encourage exporters and increase foreign exchange earnings by issuing health certificates throughout day and night of 24 hours a day in a week without interruption.
Opening of the office was held under the patronage of Hon.Minister of Fisheries with the participation of the State Minister of Fisheries, the Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries, the Director General of the Department of Fisheries and the representatives of the exporters.

At the beginning, only the verification of fish catching certificates was done by this office, to confirm the legality of the fish products exported to the countries of the European Commission, and now this office is providing facilities enabling to obtain the health certificates and catching certificates required for all the fish stocks exported within all seven days of week.

5.0 Investigation and Training Division

5.1 Building good relationship between fisher community, fisheries officer and the other stakeholders.

The main objective of the investigation division is to implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 02 of 1996 and the regulations made there under to ensure the sustainable existence of the fishery resources in Sri Lanka without illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities. The division also aims to sustainably develop the fisheries industry to contribute effectively towards the national economy of Sri Lanka through resource management in accordance with the international marine laws and conventions using new technology.

The role of the training division is to educate and train the fisher community, fisheries officers who regulate the fisheries industry and the other stakeholders related to the fisheries industry in order to protect the fishery resources for future generations.

Table 12: Investigation and Training Progress from January-to December 2024

Ser.No.	Activity	Target	Progress
01	Supervision of investigations and legal proceedings against district level raids and illegal fishing activities.	Unable to give set targets	The updated data report is actively maintained.
02	Formulation of the method of imposing administrative penalties by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources according to the requests from all district offices and the relevant process for the imposition of administrative penalties.		37
03	Taking legal actions against the confirmed illegal activities		0
04	Conducting investigations for violations detected by the vessel monitoring system.		800
05	Conducting special raids	15	0
06	Inspections and investigations related to fishing vessels, fishing gear, products and establishments supplying fishing baits.	36	16
		Unable to give set targets	0
07	Making awareness of fisheries law and legal fishing inputs for the relevant stakeholders	4	9
08	Formulation of the annual training plan to make the fishermen and fisheries officers .	1	Annual training plan has been prepared
09	Organizing training and capacity development programmes for the officers of the department.	40	32
10	Organization of fisherman awareness at district level.	15	118
11	Directing the officers of the department to the training programs/post-graduate/diploma courses held at external institutions.	10	17
12	Acting as an external supervisor for imparting industrial sector training to the students of universities/technical colleges.	5	4
13	Feedback and analysis related to the training programs	20	0

5.2 Inspection of establishments supplying fishing vessels, fishing gear, products and fishing baits.

Figure 09: Inspecting the establishments supplying fishing vessels, fishing gear, products and fishing baits.

5.3 Making awareness of fisheries law and legal fishing inputs for the relevant stakeholders**.**


Figure 10: Programs held for groups of trained naval officers at Talatuoya Shilpa Naval Base, Kandy - 27.03.2024/06.08.2024


Figure 11: Organization of training and capacity development programs for the officers of the Department


Figure 12: The program held at Shiksha Naval Base, Medavachchiya, Pune - 09.09.2024

5.4 Organization of fisherman awareness carried out at district level


Figure 13: Making aware of the fishermen in Chilaw Fisheries District


Figure 14: Making aware of the fishermen in Negombo Fisheries District


Figure 15 Making aware of the fishermen in Beruwela Fisheries District

Figure 16: Making aware of the fishermen in Wellamankara Fisheries District

6. Information Technology Division

6.1. Objective

The objective of this division is to prepare an online application for the proper maintenance of the information technology network of the department, which is the essential and modern infrastructure facility needed to fulfill the objectives of the department, operate the online application system of the department and to handle the relevant hardware, which includes data analysis and reporting and trainings associated with the information technology.

6.2. Principle Activities

- Implementation of departmental online application among the clients of the department.
- Maintenance and content management of the official website of the department.
- Officers' training on departmental online application and basic information technology.
- Supervising and supporting e-teams to improve the use of the e-log system.
- Monitoring of Document Management System (DMS), supporting and training in that behalf.
- Introduction and implementation of dynamic reporting system.
- Enhance the use of R language for data analysis.
- Maintenance of hardware system for the department.
- Implementation of staff-based monitoring system
- Maintenance of departmental computer hardware and software.
- Introducing open operating system and application.
- Training of 20 officers on R statistics.
- Introduction of the new vessel monitoring system and completion of its installation on about 4,800 multi-day vessels and ,making arrangements for the frequently monitoring of it through the head office and fisheries offices.

6.3 Implementation of the departmental services through online application.

Figure 17: Official Website

The departmental online application is developed to convert more than 30 manual processes of the department into a digital process. It includes registration of fishermen, registration of boats, collection of scientific data, etc. and many other processes. The departmental online application has two main components... i.e. Android application and Java applications are the main components. The Java application is currently running on the departmental server system and can be accessed using http://msdfar.com. The Android application is already installed on more than 500 smart devices and has undergone several version updates. 42000 fishermen, 99 vessels (including old data), more than 7,000 boats, 7,300 skippers have already been registered and more than 7,000 operations licenses have been issued using the departmental online application. For the year 2022, more than 107,000 online departures were made through the online departure system. This process has been continued from the year 2021.The MSDFAR system won the gold medal as the best online application in the year 2022 from the competition of selecting public institutions that use online application.

6.4 Maintenance and content management of the official website of the Department.

. **www.fisheriesdept.gov.lk**.

Figure 18: Official Website

The information technology division is responsible for the maintenance and management of contents of the official website of the department. The departmental website is updated daily and includes details of departmental proceedings. Each division of the department has its own page where the activities for which the section is responsible are included. Contact details of officers are available on the website and are updated regularly. The list of all registered exporters, importers, yards and suppliers is maintained in the website with update. Officers can access all the systems of the department through the website access. The departmental website also won the gold medal for best sinhala website and the merit award for best government website in the best web competition 2020.

6.5 Evaluation of the use of online application by the officials of the deaptment.

A scoring system was implemented as an evaluation for the officers who performed their duties using the departmental online application system (MSDFAR), and the latest type of tablets were given the officers who got more points as encouragement of their commitment. By that, all officers were directed to perform their duties through this system.

6.6 **Officers' Training on departmental online application.**

The way as to how the online application is implemented in 15 fisheries districts is monitored separately and the officers of our department are committed to that. The problems encountered by them are dealt with quickly and trainings were given for all the districts that informed the requirement of training.

6.7 Conducting a security assessment of the department's servers and online application with SLCERT.

Figure 19**:** Conducting a security assessment by SLCERT.

IT Division organized a security assessment of the department's servers, network software and all the department's android application to identify and mitigate the risks in the server system and applications.

6.8 Improving the use of e-log system

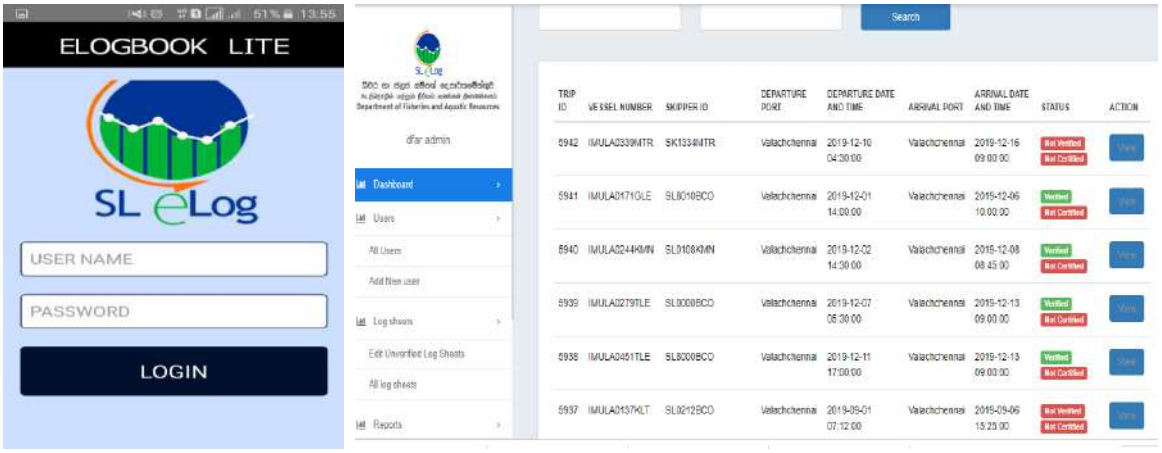


Figure 20: e-log system

In coordination with the operations division, the IT division has introduced the e-log system to all the offices at 23 harbours. Data on daily fishing is provided using e-log system successfully and in addition, this system has been provided for each harbour to enter log page data. Currently this is being done successfully and fish catch data reports have been prepared for 2 years using the data obtained from the e-log system. reporting of data to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOCT) is done by using the data obtained from the e-log system.

6.9 Improving the use of R Language for data analysis.

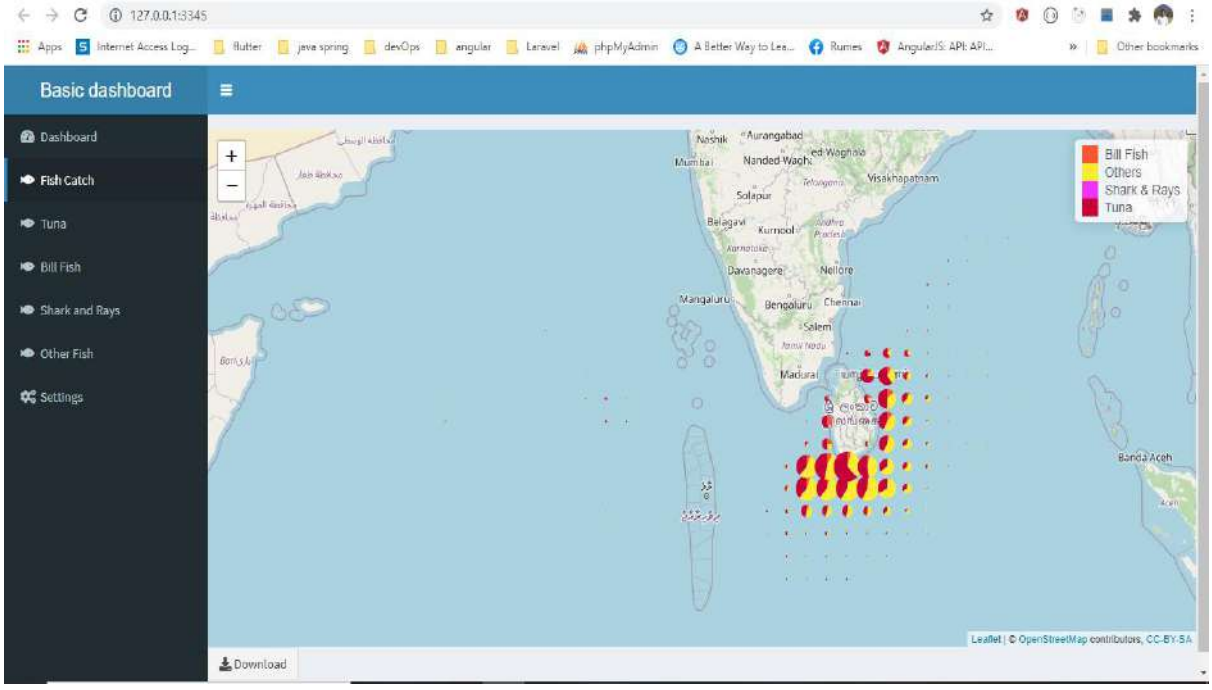


Figure 21: Development of R-Script and R-Shiny Software

The information technology division designs, develops and implements R-Script and R-Shiny software for data analysis in the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The IT division has also created more than 50 maps and reports using them and the majority of the data has been used to report to the IOTC.

7.0 Operations Division

7.1 Providing communication facilities for the exchange of radio signals in between land and vessels.

All these activities are coordinated by the central operational unit in Colombo through messages received via fisheries communication centers. Communication facilities were improved and action has been taken to keep connection between the land and fishing vessels throughout 24 hours. This provides daily weather reports and early warning of bad weather conditions to fishing vessels and facilitates are made to have essential communication between boatowners and their vessels at sea. Necessary coordinating activities are being carried out with the Sri Lanka Navy, Coast Guard Department and the Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Center. 18 regional radio centers are working with the head office Colombo for these tasks.

Regional radio centres are proposed to be established at the recently established fishery harbours of Milady, Dikowita, Vellamankaraya, Kalametiya and Kapparatota. Currently, the surveillance operations are being carried out as usual using the old radios available in the Department of Fisheries, and the need for new radios for the above fishery harbours has become dire.

7.2 Taking action to provide licenses and call signs for the fishing vessels for communication purposes.

In order to comply with international rules and regulations, the provision of international call signs to fishing vessels engaged in fishing activities at the deep sea is carried out by the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission on the recommendation of the Department of Fisheries subject to the approval of the Ministry of Defence. Monitoring, control and surveillance division is intervening to expedite the use of radio communication devices in fishing vessels by receiving applications from fishing vessel owners and working in collaboration with the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

Table 13: Number of Application

Number of applications given for the licences of radio communication devices.	638

7.3. Substantiation of information required to claim insurance cover in case of accidents caused to fishing vessels and fishermen.

When dealing with accidents caused to fishing vessels and fishermen and claiming insurance compensation by them, all the communications made by the fishing vessels to the insurance agencies at the time are certified and produced by using records obtained from the regional offices and the head office. As the department does not possess salvage boats to rescue fishing boats and crews in distress, bring them to the land and providing them with immediate treatment, assistance of the Navy and the Coast Guard Department is sought in that behalf.

Table 14: Number of Accidents

Number of accidents reported at the deep sea	212
Deaths and disappearances at the deep sea	18
Number of fishing vessels destroyed due to accidents	04

7.4. Rescue and repatriation of fishermen with vessels arrested in foreign countries.

Table 15: Rescue and repatriation of fishermen with vessels arrested in foreign countries.

Country	Number of fishermen arrested	Number of fishing vessels arrested	Number of fishermen freed	Number of fishing vessels freed
India	52	15	33	-
Maldives	43	07	32	04
Seychelles	36	06	30	01

This rescue mission implementing with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka's High Commissions in India, Maldives, France as well as in London

7.5 Rescue of fishing vessels which are drifting away within the sea limits of the local, international and foreign countries

Table 16: Number of rescued fishermen and fishing vessels

Number of fishermen rescued	Number of fishing vessels rescued	Number of abandoned fishing vessels
1,272	212	04

Measures were taken to rescue fishing boats that drifted away to the sea limits of nearby countries due to engine failures, fishing boats that were involved in accidents at sea and fishermen who fell sick at sea by Sri Lanka Navy/Coast Guard vessels, merchant ships and fishing vessels and then rescued fishermen were immediately taken to the hospital for medical treatment.

7.6 Provision of communication facilities for small / one-day fishing vessels.

This department entered into an agreement with the Dialog Institute and the Department of Meteorology with the aim of providing early weather advisories to the small fishing vessels and fishermen engaged in coastal fishing and preventing loss of lives. Accordingly, about 100,000 fishermen and their family members have registered in this information service by this time in the year 2024 and they are enjoying the benefits.

7.7. Fishermen Awareness

Although it is an essential requirement to make the fisher folks/ fishers and boat owners aware of the ways and means and instructions to be followed in distress at sea, how to obtain emergency assistance by contacting with the land, the measures to be adopted to protect lives in stormy condition which occurs due to weather hazards and how to obtain radio licences, the same could not be carried out in a proper manner as a result of the economic crisis of the country.

Further, boat accidents were on the increase owing to the rise in use of drugs among crew members on board resulting more deaths and boat destruction. In the recent past there is more inclination of using fishing boats for organized illegal migration. Similarly, technical hazards in fishing boats at sea have increased and especially, as these hazards have occurred near the maritime boundaries of the other countries such occurrences have to be communicated to the rescue operation centers of the said courtiers through the diplomatic mediation. Therefore, awareness campaigns should be conducted for boat owners to encourage them to check the boats before their departure to ensure that they are fit enough to engage in fishing operations at sea.

Table 17: Number of departures given for fishing vessels that departed each port-01.01.2024., -31.12.2024

	Harbour	**No.of departures**
1	Kalpitiya	375
2	Negombo	7,152
3	Dikowita	1,244
4	Beruwela	5,757
5	Ambalangoda	1,417
6	Hikkaduwa	1,229
7	Galle	7,098
8	Mirissa	2,718
9	Devinuwara	4,749
10	Kottegoda	1,131
11	Nilwella	2,611
12	Kudawella	6,136

	Harbour	**No.of departures**
13	Tangalle	1,924
14	Habantota	1,956
15	Kirinda	722
16	Valaichchenai	17,876
17	Trincomalee	3,413
18	Point Pedro	409
19	Milady	433
20	Wellamankaraya	1,276
21	Kapporatota	452
22	Gandara	1,276
23	Kalametiya	490

7.8 Entering and managing reports and vessel photos into the database

Table 18: Entry and management of log records and vessel photographs into the database - 2024.01.01 -2024.12.31

1.	Number of log copies received by the unit regarding operations at sea	2,197
2.	Number of verification reports issued related to operations	2,150
3.	Number of log copies inserted into the log database	30,490
4	Number of records entered into the vessel photo database maintained for IOTC requirements	352

According to the implementation of port state measures 2015 licenses are issued and vessel inspections are carried out for foreign fishing vessels coming to obtain port facilities in Sri Lanka, fish landing or transshipment. According to the Resolution 16/11 of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the inspection reports of at least 5% of the foreign fishing vessels entering the ports of Sri Lanka shall be submitted to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Table 19: Services

Services	**Number of licences issued**	**Number of inspections**
Transshipment of fish	**19**	14
Maintenance and supply services	08	01
Eexchanging services of security officers and foreign fishermen	07	-
Total	**34**	**15**

According to the Resolution 11/04 of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, at least 5% of the fishing vessels engaged in the deep sea fishing operations shall employ scientific fishing vessel observers and submit the information to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Thus, in the year 2022, the number of observers deployed for vessels over 24 meters in length and the number of operations performed by those vessels are shown in the table below

Table 20: Fishing Vessels

Total No.of fishing vessels > 24m	Number of active vessels by 2022	Total number of fishing operations	Number of scientific fishing vessel observations
05	04	07	01

7.9 Providing timely reports to international organizations such as Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), European Union (EU) and representing Sri Lanka in annual meetings.

- The reports to be provided annually for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission are provided subject to the prescribed dates.
- According to the Resolution 10/11 of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the relevant technical officers participated in the annual meeting under the funds granted to the developing member countries to participate in the committee meetings and sessions.
- Accordingly, Sri Lanka has shown the following progress on compliance since 2010.

Table 21 : Progress on conformity

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
5%	18%	47%	51%	60%	74%	77%	82%	87%	90%	86%	76%	83%	73.8%

7.10 Installation of 4200 Vessel Monitoring System Devices (VMS) on multi-day fishing vessels.

Sri Lanka is a very rich country in the field of fisheries industry and currently about 300,000 families are engaged in this sector. The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is responsible for the management and development of those resources in Sri Lanka. As far as the management is concerned, monitoring is of utmost importance and a Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of DFAR is being created and developed aiming at the above purpose only. FMC mainly targets on the monitoring of 5200 multi day boats and their activities.

Although 1,500 vessels have been controlled and monitored through this VMS system at the deep sea since 2015, about 4,200 remaining vessels are not covered by VMS. Hence, installation of VMS on all multi-day vessels was a timely need to monitor the entire multi-day vessel and the best and cost-effective way to do this. However, the Australian Government through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is supporting the purchase of the above 4,200 VMS units with funds. In this regard, the Australian Government conducted an international tender through an independent agency, IOM (International Organization for Migration), and selected a suitable supplier. Accordingly, a new VMS system; (Blue Tracker VMS) was introduced to the multi-day fisheries sector in Sri Lanka. Blue Tracker transponder uses Iridium as a satellite service, which is most economical and technically acceptable for monitoring purpose. VMS system software known as "second screen" is capable of monitoring through many advanced features such as advanced reports and alerting facility.

Monitoring facility can be provided to harbour officer through web-based system to provide effective services to fishermen through VMS system. The equipment is also suitable for the types of boats in the Sri Lankan fleet. Therefore, it is expected that the VMS system will work efficiently in the future. Installation of VMS started in late August 2020 and about 4,150 units have been installed so far. VMS are installed at about 15 harbours around the Island. Second screen software has been configured and all geo-zones have been uploaded. Satellite charges were collected from boat owners and accordingly DFAR paid monthly bills to the company. Bill

payment and maintenance of equipment is also done through a soft ware developed by the information technology division of the Department of Fisheries. Officers, boat owners and skippers are aware of the system and its functional aspects. In addition, stickers are installed on the wheelhouse of the boat, by which skippers are educated about the technical and legal requirements to operate VMS on board.

Current VMS has the ability to provide cost-effective and efficient service to boat owners. Here, the antenna mounted on the vessel operates with a very low power requirement (2W) and is capable of using its backup power for up to 3 days in the absence of the main power supply. The system's equipment is capable of programming over-the-air, allowing FMC crews to perform operations that are easy and smooth. The boat creates automatic alerts when the same is near controlled access areas like EEZ of other states.

The reporting frequency has been increased from 04 hours to 01 hour when using innocent channels for passage within the EEZ allowing the FMC staff to closely monitor the vessel.As optional requirements the supplier will provide LED Conbox (display) to be installed in vessels and will work with VMS system, allowing fisheries department and vessel owner to communicate with local language about fish finding, warnings, weather. The system is capable of providing the mobile interface to the boat owner as an optional service so that the vessel owners can monitor their vessels individually via smartphone.

Although Sri Lanka is facing a multifaceted crisis, the first COVID 19 pandemic and then current economic crisis were experienced, DFAR plans to add 2,000 more vessels under its monitoring capabilities to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and improve fisheries safety at sea with the support of its stakeholders. The VMS system is accessible through all concerned harbour offices and which is centrally managed by the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) located at the head office premises of DFAR. Currently, FMC monitors vessels throughout 24x7. One of the main duties of the FMC is to detect suspicious behavior such as entering the foreign countries, damaging VMS etc. FMC daily detects vessels with no or low signal (known as silent vessels) and takes necessary action to cancel vessel departure until their vessel re-enters into the relevant system.

Information on all suspicious vessels, including the vessels with VMS devices deactivated for a long period, will be forwarded to the investigation division for investigation. Continuous surveys were conducted to develop a model to identify vessels which are prone to be used for illegal activities such as human trafficking, drug trafficking and border crossing. FMC intends to introduce pattern recognition to identify vessels that may be used for illegal activities. FMC has been modernized with cutting edge technology under Australia –Sri Lanka VMS project, and accordingly, the Sri Lanka FMC has been recognized as a state of art monitoring centre in Asia.

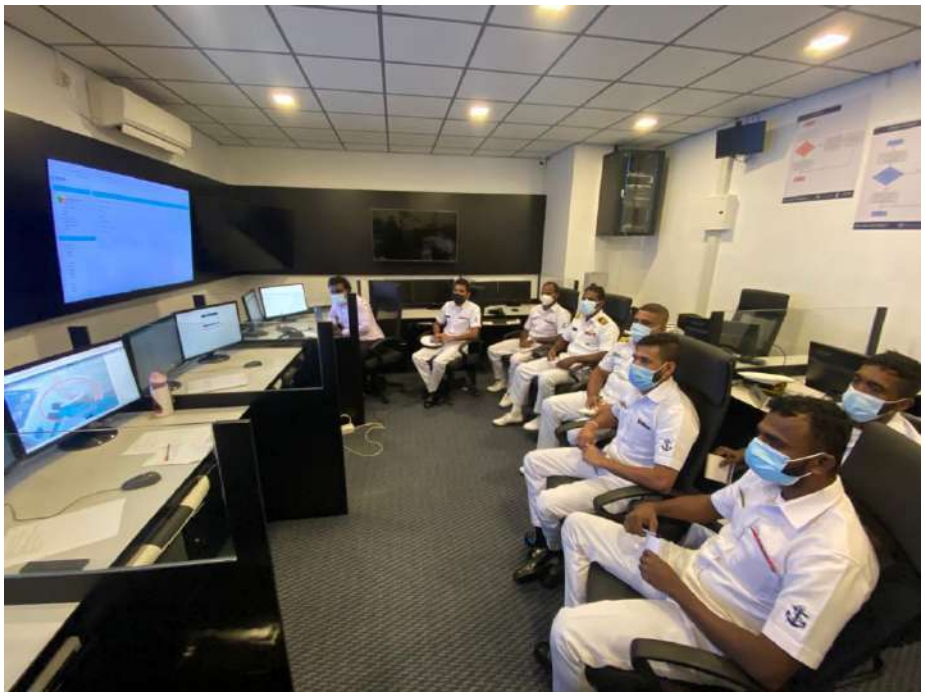


Figure 22 Vessel Monitoring Centre

03
National Aquaculture Development of Sri Lanka (NAQDA)

Vision

To be an apex organization responsible for sustainable development and management of aquaculture and inland fisheries to ensure food security and improve the quality of life of the people.

Mission

To contribute to the improvement of the social- economic conditions of rural societies and alleviation of poverty by facilitating the supply and availability of freshwater and brackish water fish through sustainable management of the aquatic resource and encouraging the development of small, medium and large scale aquatic enterprises.

Key Functions

- To develop aquatic resources and the aquaculture industry for increasing fish production in the country and the nutritional status of the people.
- To promote the creation of employment opportunities through the development of freshwater aquaculture, coastal aquaculture and sea farming.
- To promote the farming of high valued fish species including ornamental fish for export.
- To promote the optimum utilization of aquatic resources through environmental friendly aquaculture programs.
- To promote & develop small, medium & large scale private sector investment in aquaculture.
- To manage, conserve and develop aquatic resources and the aquaculture industry.
- To carry on business as an importer, exporter, seller, supplier and distributor of aquatic resources.
- To prepare and implement plans and programs for the management, conservation & development of aquaculture and aquatic resources.

Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Production

Inland fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector contribute about 25% - 30% of the country's total fish production. This sub- sector plays an important role in strengthening rural economy of Sri Lanka and contributes positively towards ensuring food security, enhancing nutritional standards, providing employment/livelihood opportunities and earning foreign exchange.

2024 Target (Mt)	Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Production (Mt) (January – November)	Achievement
135,230	97,170	72%

The inland fish production from culture-based fisheries in perennial reservoirs and freshwater aquaculture production up to November 2024 was 88,060 MT.. Coastal aquaculture production including sea weed production up to November 2024 was 9,110 MT.

Stocking of Fish Fingerlings and Freshwater Prawn Post Larvae

Annual stocking targets of fish fingerlings and freshwater prawn post larvae with progress in 2024 are given in Figure 1.

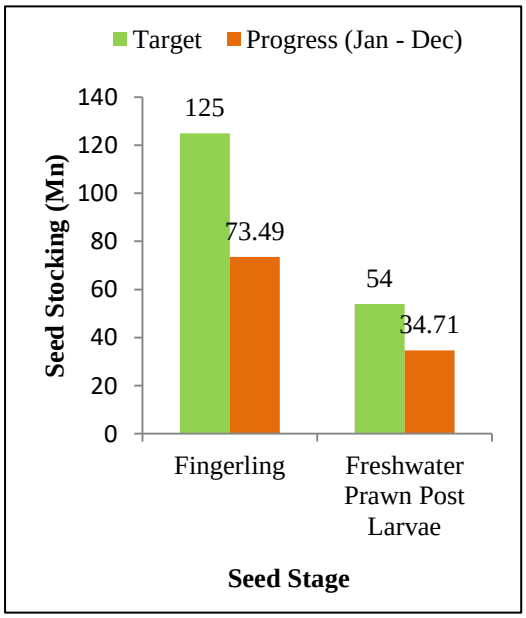


Figure 1: Stocking Targets of fish fingerlings, freshwater prawn post larvae and achievement

Government special assistance programme for fish seed stocking (Budget Proposal)

For the development of inland fisheries sector government has allocated Rs. Mn. 200 under the budget proposals for the year 2024. Also, to maintain the sustainability of this programme it has been proposed to prepare a programme to encourage the fishing community by establishing a revolving fund through community participation.

Accordingly, 30 million fish fingerlings, 19.68 million fish fry and 24.53 million freshwater prawn larvae were stocked.

Freshwater Fish Seed Production

One of the major activities of NAQDA is the production of fish seeds for stocking of inland water bodies to enhance fish production. The Aquaculture Development Centers (AQDCs) at Udawalawa, Dambulla, Inginiyagala, Iranamadu, Kalawewa, Nuwara Eliya, Polonnaruwa and Muruthawela produced fry and were distributed to Private Pond Owners (PPO), Pens, Cages and Community Based Organizations (CBO) managed Mini Nurseries for rearing to fingerling size. Also Freshwater Prawn post larvae produced at Pambala, Kahandamodara and Kallarawa AQDCs. Fish seed production up to August is given in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

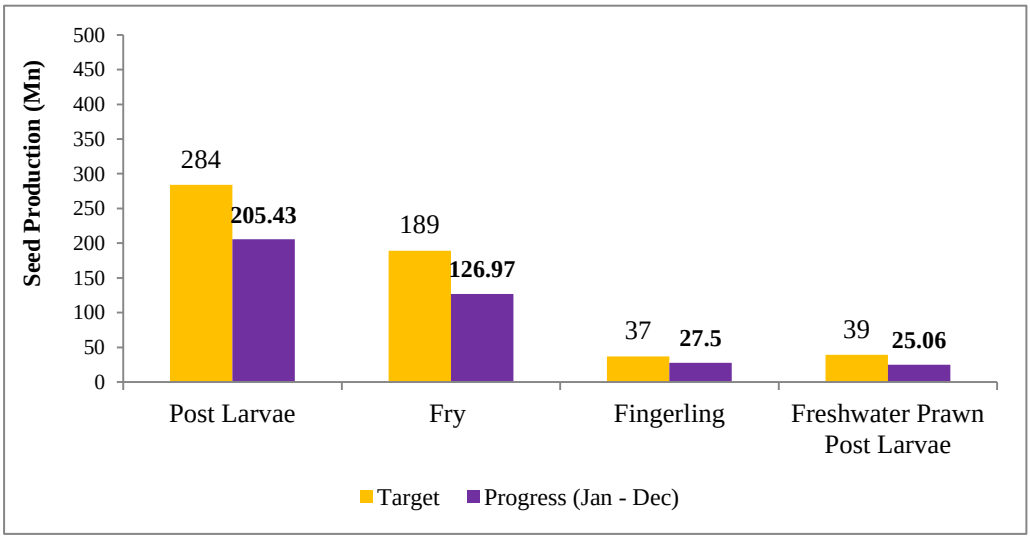


Figure 2: Fish seed production of AQDCS

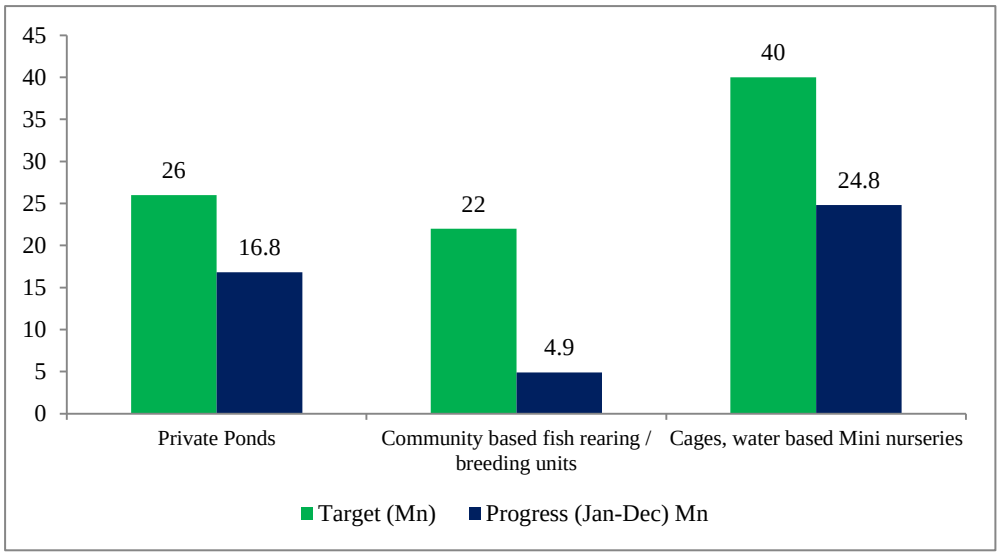


Figure 3: Fish fingerling production from Private Ponds, Mini Nurseries, Cages

Foreign Funded Projects ongoing in Inland fisheries sector

- Development of Self-sustained Culture-based Inland Fisheries to ensure Food and Nutritional Security and Livelihood Improvements in Rural Communities in Sri Lanka
  The Japanese Government has provided a grant of US$3 million through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to strengthen inland fisheries and improve rural livelihoods in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries. The US$ 3 million initiative will boost food and nutritional security and fortify resilience by establishing four community operated mini hatcheries in Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Anuradhapura and Monaragala districts, upgrade four NAQDA Aquaculture Development Centres and one community operated mini fish breeding centre to increase breeding and rearing capacity, enhance fingerling stocks in selected reservoirs, develop broodstock for breeding units and promote cage culture for seed rearing among fisher communities. The one-year project will also provide 3 fish seed transportation bowsers to NAQDA to transport fingerlings and fry, integrate digital technology to inland fisheries, and enhance the technical capacities of officers and fishers in the production, management, processing and value addition of inland fisheries.

  The project aims to directly support approximately 3,000 inland fishers, 40 farmers engaged in mini hatchery operations, and 20 farmers specializing in fish feed preparation. Moreover, it is expected to have a positive ripple effect on indirect beneficiaries, including family members, consumers, and producers of dry fish.

Coastal Aquaculture Development

Shrimp Farming

This is the biggest commercial aquaculture activity in Sri Lanka. At present, the shrimp industry is being managed to an effective level due to continued surveillance and monitoring activities of NAQDA. Shrimp production in 2024 was 7,109 MT.

Sea cucumber Breeding and Farming

Sea cucumber farming is also an emerging and promising sector within Sri Lanka's aquaculture industry. Sea cucumbers fetch high prices in international markets, especially in China and other East Asian countries where they are considered a delicacy and have medicinal properties. Since there is a growing demand for sea cucumber in the export market, steps has taken to promote sea cucumber farming among the local fishing communities to support their livelihood and bring much-needed foreign exchange to the country.

Farming is carrying out by private sector in Mannar, Kilinochchi, Jaffna and Puttalam. 479 MT (wet) were harvested from pens in 2024. In order to increase the sea cucumber exports sea cucumber village is operating at Valeipadu, Kilinochch i

Sea bass Farming

The private sector is engaged in sea bass farming in Trincomalee, Gampaha and Galle Districts. Further, a private company is carrying out a sea bass farming project in the Trincomalee Sea and this is the Sri Lanka’s first oceanic fish farm. Sea bass harvest in 2024 was 973 Mt.

Sea weed Farming

NAQDA facilitates sea weed farming with community participation in Northern Sea. Sea weed harvest in 2024 was 795 MT (wet).

Ornamental Fish Farming

Ornamental fish keeping is said to rank second only to photography as a hobby. The decorative effect created by an aquarium is one of the reasons for increased demand for ornamental fish. Ornamental fish industry supports the economy of Sri Lanka by several ways such as earning foreign exchange through exports, creating livelihoods for rural communities, providing employments etc. Ornamental fish industry in Sri Lanka, comprised producers, exporters, collectors, workers, suppliers and service providers etc.

NAQDA is involved in development of new ornamental fish strains, development of technology, provide brood fish, fish disease diagnosis, provide training and technical assistance etc. to support development of ornamental fish and aquatic plant culture and exports.

Ornamental Fish Breeding Centres at Rambodagalla, Ginigathena and Sevanapitiya are dedicated for production of ornamental fish and plants. These centers sold 4.03 Mn ornamental fish for farmers and exporters in 2024. Also, 1,732 people were trained in ornamental fish farming at Ornamental Fish Breeding and Training Centre, Rambodagalla.

Freshwater aquarium fish comprise the more colorful and striking species of guppies, swordtails, platys, bards, tetras, angels, gouramies and catfish. Out of these freshwater species exported from Sri Lanka, about 50-60% consists of guppies. There are about 60 regular exporting companies in Sri Lanka. Major buyers for Sri Lanka ornamental fish are USA, China, UK, Germany, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Japan.

Marine ornamental fish fetches a very high price, when compared to freshwater ornamental fish and there is a high demand in International markets. In order to disseminate the technology, increase the product range of ornamental fish and enhance foreign exchange earnings, NAQDA taken steps to establish a Marine Ornamental Fish Breeding Centre in Bangadeniya, Puttalam.

Upgrading existing ornamental fish farms with applying advance technologies under Agriculture Modernization Programme

The major factor for a successful ornamental fish trade is the ability to consistently supply wide variety range of fish with high quality to the world markets. Ornamental fish industry is highly dependent on the small and medium scale farmers. These farmers need modernized facilities with advance technologies to ensure the ornamental fish production. Therefore, needs to provide support to the small scale and medium scale farmers in the sector are a prerequisite for the sector's sustainable development.

Rs. Mn 35 has been allocated to upgrade the existing ornamental fish farms under the Agriculture Modernization Programme of Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries. Under this programme it is planned to grant a maximum loan amount of Rs.500,000.00 to selected beneficiaries and to recover the loan amount from 24 months with 2 months grace period. As at 31st December 2024, Rs. Mn 34.66 worth loans were released to 75 beneficiaries.

Aquaculture Export Performance

Species	2024 (January – November)	
	Export Quantity (Mt)	Export Value (Rs. Mn)
Shrimp	3,219	8,352.3
Ornamental Fish	n.a	6,812.8
Sea cucumber	232	3,011.7

04
National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA)

Vision

To be the premier institution for scientific research in conservation, management and development of aquatic resources in the region.

Mission

To provide innovative solutions for national development issues in the aquatic resources sector utilizing scientific and technological knowledge & resource base.

Key Functions

- The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) is the principal national institute responsible for conducting and coordinating research, development, and management activities related to aquatic resources.
- Ensure the application of scientific and technological expertise for the national development program related to living and non-living aquatic resources.
  - Promote and conduct research activities directed towards the identification, assessment, management, conservation and development of aquatic resources and in particular in the following fields;
  - Oceanography and Hydrography
  - Improvement and development of fishing craft, fishing gear and equipment, and fishing methods
  - The social and economic aspects of the fishing industry, including the welfare of fishermen and their dependents
  - The processing, preservation and marketing of fish and aquatic products
  - The development, management and conservation of aquatic resources in the inland waters, coastal wetlands and off-shore areas
  - Provide advisory and consultancy services on scientific, technological and legal matters relating to the exploitation, management, conservation and development of aquatic resources.
- Coordinate activities related to the exploitation, planning, research, development, conservation, control, and management of aquatic resources among institutions.
- Undertake the collection, dissemination and publication of information and data useful for the management, conservation and development of aquatic resources and the fishing industry in Sri Lanka.
- Provide training for persons required to carry out or assist in the work of the Agency.

Specific research programs carried out with the allocations for the year 2024

1.0 Scientific Innovations for Modernization of Technologies for Sustainable Utilization of Aquatic Resources (Rs.Mn 26.88)

1.1. Scientific Innovations for Modernization of Technologies Pertaining to Aquaculture & Inland Fisheries

A new research initiative has been initiated to address the identified challenges and enhance the efficiency of the previously developed Re-circulated Aquaculture System (RAS). Thus, a new experimental setup was established, featuring a production section with a capacity of 450 liters and filter basins with a capacity of 320 liters. According to the previous research findings, it has identified that the alkalinity of the system needs to be maintained above 250 mg/l for proper functioning of the bio filter. But, initially it was recorded as 35 mg/l and following the introduction of 250 g/m^3 of $NaHCO_3$, the alkalinity of the system rose to 280 mg/l. Further, the microbial proliferation within the RAS was effectively improved by the incorporation of 5 grams of fish meal along with the water circulation process initiated. With these treatments, it was observed after one week, the NH_3 concentration in the RAS was sustained within the acceptable limit of 0.24 mg/l; however, the NO_2 concentration in the system exceeded the acceptable range after two weeks. This was successfully controlled by adding $300g/m^3$ of salt to the system. Accordingly, the study identified that the above treatments can be can be effectively implemented to sustain the water quality parameters of the RAS within acceptable limits.

Continuous cross breeding experiment trials conducted to develop a hybrid fancy variety using threatened export prohibited endemic fish species showed successful sign of hybridization. The hybridization lines were *Dankinsia srilankensis* female ×*D. filamentosa* male and *Dawkinsia srilankensis* male × *D. filamentosa* female at 2:1 sex ratio that resulted >60% of the offspring reference colour patterns of *D. srilankensis*. The offspring in both lines showed < 57% survival rate, high growth rate, asymptotic length > 8 cm and intensified coloured compared to those of parental pairs. At the initial stage all were resemble to juveniles of *D. filamentosa* after 8 weeks some begun to show the *D. srilankensis* colour pattern 100% similar. The result indicates that hybrid ones can be exported instead of pure fish species which would minimize the risk of bio-piracy. However, further research needs to explore the possibility in consistency of hybridization. Similar cross breeding lines experimented with *Pethia* species were not success but trails are in progress with replaced novel brooders collected from the wild. Community tank breeding with 50 pairs of *P. nigrofasciata* fish ended with a lower number of offspring (15 offspring per pair). It was found that there were very low number of eggs (< 20) in mature females collected from Mahaweli river basin. This might be due to climate change.

The cultivation of aquatic plants within the plant tissue culture laboratory has commenced. Approximately 2,000 tissue-cultured *Cryptocoryne wendtii* plants have been produced. To ensure a consistent supply for plant growers, the initiation of ex-plant cultures is being carried out continuously. The production of *Anubias barterivar.* nana plants has also begun. Experiments utilizing tissue-cultured *Cryptocoryne wendtii* plants have been initiated in a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS). In this system, three different densities of ornamental guppies are being employed as treatment variables. Nine tissue-cultured plants have been placed in a single tank. Initial measurements of fish weight have been recorded, along with assessments of plant leaf

chlorophyll, average leaf length, and the number of leaves. Water quality parameters, including pH, ammonia, and potassium levels, are being monitored. Data collection is carrying out on a daily and weekly basis. The RAS will be continued for duration of three months.

Figure 1. Demonstrations conducted to *Artemia* farmers on

Figure 2: The cultured *Chlorella* and halophilic microalgae isolated in agar media

Figure 3: Wooden rack designed for growing algae

A study conducted to develop standardized protocols for the breeding and larval rearing of green mussels and cleaner shrimp, ultimately supporting the commercial culture of the species and reducing the impact on wild populations. Initial breeding trials have been conducted mussels collected from the Negombo Lagoon with different treatments. Preliminary results indicate that the mussels responded well to the controlled environment with microalgae feeding and female spawning was successfully induced. A live feed culture system has been established for cleaner shrimp to ensure a reliable and high-quality food source for shrimp larvae.

1.2. Biotechnological Applications for Aquatic Resource Development

A shrimp disease monitoring program was conducted with the objective of enhancing disease management strategies within the shrimp culture industry in Sri Lanka. This initiative aims to reduce losses caused by disease outbreaks, while simultaneously improving both the quality and quantity of production, ultimately leading to increased income from the industry. The study encompassed all five zones within the shrimp farming area of the North Western Province. Shrimp samples (*Penaeus. monodon* and *P. vannamei*), along with other macro-fauna species (crabs, mollusca, earth warm) in pond environment suspected as potential carriers, and were examined for eight specific diseases. Additionally, water quality parameters in the ponds were assessed through the analysis of various physico-chemical and bacteriological parameters.

Among the eight diseases studied, EHP disease was detected across all five zones, exhibiting a prevalence rate of 59%. This disease was found in both *P. vannamei* and *P. monodon* species, with a notably higher prevalence in *P. vannamei*. Zone-specific analysis indicated that the highest occurrence of EHP, at 23.3%, was recorded in zone 03, followed by a prevalence of 16.66% in zone 02.

Additionally, crabs screened for EHP was positive, confirming their role as carrier species for this disease. The examination of water quality parameters further revealed that the high EHP disease occurrence co-related to high salinity (28 –31 ppt), low pH (5.7 – 8.0), and high water temperatures (31-33°C). The results revealed that it is important to maintain the pH, salinity and temperature in pond environment to control EHP disease occurrence. Moreover, this study revealed that the control of macro-fauna is important to minimize the EHP disease spread among shrimp culture systems.

Another bio-technology study was carried out to develop techniques for reliable identification of aquatic plants, *Cryptocoryne* species in Sri Lanka through application of DNA barcoding. This initiative seeks to offer testing services to the ornamental aquatic plant industry when required. Experiments were carried out to formulate manual procedures for DNA extraction, and the optimization of the DNA extraction methodology is currently ongoing.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a concern of high priority around the world due to the ongoing state of resistant gene occurrence in human bodies to commonly prescribed antimicrobial agents. As no new antimicrobial drugs are manufactured, the existing options of antimicrobial drugs are the only treatment options to cure diseases and infections. This study is targeted to detect the presence of antimicrobial resistance of common pathogenic bacterial species associated with cultured shrimp available for human consumption in the Sri Lankan market. Shrimp (n=30) and

pond water (n=10) samples were collected from ten shrimp farms in Puttalam District, Sri Lanka from March to July, 2024. From the shrimp and water samples analyzed, sixteen *E. coli* and ten *Salmonella* cultures were isolated. The antibiotic susceptibility patterns of these bacterial species were assayed against five antibiotics including amoxicillin (30 mcg), oxytetracycline (30 mcg), chloramphenicol (10mcg), erythromycin (10 mcg), and tetracycline (10 mcg). The diameter of inhibition zones was compared with Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute standards. Among thirteen *E. coli* isolates 53.84% (7/13) were resistant to erythromycin, and 38.46% exhibited resistance towards amoxicillin and tetracycline with susceptibility towards chloramphenicol. Additionally, *E. coli* cultures isolated from pond water samples (n=3) showed resistance towards erythromycin and tetracycline at a rate of 33.33%. All *Salmonella* isolates in shrimp samples showed 44.44% (4/9), with the highest resistance to erythromycin and 11.11% (1/9), lower resistance to tetracycline and amoxicillin, while they showed the highest susceptibility to chloramphenicol and oxytetracycline. *E. coli* isolates from shrimp samples were found to have a Multiple Antibiotic Resistance (MAR) index of as high as 0.8 with the antibiotic combination of amoxicillin, erythromycin, oxytetracycline and tetracycline.

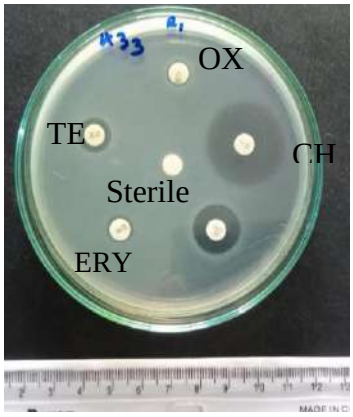


Figure 4.1. *E. coli* samples showing Multiple Antimicrobial Resistance (MAR)

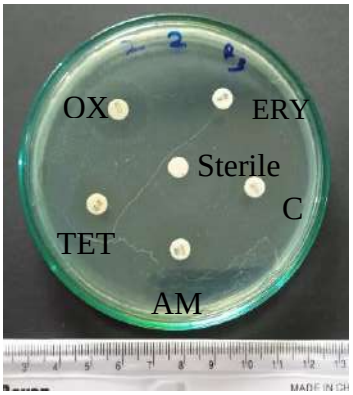


Fig. 4.2. *Salmonella* samples showing Multiple Antimicrobial Resistance (MAR)

1.3. Restoring Lagoon Dynamics and Ecology under Ecosystem-based Approach and Development of Water Quality Guidelines for Fish and Aquatic Life in Selected Lagoons in Sri Lanka; A Comprehensive Study of Chilaw, Puttalam, Nayaru and Koggala lagoons

Even though, frequent water quality studies and research projects are being conducted to assess and monitor the lagoon water, the absence of a standard lagoon water quality guideline hinders the restoring lagoon dynamics. An assessment of four selected lagoons; Chilaw, Puttlam, Nayaru and Koggala were conducted, to determine the water quality parameters including microbiological quality of lagoon water. The microbiological results showed varying MPN values for fecal coliforms and *E. coli* across the three lagoons. In Puttlam lagoon, fecal coliform levels ranged from ND to 35 MPN/mL, and *E. coli* levels ranged from ND to 25 MPN/mL. In Koggala lagoon, fecal coliform levels ranged from 5 MPN/mL to 1600 MPN/mL, and *E. coli* levels ranged from 5 MPN/mL to 1600 MPN/mL. In Chilaw lagoon, fecal coliform levels ranged from 11 MPN/mL to 1800 MPN/mL, and *E. coli* levels ranged from ND to 1600 MPN/mL.

At the end of this project, collated water quality data will be analyzed with appropriate statistical methodologies to initiate a methodology for guideline development. Results will be utilized in policy making procedures and further research projects on lagoon water quality guideline development. It also aids in ensuring the sustainability of lagoon ecosystems and their associated economic, recreational, and cultural values.

Figure 5: Sampling locations of Koggala lagoon

1.4 Replenish and Enhancement of Coastal Fisheries through Sea Ranching Technologies and FAD Installations

With the decline of coastal fisheries and marine ecological destruction in worldwide due to anthropogenic activities and climate change issues, the sustainable development of the ocean has been seriously affected. Thus, there is growing concern about how long prevailing sources of seafood will supply world needs and hereby Fish Aggregation device (FAD) installations in coastal areas has been suggested as climate change adaptation by "Blue Growth" concept of FAO to ensure the food security and stock enhancement.

Thus, FTD, NARA has initiated FAD installations and monitoring Program in coastal waters of Sri Lanka form 2024 and will be continued until 2026. So Far, NARA has installed two set of concrete structures with 72 pillars each, were deployed at Kapparathota area to replenish depleted fish stocks of marine aquarium fish and enabling community of the area to improve their tourism activities and fish production. Another set of Pillars are under construction and proposed to deploy in Polhena area. All these installations were carried out after two successful awareness programs with fishermen and divers of the area and activities were supported by the fishing community too.

To deploy a surface Buoy as a FAD in Negombo fishing area is planned and awareness program was conducted with Department of Fisheries and fishing community of the area on site selection. The proposed Buoy is under construction. Meantime, two sampling occasions to monitor ecosystem health associated with obsolete vehicle deployment site at Trincomalee Sea area were conducted with under water observation. Another two sampling and underwater observations were made associated with newly deployed FADs at Kapparathota and Polhena. The field observations clearly proved that not only aquarium fish, but also edible fish aggregations associated with FADs was significantly increased and the fishing community of the area already pleased about the program.

Figure 6. FAD installments and under water observations

1.5 Production of Gelatin Sheet as a Protein Rich Food Supplement by using Fish Skins

Gelatin, a valuable by product obtained from bovine and porcine sources, can also be extracted from fish as an alternative. This study focused on extracting gelatin from the skin of the spotted triggerfish (*Canthidermis maculatus*). The main goal was to isolate and analyze the gelatin from the fish skin, and then compare it with a commercially available gelatin. The findings indicated that the gelatin derived from spotted trigger fish (SSG) exhibited a protein content of 85.25±0.75, a moisture content of 6.25±0.03, a fat content of 0.57±0.11, and an ash content of 2.72±0.13. In contrast, the analysis of commercial gelatin showed a protein content of 86.30±1.17, a moisture content of 10.30±0.01, a fat content of 0.24±0.01, and an ash content of 1.14±0.10. The gel strength of SSG exhibited a lower value of 52.67±8.39 compared to the commercial gelatin, which had a higher value of 120.70±13.80. The viscosity of SSG is slightly lower at 15.51±1.02 compared to commercial gelatin at 17.53±1.08, while its water holding capacity is also lower at 233.9±15.6 in contrast to commercial gelatin at 457.4±1.05. SSG demonstrates a fat binding capacity of 376.5±43.0, which is higher than the fat binding capacity of commercial gelatin, which is 258.8±3.92. The forming capacity of SSG was significantly higher at 66.67±0.00 compared to commercial gelatin at 23.33±4.71. The forming capacity of SSG is significantly higher at 66.67±0.00 compared to commercial gelatin at 23.33±4. 71. Based on the findings, gelatin derived from the skin of spotted trigger fish has the potential to serve as a viable substitute.

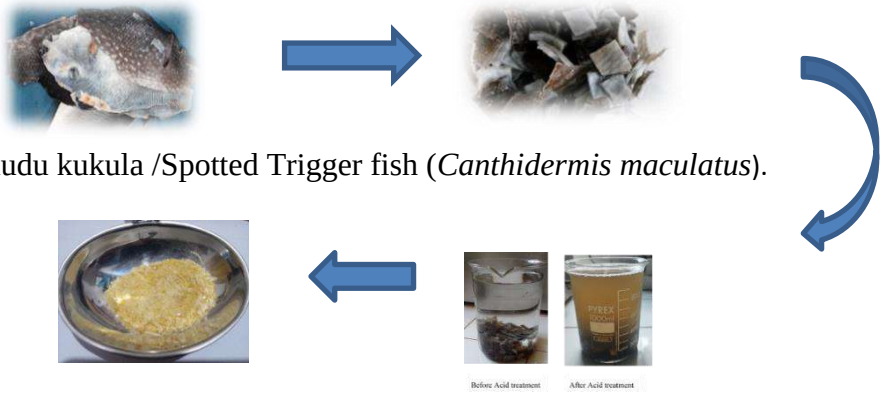


Figure 7. Methodology for extraction of gelatin using spotted trigger fish skin

2. Assessment and Exploration of Marine Resources Using R/V 'Samuddrika' (Rs.Mn.12.70)

2.1. Fisheries Independent Surveys (Acoustic and Trawl) and Oceanographic Surveys on Living Ocean Resources using R/V 'Samuddrika'

Coastal fisheries contribute approximately 60% of Sri Lanka's total fish catch. Overfishing of small pelagic fishes in shallow coastal areas poses a significant threat. To effectively manage these fisheries, understanding changes in fish abundance is crucial. While fisheries-dependent data has been used for stock assessments, its limitations due to gear selectivity and other factors necessitate independent surveys. Sri Lanka lacks a well-established time-series of independent surveys for small pelagics. This project aims to establish such a time-series using acoustic methods, a significant gap in fisheries research.

A third consecutive trawl survey was conducted in the Kalpitiya shrimp ground to establish a time-series dataset on shrimp and by catch biomass. This study aimed to assess the current shrimp stock status relative to previous years and to investigate the impact of the trawl ban on shrimp biomass. Results indicate a significant decline in shrimp biomass since the 2008 baseline, with a particularly sharp drop following the 2022 trawl ban.

The total shrimp biomass in 2024 was estimated at 0.146 tons, drastically lower than the 1.66 tons recorded in 2021 and the 0.556 tons in 2023. This represents an 11-fold decrease compared to 2021 and a fourfold decrease compared to 2023. Five shrimp species were identified during the survey, with a total shrimp density of 0.033 tons/nm^2.

Conversely, a dramatic increase in ponyfish biomass was observed following the trawl ban. While specific biomass values for ponyfish were not detailed in the provided text, the pronounced growth of this species suggests a potential ecosystem shift. The absence of trawling activities appears to have created a favorable environment for ponyfish proliferation.

The exact causes of these contrasting trends in shrimp and ponyfish populations remain unclear. While the trawl ban is a likely contributing factor to the decline in shrimp biomass and the surge in ponyfish, other environmental factors such as changes in water temperature, salinity, or food availability could also be influencing these population dynamics. Further research is necessary to

disentangle the complex interplay of factors affecting the marine ecosystem in the Kalpitiya region.

In addition, an acoustic survey was conducted in the Puttalam lagoon to investigate the abundance and distribution of ponyfish, particularly in areas outside the previously surveyed shrimp grounds. The survey aimed to provide fishery-independent data on pelagic fish biomass and abundance. The Puttalam lagoon, once primarily known for shrimp fisheries, has undergone significant ecological changes since the imposition of a trawl ban in 2017. Ponyfish populations have surged in the absence of trawling, necessitating a shift in research focus. This acoustic survey represents a novel approach to studying these fish.

The survey primarily targeted the deeper northern part of the lagoon, including Dutch Bay. While the estimated total ponyfish biomass reached 101.05 tons, with a coefficient of variance of 0.35, the complex marine ecosystem and the inherent challenges of acoustic surveys limit the precision of abundance estimates.

To enhance the scientific value of these findings, annual acoustic surveys are recommended to establish a robust time-series dataset for effective fishery management and ecosystem monitoring. By understanding the dynamics of ponyfish populations and their interactions with other species, informed decisions can be made to balance ecological health and sustainable fishing practices in the Puttalam lagoon.

2.2. Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Fishery Resources in Sri Lanka through Port Sampling

This is an ongoing project which is being conducted by the Marine Biological Resources Division (MBRD) with an aim of providing science based recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries resources. Enumerators attached to the NARA and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) are being engaged in fisheries catch and effort data collection which also includes the length frequency data as per the monthly field schedule prepared based on the annual sampling program. One of the main objective is to fulfill the mandatory data requirement of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)as per comply with the resolution 15/02. Accordingly the large pelagic data submission to the IOTC for the year 2023 was completed by NARA collaboratively with the DFAR and Ministry of Fisheries adhering to the deadline of June 30th2024.

Two focused papers; (i) Billfish Resources in Sri Lanka; current context and research challenges and (ii) Effects of bait and hook types on pelagic shark by-catch and discards of tuna longline fishery in Sri Lanka have been prepared to present at the IOTC working parties. The billfish paper addresses the existing challenges in complying with the IOTC 15/02 resolution and requirement of regional strength to overcome the research gaps while the shark paper provides valuable information regarding the type of bait to be utilized to minimize the fishing pressure on shark populations. In addition, data collection focusing on fisheries and biological aspects is based on shark landings at the Negombo and Beruwala fisheries harbours. Length frequencies and reproductive biology of shark species are being collected and to be assessed to realize the fisheries impacts on the shark population.

Moreover, under the same project, NARA currently have focused on biological aspects of certain selected species or related to fisheries with an objective of addressing the existing challenges in the fisheries sector. Since the demersal fish stocks dominating the groupers have been continuously depleting over the past decades, length frequency data collection of groupers is in progress. The data will be used in the future stock assessment of groupers. Upon the request made by the DFAR related to the environmental and social concerns of 'Kotu Dela' fishery which is being practiced in Negombo and Chailw area, the relevant data is being collected to provide recommendations considering biological, environmental and social concerns.

Work Package 1 of the bilateral project between Sri Lanka and Norway began in the second half of 2016 and it is being continued in 2024. Enumerators from NARA and DFAR collect fisheries data, including biological data, through an online submission system following a monthly field schedule based on an annual sampling program. This program covers 22 fisheries harbors in Sri Lanka, categorized into large-scale high and large-scale low, as well as 946 landing sites, which are divided into high, medium, and low strata. The 2024 sampling plan has seen strong implementation, with DFAR achieving up to 90% compliance and NARA reporting up to 95% compliance with the plan.

A significant milestone of the project has been the implementation of a photographic method for biological data collection. Pilot testing and training on using this method for collecting biological data and fish length measurements were successfully conducted in four fisheries districts, with the participation of enumerators from both NARA and DFAR.

The combined development of the online system for recording fishery landing data and the photo-based system for species identification and fish length measurement using hand-held cameras represents a remarkable achievement in strengthening fisheries landing data collection in Sri Lanka. Throughout the project period, Norwegian experts have conducted several online and in-person training workshops. These workshops covered various topics, including the use of R software for data exploration and analysis, data quality assessment, sampling plan compliance, and up scaling to aggregate statistics.

2.3. Tuna Fishing Ground Advisories and Fisheries Information Services

The satellite-based fishing ground advisory is a supporting tool to find potential fishing grounds, reduce travel time, and ultimately increase the benefits of the industry. As of August 31^{st,} of 2024, data collection efforts for fishery and in-situ Temperature Depth Recorder (TDR) data collection have progressed steadily, with 11 out of 16 and 3 out of 8 targets achieved respectively. The generation and dissemination of fishing ground forecast maps for Yellow fin Tuna (YFT) and Skipjack Tuna (SKJT) is nearing completion with 89 and 79 out of 93 maps produced, respectively. A new fishing ground advisory for big eye tuna has been developed and implemented starting from July 12, 2024, in support of a deep-set longline fishing experiment conducted by DFAR. These advisories are disseminated to approximately 900 WhatsApp subscribers, 380 email subscribers directly, and are additionally broadcast via SSB radio by DFAR. Raising awareness among skippers and owners of multi-day fishing boats regarding Nara's potential fishing ground forecasts is crucial for the project's success. The project exceeded its target by conducting 37 awareness programs (target 24) and fisheries data collection in multiple

locations, including Dikowita, Beruwala, Ambalangoda, Hikkaduwa, Galle, Mirissa, Devinuwara, Suduwella, Nilwella, Kudawella, Tangalle, Valachenai, Trincomalee, and Wennapuwa fisheries harbors. Awareness leaflets in Sinhala and Tamil were distributed to multiday fishing boat owners and fishermen. The potential fishing ground forecasting capacity of Nara remains highly vulnerable, with only one scientist involved in the project and insufficient knowledge transfer to additional scientists and research assistants. Addressing these challenges is crucial for the project's sustained success. Overall physical progress is currently at 54.6 out of 64.3.

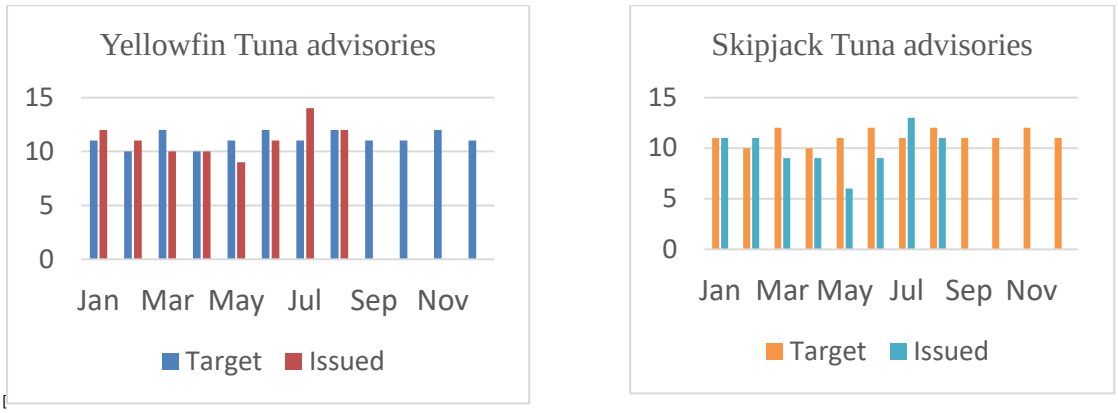


Figure 10. Monthly yellow fin tuna (left) and skipjack tuna (right) advisories issued in 2024

3.0. Exploration and Assessment of Non-living Resources Using R/V 'Samuddrika' (Rs.Mn.9.60)

3.1. Oceanographic Surveys on Non-living Ocean Resources using R/V 'Samuddrika'

Being an island nation with exclusive economic zone up to 200 nautical miles, which is eight times of its land area, Sri Lanka has high potential of having economically demanded marine based minerals. However, less attention has been paid for heavy mineral potential within the continental shelf and the beach and only few numbers of publications were found. This survey intends to study the heavy mineral potential such as ilmenite, rutile, zircon and also monazite in offshore and near major river discharges in southwestern and western coast. Therefore, the goal of this study is to conduct a comprehensive exploration on heavy mineral distribution in the southwest / southern onshore and offshore regions of Sri Lanka utilizing NARA's research vessel RV-Samuddirka.

Figure 11. Overview of survey tracks consisting of transects lines (left) utilizing Vibro-corer for sea bed measurements (right)

In addition to the oceanographic survey, we will investigate the impact of offshore sand mining on a near shore coastal stretch off Sri Lanka's western coast, where offshore sand mining is mostly carried out due to increased demand for land reclamation projects in the area. However, for regulation purposes the CC & CRMD decided that mining will not be permitted in areas where depth is less 15 m and at a distance is greater 2 km from the coastline. In practice, offshore dredging is not economically feasible when maximum operational depth is quickly exceeded and the dredging locations are far offshore. Therefore, in the near future, a sand mining strategy needs to be developed for Sri Lankan water which includes choices about mining locations (offshore distance and depth) and quantities (sand volume/sub surface layers). The survey has been rescheduled for October 2024.

3.2. Non-living Resources Exploration and Assessment of Potential for Industrial Use

Garnet is well known abrasive mineral and can be found extensively in south eastern coastal belt of Sri Lanka. The aim of the study is to quantify the garnet and other heavy minerals and their seasonal variations.

Onshore and offshore sand sampling was done during March to April 2024. Sub bottom survey was done to identify sediment layers to quantify the sand deposit. The collected core samples were cut at 0.3cm, 0.7 cm and 1m and were pre- treated with NaOH and HCl to disaggregate sand particles and to remove shells. The samples were then panned to do gravity separation and the separated samples were observed through microscope.

The land area covered was 30m*6Km and the offshore area covered was 25km^2.Heavy mineral portion of the pre-treated samples were separated using mineral pan. Sample separation is still going on and therefore no conclusion can be deduced. The average sediment thickness of the area varies between 0.3-1.5 m. The grab samples obtained from offshore-Kirinda also still preparing for analysis.

Figure 12: Separated samples from the core sampler

4.0. Climate Changes Impact on Fisheries and Aquaculture (Rs.Mn.4.50)

4.1. Sea Level Monitoring and Ocean States Forecasting

Monitoring of Sea level provides based line data important for the coastal development, climate change impact, and ocean based hazardous. Currently operate five automated sea level monitoring stations in Trincomale, Point Pedro, Colombo, Mirissa, and Hambanthota. Dondra station is running under testing phase and will commence operation permanently by September 2024. Another land was reserved for built a permanent sea level station at Hambanthota fisheries harbour. Six no's reports were submitted on sea level related destructive to the DMC. Sea level data processing and monthly data product have been developed up to July 2024. Monthly sea level data products have been regularly uploaded to the NARA web. An abstract was submitted to the NARA annual Scientific Session in 2024.

Figure 13. Newly Constructed Sea level Monitoring Station at Dondra Fishery Harbor

4.2. Investigation of Emergency Incidents and Nationally Important Rapid Assessments

An environmental emergency can be defined as a sudden onset of disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological, or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that causes or threatens to cause severe environmental damage as well as loss of human lives and property. Examples include etc. Impacts of such incidents may be harmful and long-lasting, thus immediate action should be taken to minimize the damage to the ecosystem and human lives.

This project was designed to investigate the causes of emergencies such as those mentioned fish kills, oil spills, chemical accidents, harmful algal blooms, surface water or groundwater pollution with toxic chemicals. Total of 10 cases have been investigated including fish kill at Mundel lagoon, Thondamanaru Lagoon, Weli-Oya, Muthur, Kottawa causeway and Mirissa, Sea-cucumber farm evaluation in Mannar, Kilinochchi (Kiranchi) and Jaffna, Chalai Lagoon survey and Ambalangoda lagoon survey, so far by all the technical divisions of NARA under this project. Investigations of the respective studies have been carried out at the place of occurrence. In-situ parameters of water samples were measured on site. Further, required water, plankton, sediment or fish samples were obtained for further laboratory analysis depending on the case and relevant authority's request. Besides sample collections and laboratory analysis, qualitative research methods including surveys, questionnaires, focused group discussions, and interviews have been

applied depending on the case study phenomena. After conducting necessary field observations and laboratory analysis, reports and recommendations on mitigation of pollution and preventive measures are provided to relevant authorities to mitigate the emergency.

5.0. National Charting Programme (Rs.Mn.17.50)

5.1. Bathymetric Surveys for Preparation of Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) and establishment of Database & Online Data Processing Unit for Crowd-sourced Bathymetry

The National Charting Program was initiated in 1984 to publish nautical charts for ensuring the safety of navigation in Sri Lankan waters as per the obligation rendered by the NARA Act and the SOLAS Convention. Due to the bill passed by the parliament to establish a new National Hydrographic Office, NARA is waiting for the decision from the Council of National Hydrographic Office about the role of NARA in the National Charting Program

Meanwhile, preparing updated ENCs for Colombo, Galle, Hambantota, Trincomalee ports

Mapping the seabed using crowd sourced bathymetry and creating bathymetric model of EEZ Sri Lanka by updating GEBCO bathymetric Model

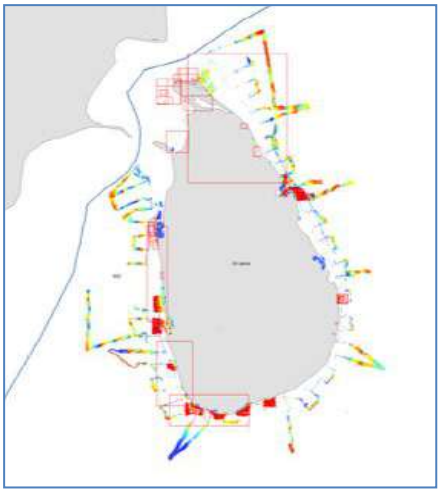


Figure 14. . Charting area in coastal waters

5.2. Bathymetric Surveys Contributing to Enhance National Economy

As bathymetric surveys provide essential data for navigation, resource management, and environmental protection, several bathymetric surveys were conducted in order to contribute to enhance national economy. Bathymetric data collection of Chalai lagoon and the canal connecting Chalai lagoon and the Nanthikadal lagoon was performed during the period from 13th February to 30th April 2024. The total survey area was approximately, 10 sq.km. Dredging volume was calculated based on the bathymetric survey data. Bathymetric Survey at Chalai Lagoon and the

canal connecting Chalai lagoon and Nanthiikadal lagoon. Bathymetric Survey at Nayaru lagoon has been executing to prepare lagoon profile.

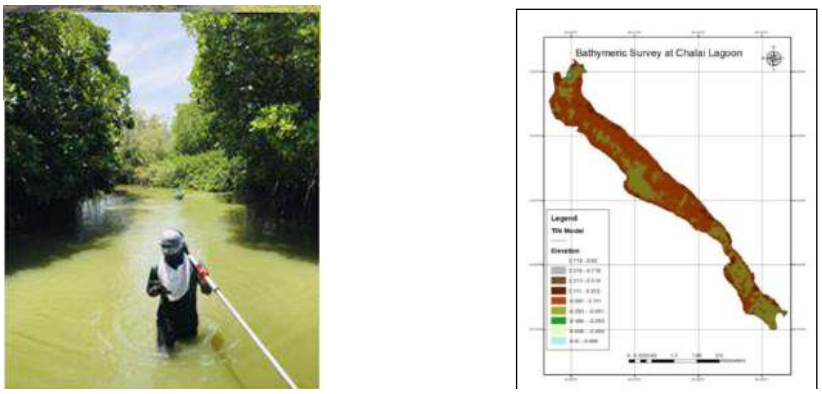


Figure 15 Field study at Chalei lagoon and Digital Elevation Model for calculate dredging volume

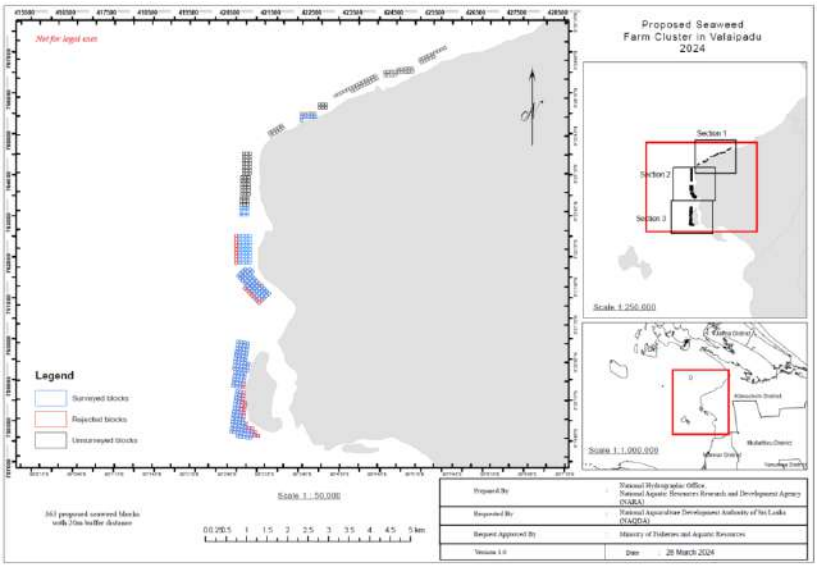


Figure 15. Seashores identified for seaweed cultivation in the Walaipadu area

With view to promote mariculture in the country NARA has identified 5000 hectares suitable sea areas in Northern peninsula only and involved to demarcate blocks for sea cucumber and seaweed framing.

Table 1. Demarcated area for sea farming in Killinochchi district

Sea Cucumber and Seaweed Blocks (January 01 - August 31, 2024)			
	Location	**No.of Designed Blocks**	**No.of Demarcated Blocks**
Seaweed blocks	Valaipadu	363	**201**
Sea cucumber blocks	Nachchikuda	24	24
	Kiranchi (phase 2)		22
	Kiranchi (phase 3)	191	128
	Pallikuda		13
		Total Sea Cucumber blocks	**187**

Special projects

1. Oluvil Harbour

Ministry of Fisheries requested from NARA to conduct comprehensive scientific study regarding sand filling at Oluvil harbor. Accordingly NHO/NARA has conducted bathymetric survey at Oluvil harbor during the period of 18th July to 24th July 2024. Mapping work in progress.

Figure 16: Bathymetric survey field work at Oluvil Harbour

2. Bathymetric survey along the Kelani river for Cefas project

Bathymetric survey has been conducted 10 km along the KalaniRiver starting from the Kalani river mouth for the purpose of installation of litter boom by Cefas project.

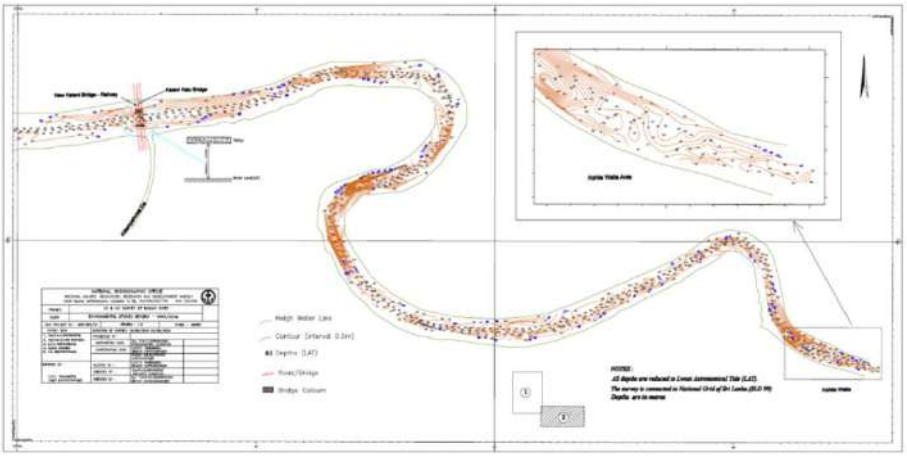


Figure 16: Bathymetric survey map for Kelani River

6.0. Information Dissemination for Social Benefits (Rs.Mn.11.03)

6.1: Operation of NARA Data Centre and E-Repository Library Services

This project aims to establish a centralized hub for the secure storage, management, and dissemination of scientific data. The Data Centre will incorporate advanced security protocols to

safeguard data integrity and confidentiality. The E-Repository Library Services will provide a user-friendly platform, enabling seamless access to an extensive repository of scientific knowledge. This will empower researchers to explore interdisciplinary connections, uncover insights, and foster collaboration across various domains.
A key achievement in this project has been the development of a comprehensive data policy, actively shaped by NARA. The policy not only streamlines data storage and access but also promotes a collaborative culture, ensuring that knowledge is shared and leveraged throughout the organization. This policy has been approved by the NARA Governing Board.

This project initiative is further boosted by the Korean-funded project on the establishment of the National Oceans and Fisheries Data Center and E-library at NARA. This effort represents a significant step towards creating a centralized platform for ocean and fisheries data management, contributing to improved data preservation and operational efficiency. The project benefits from both technical and financial support from the Korean government.

A significant milestone was reached on August 7, 2024, with the kickoff meeting for the establishment of the National Oceans & Fisheries Data Center and Digital Library, hosted by the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA). This successful event laid a strong foundation for a productive partnership between NARA and the Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), unified in their mission to enhance Sri Lanka's capacity to manage critical ocean and fisheries data effectively.

6.2. Analysis of Decent Work Practices and Gaps in Compliance with International Standards of Marine Fisheries in Sri Lanka and Fisheries Information Centre (FIC) of NARA

The decent work perspective is crucial and it allows for the analysis of wide range of labour concerns and secure working conditions in fisheries. The aim of this research is to identify decent work practices and gaps of marine fisheries in Sri Lanka. During the study it was revealed that majority of fishers were unsatisfied with the onboard working conditions, health and safety facilities. Skippers and fishers believe their labour is productive, yet they do not make sufficient income to improve their lives. Further, in-depth interviews and PRAs reveal that lack of occupational safety and health facilities, lack of social protection and grievances redressing mechanisms, high price of fuel, high cost of fishing gears, IUU fishing practices and nature of uncertainty in fisheries are major constraints for the decent work practices in marine fisheries in Sri Lanka.

The Fisheries Information Center (FIC) of NARA was established to provide timely and accurate information on fisheries related problems. A total number of 37 queries were received from different respondents through the hotline of FIC by the end of August of the year. All queries received were successfully solved with the assistance of NARA scientists and officials of governmental and non governmental institutions. To promote the information centre among stakeholders of fisheries sector 5 banners, 200 brochures and posters were distributed at Negombo, Chilaw, Dikowita, Kalpitiya and Walachchena fishery harbours. FIC of NARA has been successful in addressing the needs of the fishing communities and other respondents by providing critical information and resolving queries efficiently.




REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTERS

7.0. Kapparthota Regional Research Center (Rs.Mn.2.50)

7.1. Species Diversity, Distribution and Abundance of Marine Mammals in South Coast of Sri Lanka and Studying the Marine Mammals and Fisheries Interactions

The south coast of Sri Lanka, particularly the waters off Dondra, is recognized as a critical feeding and breeding ground for numerous species, most notably the Indian Ocean blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus indica*). However, this vital habitat overlaps with one of the busiest shipping lanes in the southeast, making marine mammals highly vulnerable to ship strikes and other associated impacts, such as noise pollution and habitat disruption. Meanwhile, Sri Lankan tuna long-liners are increasingly complain over the depredation of their catch by large marine mammals, particularly dolphins.

During the current study nine marine mammal species were recorded in the south coast including Blue whale, Bottle nose dolphin, Bryde's whale, False Killer whale, fin whale, Humpback whale, Killer whale, Pilot whale, Rissos dolphin, Sei whale, Sperm whale, Spinner and Stripped dolphins.

The average group size observed was 1.23 whales per sighting, significantly lower than the 2015 record of 3.7 whales per sighting. Additionally, from January to April in 2015, there were 15 mother-calf pair sightings, while during the same period this season; only two mother-calf combinations were observed. Blue whale is the most threatened species in Mirissa area and this decrease raises concerns about potential impacts from the X-Press Pearl disaster, environmental changes, or other external factors affecting blue whale presence in the area.

Figure 18: Part of the identified individual blue whales

A study on marine mammal and fisheries interactions revealed that no dolphin entanglements were recorded, although instances of depredation were low during the southwest monsoon season. However, significantly higher rates of depredation have been documented in the equatorial region. The coexistence of marine life and heavy maritime traffic in this region highlights the urgent need for conservation measures to mitigate these risks and protect marine mammals in their critical habitat.

7.2. Evaluate Current Methods and Regulation for Wild Seaweeds (marine algae) Harvesting and set up Ecosystems-based Management Strategies to Resources Sustaining

Wild seaweed collectors mostly focusing on harvesting red macro algae; *Sargassum sp* and *G. salicornia* that provide important ecosystems services to the nature, primary production, carbon storage, nutrient cycling, habitats provision, biodiversity and fisheries support. The ecosystem impacts depend on extraction methods and range of extraction scale during the harvest. Over-exploitation of *Sargassum sp* and *G. salicornia* also provides nutrients beach plants and other nutrient cycles. In the present study, we found that annual harvest is around 31,540.13 kg which consist of 5% of standing biomass (Table 2). Therefore, final fresh biomass in unite measures around 106,70.93 kg per square meter area. The harvestable quantity was 5 kg per square meter during the season. Total estimated amount during the March and April about 180,000 Kg (fresh weight) and Total exported amount during the January–February was 100 tons.

Table 2: Standing biomass and potential harvest of wild seaweed in Killinochchi district

Standing biomass (kg)	Annual yield (1.28% biomass/dx 90 days)	Proposed annual harvest (kg)	% of Biomass yield Biomass
630802.735	72,668.47	31,540.13	5%

It’s recommended to harvest only washed-up materials from the beach not in direct habitats and it’s also recommended to remove any kind of species in nature only 5% of their abundance to control spreading non-native species into vacant habitats.

8.0. Kadolkelle Regional Research Center (Rs.Mn.1.50)

8.1. Blue-green Ecosystem Approaches for Conservation and Management of Mangroves around Negombo Lagoon

The NARA-Kadolkele RRC has undertaken significant efforts in mangrove ecosystem conservation, focusing on propagation of several rare and endangered mangrove species. Among the species propagated were *Lumnitzera littorea*, a critically endangered true mangrove listed by the IUCN, *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*, an endangered true mangrove also listed by the IUCN, and *Xylocarpus granatum*, a rare true mangrove species. Propagation was achieved through the air-layering plant propagation technique.

NARA-Kadolkele RRC experimented with a novel technique known as the cut-propagule method which allows for two planting materials from a single seed. The method was tested on *Ceriops tagal* and *Ceriops decandra* true mangrove specie classified as nearly threatened by the IUCN. The results demonstrated that the cut-propagule technique was successful in doubling the yield of planting materials from a single seed. This approach addresses the scarcity of planting materials for restoration, which has traditionally relied on the use of mono-species or limited species, such as *Rhizophora mucronata* and *Rhizophora apiculata*. The method shows promise in enhancing mangrove diversity through restoration efforts.

Due to the lack of data regarding mangrove distribution in Negombo Lagoon, it was decided to map the mangrove distribution and diversity in Negombo. Five locations were selected for study which was declared as conservation areas by Forest Department. Soil salinity was measured to investigate the impacts of salinity on species distribution. Since the mangroves are the major component which are responsible for climate change, blue carbon analysis was done for selected areas. The initial map was completed with mangrove density in each island.

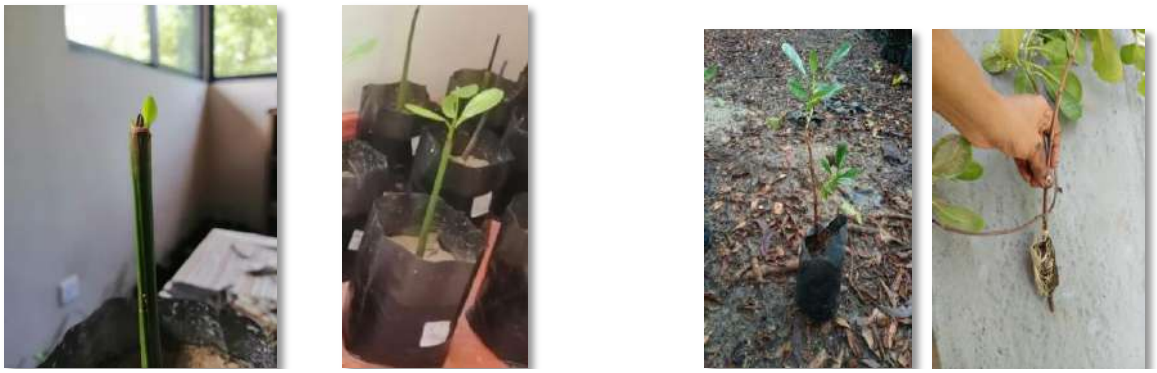


Figure 20: Plants obtained by cut propagule method (L) and air layering method (R)

9.0. Kalpitiya Regional Research Center (Rs.Mn.2.00)

9.1. Monitoring and Assessment of Bivalve and Crab Fisheries in Puttalam Lagoon: Special Reference to Kalpitiya Region

The primary objectives of this project are, to recommend the suitable sites for sustainable bivalve fisheries with concern of area based, size based and seasonal based management and to recommend the management strategies to maintain the sustainable exploitation of mud crab resources in the Kalpitiya.

In concern of bivalve fisheries, about 09 bivalve fishing/harvesting grounds has been identified and quadrate sampling technique also carried out to assess the abundance estimates of those fishing grounds. Total of 06 bivalve species includes scallops, clams, mussels and oyster were identified. Among that, 03 species have been frequently and prominently harvested for the commercial purpose such as *Marcia hiantina* (kokku matti), *Marcia opima* (bola matti) and *Gafrarium tumidum* (varimatti). Eco-friendly efficient harvesting tool is timely needed for harvesting bivalves

In concern of crab fisheries, we only focus about the mud crab (*Scylla serrata*), its biology, fishing techniques and seasonality. About 23 widely spread locations were spotted as mud crab fishing grounds in Kalpitiya region. Gill nets/crab nets with mesh size of 12.7cm and different ply size (06 & 04) widely used to target mud crabs. Other than there are some occasional caught from other gill net types also such as shark net, ray net & sea bass net). The caught crabs are ranged in size from 250 g to above 1000 g, where there are six types of size grading categories maintained by fishermen and according to that it can be given to either export companies (> 500 g individuals) or local markets (< 500 g individuals). Further. it was revealed that mud crab fisheries are highly seasonal.

10.0. Panapitiya Regional Research Center (Rs.Mn2.00)

10.1 Empowering the Ornamental Fish Farmers in Kaluthara District based on the Regional Research Center, Panapitiya of NARA

Conducting the research on aqua feeds, production of research feed for ornamental fish, breeding and rearing of ornamental fish are the basic services conducted by the Regional Research Center of Panapitiya. One of the major issues to produce the commercial fish feeds in Sri Lanka is to inability to produce quality fishmeal locally. Therefore, the country has to depend on the imported feeds which spend significant amount of foreign currency. Moreover, fishmeal is supposed to be unsustainable ingredient and its production is discouraged internationally. One of the potential and sustainable solutions to fishmeal is insect meal. Thus, the center has completed an experiment series on fishmeal replacement by insect meals. Further, storing the excess fat in the liver of ornamental fish is another issue in the industry. Therefore, the center has completed an experiment using “Heenbovitiya”; an endemic plant to Sri Lanka as a local remedy as well as Palmyrah pulp as colour enhancing agent for ornamental fish with the support of University of Jaffna. Further, the center has produced research feeds for experiment conducted by University of Sabaragamuwa.

11.0. Poonaryn Regional Research Center (Rs.Mn.1.80)

11.1. Ecological Validation of Pre-designated Sea Cucumber Farms in terms of Site Suitability and Production in Northern Province

The primary aim of this research is to validate the growth and survival rates of *Holothuria scabra* juveniles and to develop evidence-based sustainable harvesting strategies. To achieve this, systematic larval sampling has been conducted at selected sites in Kalpitiya to Jaffna. These samples were analyzed for larval abundance and identified using morphological characteristics. Concurrently, environmental parameters such as sea surface temperature (SST), salinity, and nutrient levels were monitored to understand their influence on larval distribution. The data collected thus far reveal that larval abundance peaks during the pre-monsoon period (May-June), with a significant positive correlation between SST and larval abundance. Salinity and nutrient levels have remained within optimal ranges, suggesting that they are not limiting factors for larval development at present. Additionally, the project will assess the viability of new sea cucumber farms in Kalpitiya, evaluating their economic sustainability and potential to alleviate pressure on wild populations.

12.0. Rekawa Regional Research Center (Rs.Mn.2.00)

12.1 Maintaining a Pollution-free Coastal Ecosystem and Sustainable Aquaculture Practices in Southern Province, Sri Lanka

The present project is focused on sustaining the coastal ecosystem and promoting sustainable aquaculture practices in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka. Cage culture of white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei)* was introduced to Rathgama Lagoon, with a view to uplifting the living standards of rural communities. Results showed that all the measured parameters were within the optimum range for successfully cultivating *P. vannamei* and shrimps attained 20-25 g in size within 2 month.

Water quality parameters of two popular sea bathing sites in the Hambantota district (Parawiwella and Hiriketiya) were monitored to ensure pollution-free recreation activities The results showed that all the water quality parameters were within the guidelines of USEPA during this research study. Nearby harbours and river outputs were identified as the potential sources of pollution for these bathing sites, and the level of their impact is more serious during heavy rainfall.

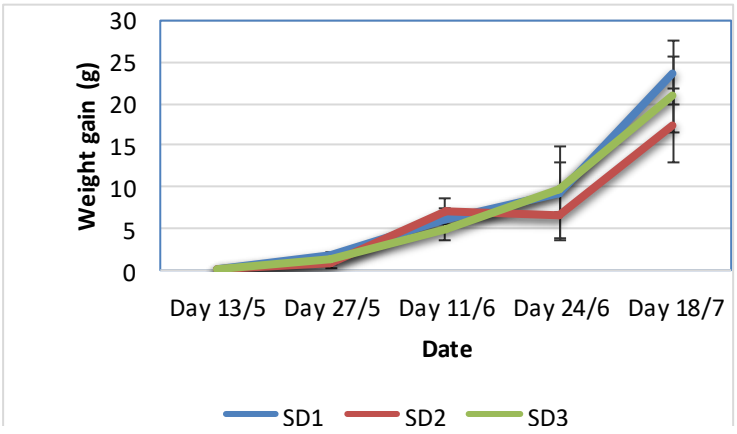


Figure 22. Cumulative frequency curve depicting growth in weight of shrimp stored in cages

Figure. 21: Penaeid shrimp cage culture (Rathgama Lagoon).

13.0. Extension Services (Rs.Mn.2.00)

1. Providing Services by Library and Information Unit

As a special library in the field of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources subjects, NARA Library is mainly focused on assisting subject specialists, entrepreneurs, decision-makers and students and motivating their innovative research studies output. The library collection was developed by adding 26 books, 06 journals, 05 pamphlets and 05 Newsletters up to the end of August. NARA Library has renewed British Council Library Membership for one year period since April 2024. Continuously update the KOHA library management system and NARA Internal repository by adding, editing and deleting relevant data for accessing them easily and accurately. 212 no's of documents were digitized.

696 no's visitors used the NARA library, and 69 NARA officers used the lending facility. 04 new memberships were issued. 52 members were added to the 'NARA Library Users' WhatsApp group by the end of August 2024. Rs. 27,460/= was earned from the sale of NARA publications. Library conference room facilities were provided for 53 meetings/ conferences. NARA-related newspaper clippings and details of research conferences, seminars, workshops, webinars and local/foreign scholarships were circulated among relevant parties through the social media group and emails.

2. Other Extension Services

Dissemination of NARA News through NARA Web & Social Media – 66

Main Office News - 56

Regional Office News - 14

Publication of research news through Printed Media - 07

- Release of the second issue of NARA Sayuru Netha News Magazine
- By printed news papers – 07

Participation in Electronic Media Programs

- Notifications for Sri Lanka Radio's Deevara Navodaya Program - (16 Scientists of the institute have participated to 16 programs)
- T.V. operated by various media organizations. (04 scientists of the institute participated in 04 programs)

Organization and conduct of Workshops / Seminars / Training programs

1). Workshops (07) 2). Seminars (30) 3). Training programs– (15)

Conducting Educational Exhibitions

Educational Exhibitions 07

Conducting Educational Conferences/Field Excursion

- Schools 48 (2542)
- Universities 10 (386)
- Navy Training Teams 02 (69)
- Other Organizations 12 (325)
- Research/Industrial/Internship Training of University Students 12 (120)

Figure 22. Marine mammal research training programme

No	Name of the training program	Number of programs	Number of trainees/participants
01	Ornamental fish artificial breeding training	01	20
02	Ornamental Aquatic Plants Training Program	02	30
03	PCR training for Ocean University	02	90
04	Short-term industrial training for university students	-	120
	University students who came for research	-	50
05	IORA Junior Scientists-A 2-day workshop for 12 schools	01	50
06	Training on the use of pingers for Maruwel Panna fishermen		20
07	Water quality testing	01	15
08	3-day workshop on surveying and mapping	01	25

Figure 23. Ornamental fish/plant training programmes

Mangrove Replanting Programs

Development of mangrove nature park

Figure 24. Educational and awareness programms

3. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

NARA has conducted several beach/mangrove cleaning and restoration programmes individually and collaboration with Universities, Government organizations, SLASS and NGOs to commemorate World Environmental Day, World Ocean Day, World Wetland day and World Mangrove Day.

Figure 25. Beach Cleaning Programmes

5. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

A new Regional Research Center of the NARA is established on April 05, 2024 at Thelikarei, in Poonaryn Divisional Secretariat in Kilinochchi district. The idea of initiate this center is for conservation, management and development of the aquatic resources sector in the Northern Province in order to get maximum economic benefits to the country. An observation tower is under constructing at RRC Rekawa in order to allow for easy observe of the research facilities installed at Rekawa Lagoon and the surrounding mangrove environment, as it is elevated above the lagoon.

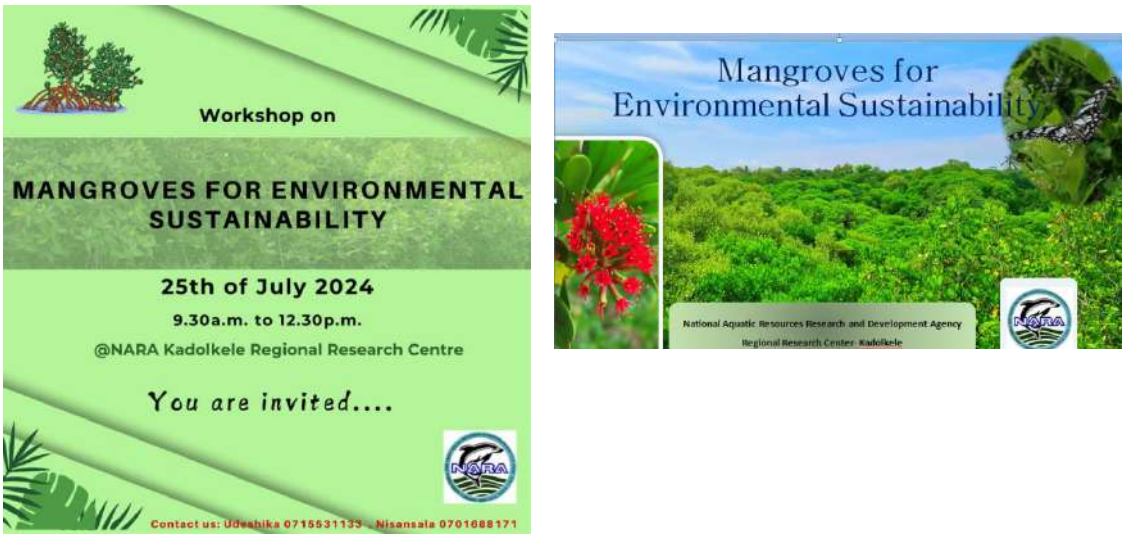


Fig. 33. World Mangrove Day celebration

05
Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (CFHC)

Vision

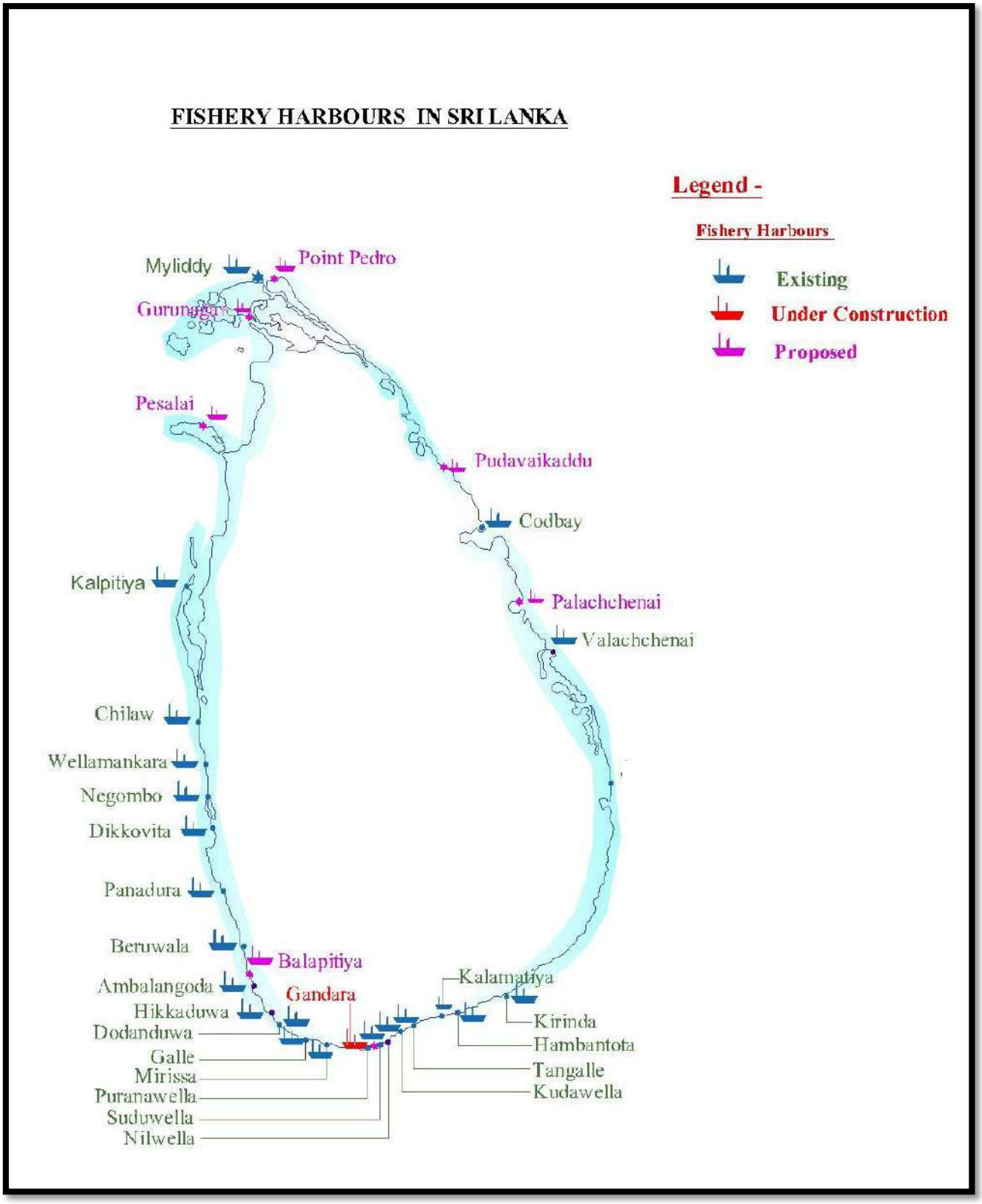
To be the fundamental resource of the fisheries Industry and the inspiration of the local fishing community whilst striving to become the top facilitator of the regions maritime enterprise.

Mission

To deliver superior quality fishery harbour related services together with supporting infrastructure to provide all modern facilities to the fishing community, and achieve self-sustainability by upgrading the harbours through commercially viable ventures.

Key Functions

- Planning, designing and constructions of fishery harbours, anchorages, marine structures and other shore facilities,
- Establishment, operation, control and maintenance of Fishery Harbours, anchorages, marine structures and other shore facilities.
- Management of fishery harbours, anchorages, and other shore facilities.
- Provision of repairing and maintenance facilities for fishing crafts.
- Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of cold room, ice plants and other refrigeration facilities.
- Supply of water, fuel, lubricants, electricity, ice, cold room facilities and any other services incidental thereto for the purpose of fishery industry and fishermen.
- The provision of security to fishery harbours, anchorages, marine structures and other organizations within the Ministry of fisheries
- Aquatic resource, and to recover charges, fees and any other payments on account of it
- The monitoring, control, surveillance of Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)


FISHERY HARBOURS IN SRI LANKA
Legend -
Fishery Harbours
Existing
Under Construction
Proposed
Myliddy
Point Pedro
Gurunagar
Pesalai
Pudavaikaddu
Codbay
Kalpitiya
Palachchenai
Valachchenai
Chilaw
Wellamankara
Negombo
Dikkovita
Panadura
Beruwala
Balapitiya
Ambalangoda
Gandara
Hikkaduwa
Dodanduwa
Galle
Mirissa
Puranawella
Suduwella
Nilwella
Kalamatiya
Kirinda
Hambantota
Tangalle
Kudawella

Financing CFHC as at 31st of December 2024

Grant	Requested allocation for the year 2024 *Rs. Mn*	Approved Allocation *Rs. Mn*	Total Funds Released Up to 31st December .2024 *Rs. Mn*
Recurrent Grant	600	350	349.993
Capital Grant	150	50	50

Financing of CFHC as at 31st of December 2024

Capital Grant

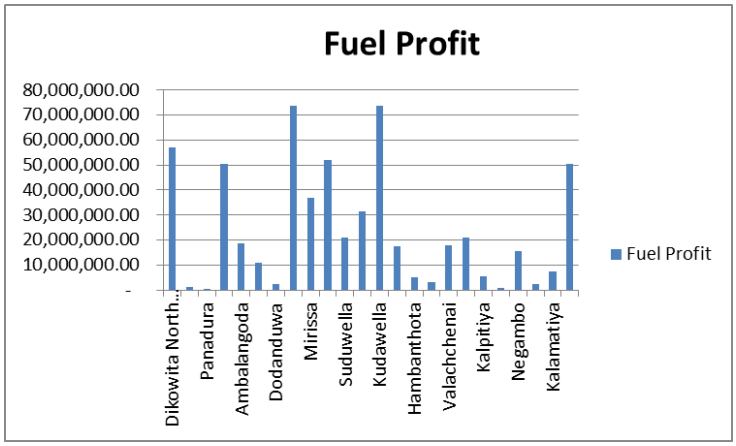
Grant	Approved Allocation Jan- Dec 2024 *Rs. Mn*	Civil *Rs. Mn*	Mechanical. *Rs .Mn*
Capital Grant	50	30	20

Approved allocation was divided as follows.

Fuel sale of Fishery Harbours - 2024 (up to 31st December 2024)

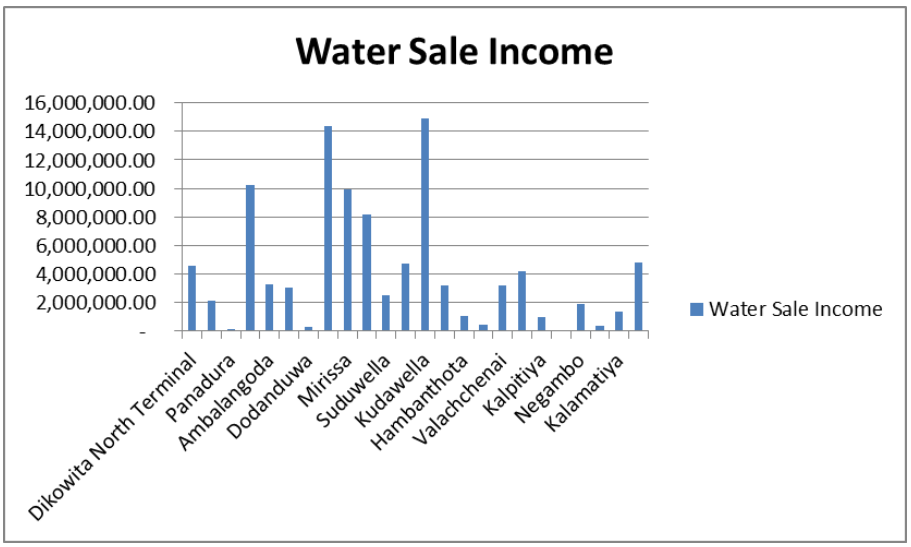
Harbour Name	Fuel Profit
Dikowita North Terminal	56,973,892.93
Dikowita South Terminal	1,317,802.21
Panadura	23,789.24
Beruwala	50,517,406.79
Ambalangoda	1,878,584.55
Hikkaduwa	10,811,644.20
Dodanduwa	2,332,131.89
Galle	73,550,507.80
Mirissa	36,827,034.34
Puranawella	52,155,187.49
Suduwella	21,149,904.75
Nilwella	31,497,853.44
Kudawella	73,508,103.81
Tangalle	17,456,421.67
Hambanthota	5,083,437.60
Kirinda	3,263,355.10
Valachchenai	18,092,904.68
Codbay	20,998,504.07
Kalpitiya	5,638,156.08
Chilaw	1,011,200.36
Negambo	15,548,948.73

Myliddy	2,241,014.95
Kalamatiya	7,502,243.19
Wellamankara	50,338,760.96
Total	**542,262,369.06**



Water sale of Fishery Harbours - 2024 (up to 31st December 2024)

Harbour Name	Water
Dikowita North Terminal	4,602,840.00
Dikowita South Terminal	2,113,635.00
Panadura	160,204.00
Beruwala	10,208,079.84
Ambalangoda	3,255,401.60
Hikkaduwa	3,019,056.40
Dodanduwa	314,050.00
Galle	14,379,185.31
Mirissa	9,910,285.20
Puranawella	8,207,560.57
Suduwella	2,520,356.60
Nilwella	4,752,839.84
Kudawella	14,930,375.60
Tangalle	3,187,227.80
Hambanthota	1,051,949.13
Kirinda	457,139.20
Valachchenai	3,209,061.60
Codbay	4,185,927.19
Kalpitiya	1,005,195.00
Chilaw	-
Negambo	1,922,850.00
Myliddy	388,167.50
Kalamatiya	1,348,548.64
Wellamankara	4,773,517.00
Total	**99,903,453.02**

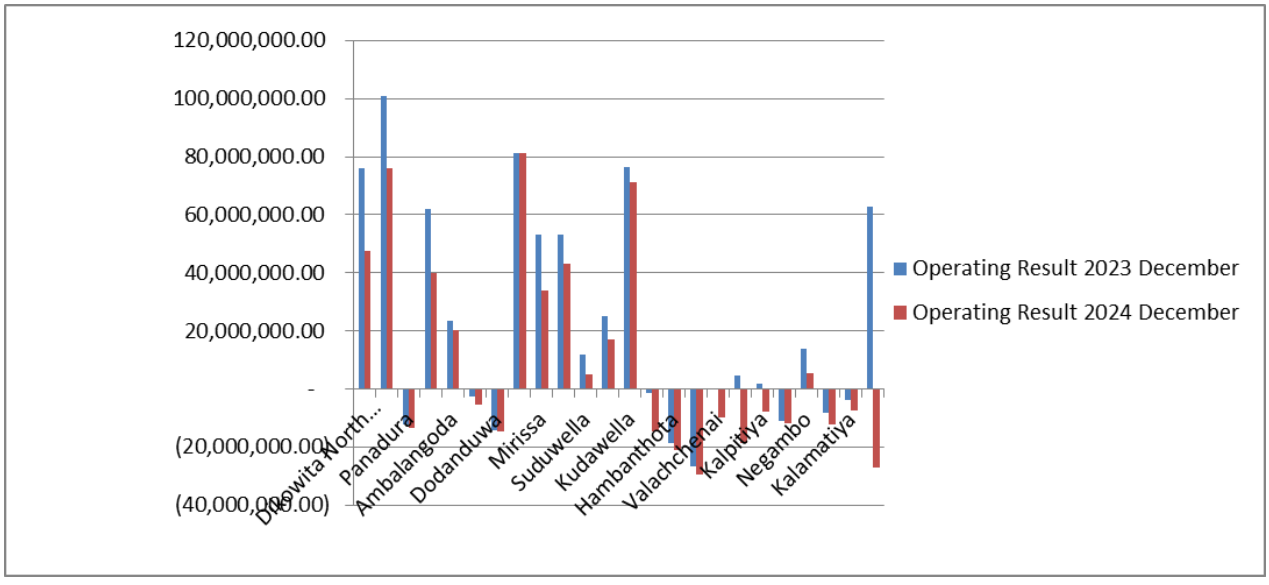


Accumulated Income of All Harbours - 2023 & 2024 (up to 31st December)

Harbour Name	2023 - up to 31st Dec	2024 - up to December
Dikkowita North	109,286,870.65	85,310,646.87
Dikkowita South	132,048,596.42	109,493,724.44
Panadura	6,116,995.12	7,311,097.42
Beruwala	105,626,670.60	95,659,863.24
Ambalangoda	43,207,776.11	45,988,419.45
Hikkaduwa	19,191,877.31	19,955,978.26
Dodanduwa	3,321,930.08	4,417,146.47
Galle	124,083,214.24	129,457,591.20
Mirissa	88,216,633.31	75,196,949.07
Puranawella	97,224,861.93	86,114,286.91
Suduwella	34,923,187.78	31,465,391.54
Nilwella	45,488,272.64	43,279,969.89
Kudawella	115,481,971.11	115,440,839.16
Tangalle	37,667,253.61	32,788,222.91
Hambantota	9,674,783.67	9,454,325.48
Kirinda	6,351,365.66	5,751,280.84
Valachchenai	38,096,740.66	39,967,374.54
Codbay	53,465,602.83	41,948,853.62
Kalpitiya	14,181,626.41	9,273,418.30
Chilaw	5,275,225.77	7,800,264.45
Mylidy	4,942,113.29	3,539,746.57
Negambo	31,531,175.08	24,796,774.04
Kalamatiya	10,615,461.12	14,974,961.52
Wellamankara	80,610,954.36	73,138,465.44
TOTAL	**1,216,631,159.76**	**1,112,525,591.63**

OPERATING RESULT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023 & 2024 (COMPARISON)

Harbour Name	Operating Result (2023)	Operating Result (2024)
Dikowita North Terminal	76,100,051.43	47,545,245.66
Dikowita South Terminal	100,859,736.81	75,926,138.81
Panadura	(12,385,663.62)	(13,327,716.05)
Beruwala	62,123,487.89	39,836,664.99
Ambalangoda	23,284,051.57	20,348,214.96
Hikkaduwa	(2,800,806.10)	(5,620,178.14)
Dodanduwa	(14,182,431.26)	(14,672,578.95)
Galle	81,393,758.29	81,217,673.56
Mirissa	53,059,075.29	34,007,558.96
Puranawella	53,177,895.59	43,125,832.86
Suduwella	11,812,107.38	5,184,134.95
Nilwella	24,977,411.05	17,187,571.50
Kudawella	76,381,382.83	71,368,595.67
Tangalle	(1,554,620.34)	(14,539,920.93)
Hambanthota	(18,806,538.54)	(20,977,081.22)
Kirinda	(26,662,121.02)	(29,556,921.13)
Valachchenai	(9,805.43)	(9,670,901.68)
Codbay	4,540,532.91	(18,855,401.57)
Kalpitiya	1,622,273.05	(7,904,833.88)
Chilaw	(10,943,601.07)	(12,030,618.24)
Negambo	13,880,755.67	5,268,023.72
Myliddy	(8,273,510.25)	(12,387,012.97)
Kalamatiya	(3,672,677.34)	(7,531,933.83)
Wellamankara	62,894,386.31	(26,950,448.78)
Total	**546,815,131.09**	**246,990,108.28**



Capital Grant – Civil
(Allocation 30 Rs.Mn. – Capital Grant)

Progress review of Civil Engineering Works till 31st December 2024 of the Capital & Recurrent Grant Allocated

Programme/s /Project/s /Activity/ies	Total Estimate Cost(TEC) /(Total Project Cost) (Rs. Mn)		Ongoing Projects Only				Allocation for 2024 (Rs. Mn)	Financial Target & Progress at the end of 31.12.2024 (Rs. Mn)		%	Physical Target & Progress at the end of 31.12.2024			Issues/ Remarks
			Actual Expenditure as at 31.12.2024 (Rs. Mn)	Actual Physical Progress as at 31.12. 2024										
	Original	Revised		Description	Amount (Million)	%						Description	%	
Monitoring Hydrogrphic survey works for all harbours (CAHS)		**0.10**	**0.08**					T	0.10	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.08	83.50%	P		83.50%	
Rehabilitation & Maintenance of Existing Breakwater,Quay Wall,Revetments etc. (CABQ)		**1.90**	**1.85**					T	1.90	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	1.85	97.32%	P		97.32%	
Proposed Boundary Wall and Chain Link Fence (CABW)		**0.10**	**0.07**					T	0.10	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.07	70.00%	P		70.00%	
Floor Preparation of Boat Yard and Other Areas (CAIR)		**1.38**	**0.16**					T	1.38	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.16	11.52%	P		11.52%	
New Partition Works (CAPW)		**0.10**	**0.02**					T	0.10	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.02	20.00%	P		20.00%	
Roof Repair Works, Head Office & Fishery Harbours (CAR)		**0.50**	**0.28**					T	0.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.28	55.20%	P		55.20%	
Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings (CARB)		**24.77**	**36.35**					T	24.77	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	36.35	146.75%	P		146.75%	
Rehabilitation of Existing Sanitary Facilities (CHOSF)		**0.85**	**1.07**					T	0.85	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	1.07	126.35%	P		126.35%	
Regional Procurement Committee Works (CARPC)		**0.30**	**2.40**					T	0.30	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	2.40	799.67%	P		799.67%	
Total 2024.12.31 (Cumulative)	**0**	**30**	**42.28**					**T**	**30.00**	**100.00%**	**T**		**100.00%**	
								P	**42.28**	**140.94%**	**P**		**140.94%**	

Mechanical engineering

(Allocation 20 Rs.Mn. – Capital Grant)

Progress review of Mechanical Engineering Works till 31st December 2024 of the Capital & Recurrent Grant Allocated.

Programme/s /Project/s /Activity/ies	Total Estimate Cost(TEC) /(Total Project Cost) (Rs. Mn)		Ongoing Projects Only				Allocation for 2024 (Rs. Mn)	Financial Target & Progress at the end of 31.12.2024(Rs. Mn)		%	Physical Target & Progress at the end of 31.12.2024			Issues/ Remarks
			Actual Expenditure as at 31.12.2024 (Rs. Mn)	Actual Physical Progress as at 31.12. 2024										
	Original	Revised		Description	Amount (Million)	%						Description	%	
Repaires / Maintanance of Fuel Dispensing Unit at all harbours		1.00	1.50		1.50	150.20%		T	1.00	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	1.50	150.20%	P		150.20%	
Service & maintenance of Tractors,Trailers,Generators, Trollies & weighbridge of all harbours		0.50	0.59		0.59	117.40%		T	0.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.59	117.40%	P		117.40%	
Repair & Maintenance of machinery at all harbours (travel lift - Mirissa & Dikkowita) & slipways @ Galle & Tangalle F/H's		0.15	0.52		0.52	346.67%		T	0.15	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.52	346.67%	P		346.67%	
General Maintenance of heavy machinery including fuel		3.25	3.22		3.22	98.92%		T	3.25	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	3.22	98.92%	P		98.92%	
Maintenance repaires & General Expences of cutter suction dredgers (victualling, Petty cash & Fuel)		0.50	0.52		0.52	103.20%		T	0.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.52	103.20%	P		103.20%	
Purchase ,Maintenance repaires & General Expences of Grab Hopper dredgers (victualling, Petty cash &		1.50	1.49		1.49	99.00%		T	1.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	1.49	99.00%	P		99.00%	
Dredging in all harbours (excavator fuel,vessel insuarance charges,etc..)		0.50	0.00		-	0.00%		T	0.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.00	0.00%	P		0.00%	
Purchase new becon lamps and repairs of beacon lamps & buoys at all harbours.		0.20	0.24		0.24	120.45%		T	0.20	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.24	120.45%	P		120.45%	
Rehabilitation of Fenders , Chain, D-Shackle, I Bolts, Tyres for All Harbours		4.50	0.27		0.27	6.09%		T	4.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.27	6.09%	P		6.09%	
Purchase of small scale worshop items & other necessary equipments for all harbours		0.50	0.14		0.14	28.52%		T	0.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.14	28.52%	P		28.52%	
Rehabilitation of electrical works of all harbours (Ref & Electrical)		1.50	1.74		1.74	116.17%		T	1.50	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	1.74	116.17%	P		116.17%	
Purchase & Refill fire extingushers in all harbours		0.30	0.06		0.06	18.33%		T	0.30	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	0.06	18.33%	P		18.33%	
Purchase of Fixed Assests in Head Office & All Harbours (Furnitures, Computers, Printers,... etc)		1.30	1.25		1.25	95.83%		T	1.30	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	1.25	95.83%	P		95.83%	
Repair & Maintanaces all light vehicles & Bus, Prime Mover, Bowser at Head Office		1.30	1.29		1.29	99.23%		T	1.30	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	1.29	99.23%	P		99.23%	
Installation of CCTV cameras		3.00	3.51		3.51	117.07%		T	3.00	100.00%	T		100.00%	
								P	3.51	117.07%	P		117.07%	
Total 2024.12.31 (Cumulative)	**0**	**20**	**16.33**		**16.33**	**81.64%**		**T**	**20.00**	**100.00%**	**T**		**100.00%**	
								P	**16.33**	**81.64%**	**P**		**81.64%**	

Overview of the Harbour Facilities

Harbour	Inception year	Area (Ha)	Harbour basin (Ha)	Length of the breakwaters (m)	Depth (m)
Kalpitiya	1968	0.49	2		2.5
Chilaw	2009	1			2.5
Mirissa	2007	0.42	2	456	3
Dikkowita	2013	8.1	11.7	1170	3.5-5.0
Modara	1965	0.92	2.3	140	4.0-5.0
Panadura	1998	2.13	2.7	270	2.5-3.0
Beruwala	1965	7.05	10	426	2.5-3.0
Ambalangoda	2010	1.74	6.4	375	3.5
Hikkaduwa	2001	2.94	6.3	325	2.5-3.0
Dodanduwa	2010	1.41		100	3
Galle	1965	1.5	4	235	3.0-6.0
Mirissa	1966	2.44	7.2	478	2.5-3.0
Puranawella	1980	4.96	14.2	400	2.5-3.0
Kudawella	1998	4.24	13.1	700	2.5-3.0
Tangalle	1965	1.45	2.5	221	2.5-3.0
Hambantota	2010	1.65	5.8	275	3.5
Kirinda	1985	3.5	3.6	450	2.5-3.0
Walachchenai	2011	1.71	3.7		3
Cod Bay	1965	9.23	20		6
Nilwella	2012	1	5	428	3
Wellamankara	2022	4.23	6.28	MB=577 SB=302	4
Myliddy	2019	2.65	3.87	MB=385 SB=127.3	2.5 – IMUL 1 - OFRP

Fishery Harbours Older than 20 Year

Capacity of Ice Plants –2024

Ice Plant	Fisheries harbor/ Landingsite	Production Capacity Mt /Days	Ice Cube / Ice sheets	Mobile Ice plant (Yes /No)	Present status
Kirinda	Kirinda	5	Cube	Yes	Active
Hambanthota	Hambanthota	20	Cube	No	Proposed
Tangalle	Tangalle	5	Cube	Yes	Not in Operation
Tangalle	Tangalle	5	Cube	Yes	Active
Kudawella	Kudawella	10	Sheets	No	Active
Puranawella	Puranawella	35	Cube / sheets	No	Active
Puranawella	Puranawella	20	Cube	No	Proposed
Galle	Galle	5	Sheets	No	Active
Galle	Galle	5	Sheets	No	Active
Hikkaduwa	Hikkaduwa	20	Cube	No	Proposed
Dodanduwa	Dodanduwa	10	Cube	No	Proposed
Ambalangoda	Ambalangoda	20	Cube	No	Active
Beruwala	Beruwala	7.5	Cube	No	Active
Beruwala	Beruwala	5	Cube	No	Active
Panadura	Panadura	5	Sheets	No	Active
Negombo	Negombo	20	Cube	No	Active
Chilaw	Chilaw	20	Cube	No	Active
Kalpitiya	Kalpitiya	10	Cube	No	Proposed
Cod bay	Cod bay	20	Cube	No	Proposed
Cod bay	Cod bay	50	Cube	No	Active
Dikowita	Dikowita	20	Cube	No	Active
Walachchena	Valachchenai	50	Cube	No	Active
Ice production capacity		**367.5**			

MV Sayuru

MV Ruhunu Putha

Salapura Kinduri Cutter Suction Dredger

Nil Diyawara Cutter Suction Dredger

06
Ceylon Fisheries Corporation (CFC)

Vision

To become the leading commercial organization in the promotion and guidance of fishery products and sales for the welfare of the fishery producer and consumer.

Mission

- To be contribute to the gross domestic product as a effective organization
- To be the most significant organization responsible for marketing of fisheries production, processing and marketing.
- To (harness) strengthen the economic activity of fishermen and to obtain greater (achievement) development of its production capacity
- Would engage in production and marketing, quality fish and value added products at a reasonable price, using modern technology

Present Status

- The approved staff of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation is 724. Out of which 220 are working in the head office and 393 in district offices and 118 employees are working on daily basis. 26 of them are managers.

- The Ceylon Fisheries Corporation has 21 district offices and divisions related to the purchase and sale of fish, including 17 purchase and sales offices, 01 purchasing office and 03 sales divisions at the head office. The Ceylon Fisheries Corporation has 87 sales outlets islandwide.

- At present, the total operational process (from January to November 2024) of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation reports Rs. 997,965/- of profit.

- As of this November, the district offices of Puttalam, Badulla, Jaffna, Gampaha, Kandy, Kurunegala, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kegalle, Ratnapura, Ampara, the sales division of the head office, the public service delivery division and the Anuradhapura Ice Factory are operating profitably. The other 06 district offices are not making a profit.

District offices and sales divisions located throughout the island.

Pruchasing centers	Selling and purchasing centers	Marketing Centers
Mannar	Anuradhapuraya	Government Service Supply Marketing Division
	Rathnapuraya	
	Kurunegala	
	Kandy	Operations Division
	Badulla	
	Kegalle	
	Polonnaruwa	
	Gampaha	
	Ampara	
	Kalutara	
	Matara	
	Galle	
	Hambanthota	
	Jaffena	
	Trinco	
	Puttalam	
	Colombo	

Ceylon Fisheries Corporation Outlet Expansion (2024)

District		**Outlets**
Kandy	1	No.02 Central Wholesale Market
	2	No.03 Central Wholesale Market
Kegalle	1	Rambukkana
	2	Warakapola
	3	Mawanella
	4	Galigamuwa
	5	Dewalagama
Hambanthota	1	Kataragama
	2	Ranna
	3	Tangalle
	4	Weerakatia
Mathara	1	Hakmana
	2	Kirinda
	3	Kamburupitiya
	4	Akuressa
	5	Matara
	6	Pitabeddara
Rathnapura	1	Avissawella
	2	Yatiyanthota
	3	Ehaliyagoda
	4	Kuruvita
Badulla	1	Nuwara Eliya
	2	Diyatalawa
	3	Bandarawela
Kaluthara	1	Ingiriya
	2	Matugama
	3	Kalutara
	4	Wadduwa
	5	Nagoda
	6	Bandaragama
	7	Munagama
Galle	1	Magalle
	2	Galle
	3	Karapitiya
	4	Labuduwa
	5	Alpitiya
Colombo	1	Nugegoda
	2	Narahenpita
	3	Bokundara
	4	Piliyandala
	5	Bambalapitiya
	6	Kalubowila
	7	Aththidiya
	8	Kottawa
	9	Maligawatta
	10	Boralasgamuwa

	11	Peliyagoda
Gampaha	1	Negombo
	2	Gampaha1
	3	Gampaha 02
	4	Ragama 02
	5	Wayangoda
	6	Welisara
	7	Kirindiwela
	8	Raddolugama
	9	Tiharia
	10	Pugoda
	11	Kadawatha
	12	Mirigama
	13	Nittambuwa
	14	Minuwangoda-02
	15	Minuwangoda
	16	Dunagaha
	17	Nathadiya
	18	Delgoda
	19	Jaella 01
	20	Jaella 02
	21	Kadana
	22	Diulapitiya
	23	Naiwala
	24	Ragama 01
	25	Yakkala
	26	Ganemulla
	27	Sapugaskanda
	28	Yakkala 2
Kurunegala	1	Giriulla
	2	Kuliyapitiya
	3	Naramala
	4	Pannala
	5	Alawwa
	6	Mawathagama
Anuradhapura	1	Fishmela Anuradhapura
	2	New Town - Anuradhapura
	3	Anuradhapura Mahajanapola
	4	Market - Anuradhapura
Ampara	1	Ampara
Trinco	1	Trinco
Total Outlets		**87**

03 New stores have been opened in the following areas from January to August 2024.

1. Ranna
2. Trinco
3. Yakkala
4. Munagama
5. Mulleriyawa
6. Thudugala

Current operating process

Currently, the Fisheries Corporation (on average) purchases about 438 metric tons of fish per month and sells about 424 metric tons per month through outlets spread across the island.

Financial progress in the year 2024

Source of finance	Income / Expenditure (Rs.)
Revenue	4,885,093,000
Cost of sales	(4,022,700,000)
Gross profit	862,393,000
Other income	66,473,000
Administrative expenses	(696,190,000)
Seles and distribution cost	(220,867,000)
Results from operating activities	11,809,000
Financ costs	(10,812,000)
Profit or loss before tax and other comprehensive income	997,000
Actual gain/losses on pension plans	-
Total comprehensive income	**997,000**

Commencement of payment system through QR Code

Starting seafood restaurants and introducing value-added products

Introducing ONLINE sales through Uber Eats.

Initiating preliminary discussions for public-private investment with the Thai government delegation.

07
Ceynor Foundation Limited

Vision

To be the leading manufacture in the boat manufacturing field and fisheries service supply field.

Mission

Maintaining service excellence and customer satisfaction through innovations in a sustainable environment.

TARGETS

- To become a recognized exporter of fiberglass boats.
- To become a fiberglass boat builder of international repute.
- To be an investor in foreign countries in fiberglass boat manufacturing sector.
- Be a provider of an excellent customer services.
- To be an effective contributor to the development of fishing Industry in Sri Lanka by supplying high quality products, namely fishing boats and fishing gear.
- Contributing 0.2% to the Gross Domestic Product

BUDGETED VS. ACTUAL FINANCIAL STATUS – 2024

Income	Actual(Rs.)	Budget(Rs.)
Rent Income	24,511,291.93	62,954,000.00
Buying & Selling -Fishing Nets	19,557,762.84	66,700,000.00
Sales of Fishing Crafts	35,556,215.96	-
Sales of Other Fiber Product	56,632,573.77	325,474,679.00
Transport & Handing	12,949,927.00	-
Sundry Income	96,748,643.07	1,680,000.00
Total	**245,956,414.57**	**456,808,679.00**

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL MATTERS

- All gratuity issues are solved.
- Completed the calculation of wages disparitation of the permenant carder
- The most essential vacancies have been filled.
- All grade promotions are completed.
- Presenting the progress of each department in the board meeting.
- All audit queries related to the year 2023 have been answered.
- The final accounts for the year 2023 have been prepared and the audit has also been completed.
- Having developed the revenue generation process required to sustain the organization.
- Organizing the work of employees in a targeted manner.

LEGAL & INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Cey Nor Restaurant	Cases filed in the Supreme Court CA/COC/37/24 - Support on 22nd January 2025 SC/REV/01/24 - Support on 28th April 2025 SC/SPL/LA/186/24 - Support on 28th July 2025
Past GM Mr. Nandalal Court Case	Next court date is 2025.01.21.

GOALS ACHIEVED BY 31.12.2024.

- Bringing irregularly assessed lands into legal assessment order.
- Arranging to get Indian grant for the Karainagar project.
- Getting new projects for non governmental organization in addition to the projects received from government agencies
  Eg: National Lottery Board (NLB) – Lottery hut 300nos project/ Mahaweli Authority Poly tunnel project/ Colombo Municipal - The project for city beautification
- Intervening to carry out pilot projects in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other organizations in order to promote fishing products that are introduced as solutions for several problems occurred in the industry and also to reduce the post-harvest loss.

- Intervened to contact and coordinate state commercial banks to identify indituals from the fishing community who are interested in fishing but have financial difficulties and meet their requirements.
- Making necessary arrangements to provide job opportunities in Korea and other countries for people who are interested in fishing industry, while giving them the required knowledge and training. (Cey-nor Academy)

CREATING A SATISFYING WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR THE EMPLOYEES

- Hoisting of the national flag and singing the national anthem on every Monday of the week
- 2024 Sinhala & Hindu New Year Celebration
- Organizing 2024 “Ice Cream Dansala”.
- Creating a Vesak Lantern by the company's employees.
- Conducting a sermon before every Poya day in the premises of the institution.

ONGOING ORDERS

Cey Nor Foundation Limited						
Mattakkuliya Boatyard - 31.12.2024						
NO	ORDER RECIVED DATE	ORDER NO	NAME OF CUSTOMER	DESCRIPTION	QTY	VALUE (RS.)
					Total	Total
1	2024.03.14	1653	Colombo Municipal Council	Fiberglass Children park Items Repair - Kotahena & St. Andrews	10	281,002.76
2	2024.03.14	1654	Colombo Municipal Council	Fiberglass Children park Items Repair - Bluemendle & Paramananda	9	235,154.21
3	2024.03.14	1655	Colombo Municipal Council	Fiberglass Children park Items Repair - New Bazar Armer Street	4	69,909.19
5	2024.07.19	1674	Mahawali Authority, Ethawatunuwawa	15.5ft Canoe	9	1,201,181.80
				10.2ft outriggers	9	
6	2024.09.25	1705	Ambuluwawa	Paddle boat repair	1	137,615.04
7	2024.10.22	1724	Mahawali Authority, Dehiattakandiya	18.5ft Canoe	10	1,348,649.00
				10.5ft Outrigger	10	
8	2024.11.05	1729	Mahawali Authority, Walikanda	15.5ft Canoes with Outriggers	10	1,243,230.90
9	2024.11.25	1739	Ministry of fisheries, Galle	Multiday boat modle (IMUL)	1	450,285.97
				Canoe Modle (NTRB)	1	
				Flat bottom boat Modle (OFRP)	1	
				Mechanized Canoe Modle (MTRB)	1	
				Oneday boat Modle (IDAY)	1	
				Wallam Modle (NBSB) Madal Oruwa	1	
10	2024.12.04	1744	Ministry of Defence	15.5ft Ferry	7	2,796,500.00
11	2024.12.05	1745	Mahawali, Athawatunuwawa	Display unit -100kg	3	788,897.02
12	2024.12.09	1747	DFAR	FAD Boaya	4	23,631,441.84
13	2024.12.10	1748	Ramesh Chutto, Mauritius	55ft Fishing boat	1	64,787,020.55
14	2024.12.13	1750	DS, Padaviya	18.5ft Canoe	25	2,493,750.00
15	2024.12.23	1752	DS Thamankaduwa	18.5ft Canoe	1	125,223.53
				10.5ft Outrigger	1	
16	2024.12.31	1755	Sabaragamuwa, Ratnapura	18.5ft ferry	1	460,326.03
Total						100,050,187.84

08
Northsea Limited

Vision

To be excellent contributory to the fisheries sector by supplying high quality fishing nets and other fishing gears to meet the requirements of the local fishermen to achieve high production of sea food

Mission

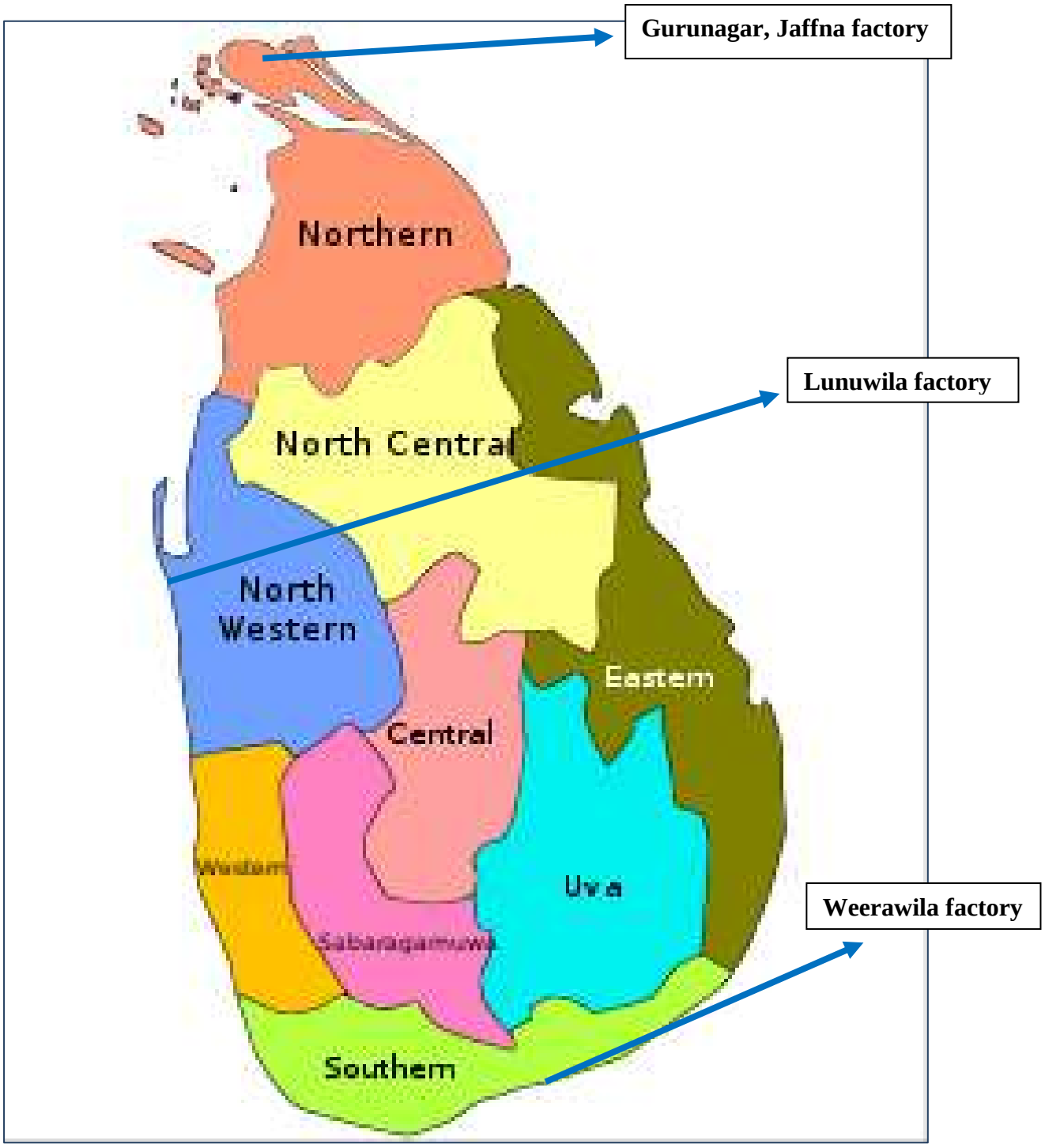
Manufacturing and supplying standard quality fishnets and other fishing gears to meet seasonal demand in order to encourage fishing activities and seafood production of the country.

Objectives

- Production of fishnets by servicing of fishermen
- Meeting the seasonal demand of the fishing community by producing appropriate high quality fishing nets and other fishing gears.
- Contribute to facilitating and increasing efficiency of fishing methods by producing specialized types of nets according to their needs.
- Manufacturing and supplying of fishnets and fishing gears as well as mending twine for the fishermen in the country.

Policy

Northsea Ltd. Is a semi government organization that conduct business activities by providing oppertinuties to rural fishermen, fishermen groups, fishermen entrepreturs, fishermen cooperative socities and giving priority to their welfare activities and thereby contributing to the economy of the country.



Organization

Northsea Ltd is a hundred percent treasury owned fishnet manufacturing company, established in June 2001 under companies act no. 17 of 1982 and re-registered under new Companies Act No. 07 of 2007. Northsea Ltd which is currently obtaining under the purview of the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources. It had only one fishnet factory at Gurunagar - Jaffna and subsequently the fishnet factories at Lunuwila and Weerawila were transferred to Northsea Ltd from Ceynor Foundation Ltd vide cabinet decision, dated 02nd November 2010 and the Northsea Ltd took over the two factories and commenced operations from November, 2011. The total employment of the company during this period was 295 nos.

The company has been involved in serving the fisheries sector which contributes to the economy of the country in terms of employment, income generation and sea food production. The fishing is engaged in the marine and fresh waters of Sri Lanka and it constitutes an important role in the livelihood activities of the people who live in coastal and dry zone reservoirs of the country. There are more than 150,000 nos. fishermen and their families depending on the fishing activities.

Demand for Fishnets

The demand for fishing nets is about 6,000 metric tons per year, of which 47% is supplied by local manufacturers (6 factories with a capacity of 2000-3000 metric tons per year), while North Sea Company Limited, with a production capacity of approximately 420 metric tons per year, meets about 7% of the fishing net demand.

Suppliers of the Country

No	Name of Supplier	Place of Location
01	Northsea Ltd	Jaffna, Lunuwila, Weerawila
02	Malba International (Pvt.) Ltd	Ja-ela
03	Jafferjee Brothers International (Pvt.) Ltd	Colombo
04	Sadasarana (Pvt.) Ltd (I.P Fishnet)	Chillaw
05	NEFARD Foundation Ltd	Jaffna
06	Rajah Fishnet (Pvt) Ltd	Oomanthai
07	Lake FBS Pvt Ltd	Hambantota

Main Importers in the Country

No	Name of Importers
01	Lafeer & Sons
02	F.B.S. Lanka (Pvt) Ltd
03	J.P. Fernando & Sons

The Total Fishnet Production Capacity of the Factories

No	Description	Gurunagar	Lunuwila	Weerawila	Total
01.	Total production capacity – p. a (Mt.)	144	144	132	420

Fixed Capital

Land and Building

Considering the ownership of lands which are factories located Lunuwila land is only Northsea asset. Other Weerawila and Jaffena factories are located at government lands as bellow.

No	Place/District	Land size (perches)	Building area (square feet)	Ownership of the land
01.	**Gurunagar** - (Jaffna)	350	16,220	Government Institutio
02.	**Lunuwila** - (Puttalam)	568	25,539	Owned Land
03.	**Weerawila** -(Hambantota)	137	15,000	Government Institution-Paddy Marketing Board

Production and Operating Facilities

The factories are equipped with netting, twisting and processing machinery of which details are as follows;

No	Description	Type of net Produced	Gurunagar	Lunuwila	Weerawila
a.	***Netting Machinery***				
01.	Amita 6mm pitch	2-6 ply	01	-	-
02.	Amita 7mm pitch	2-9 ply	02	05	04
03.	Amita 9mm pitch	9-15 ply	01	01	01
04	Amitech 7mm pitch	4-6 ply	-	-	02
05.	Amita 11mm pitch	12-24 ply	01	-	01
06.	Amita 14mm pitch	24-36 ply	01	03	-
	Total		**06**	**09**	**08**
	Total Annual production capacity		144MT.	144MT.	132MT.

No.	Description	Type of net Produced	Gurunagar	Lunuwila	Weerawila
b.	***Twisting Machineries***				
01.	Lezzani	2-9 ply		02	
02.	Collins	15-27 ply		01	
03	Amitech	12-36 ply		01	
04	Jmw	15-60 ply	01	0	
	Jmw	2-9 ply	01	0	
	Total		**02**	**04**	
	Annual production capacity		100 MT	120 MT	
c.	***Processing Machinery***		Available	Available	Not Available

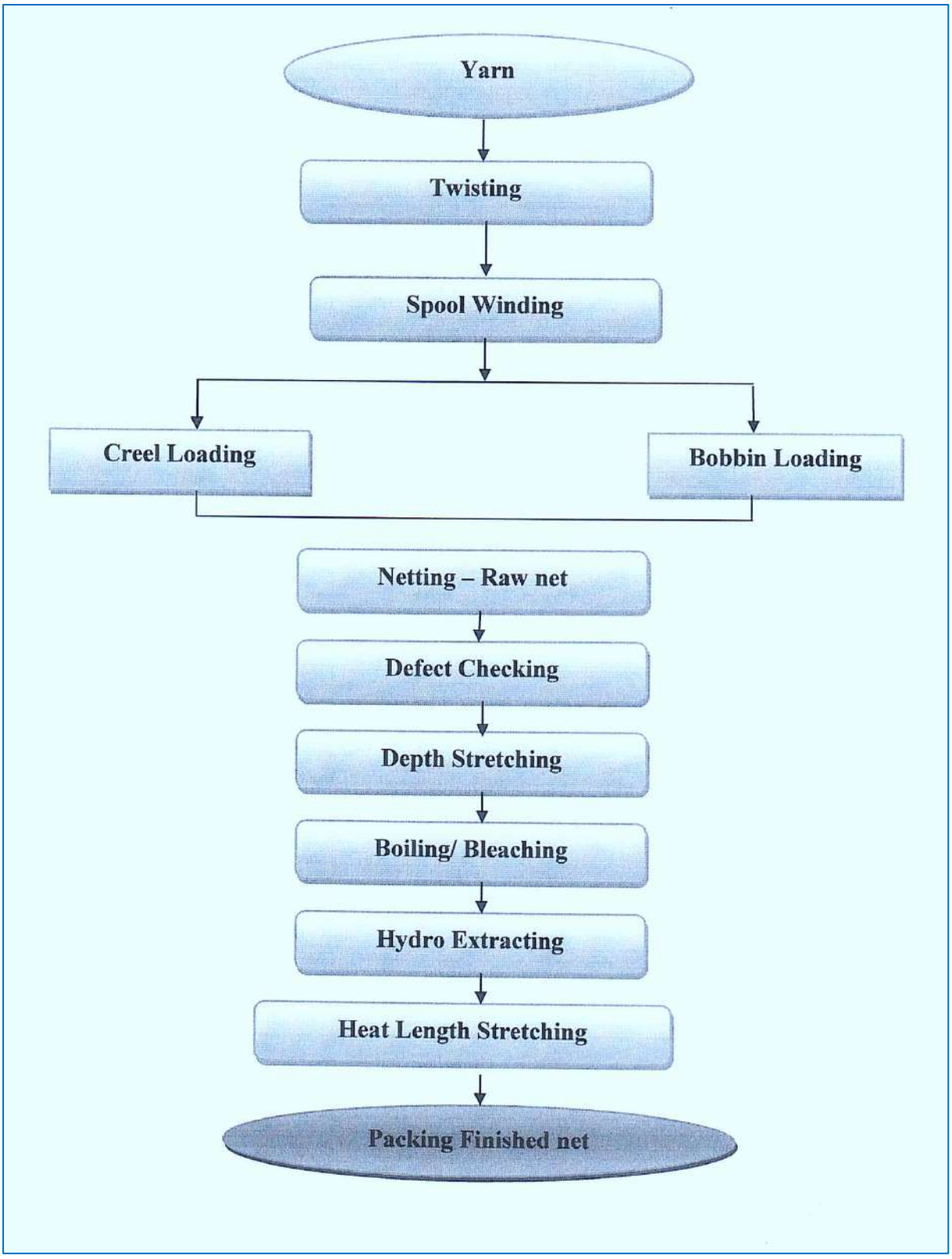
Fishing net production and sales in 2024

Factory	Production(Mt.)		Sales (Rs.Mn)	
	Targeted Production	Achieved Production	Targeted Sales	Achieved Sales
Gurunagar	144	87.73	240.00	107.84
Lunuwila	144	93.82	240.00	102.50
Weerawila	132	90.33	180.00	99.38
Total	420	271.88	660.00	309.72

According to the analysis of production and sales for the years 2023 and 2024, the production percentage in 2023 was 56.32%, and for the year 2024 it has increased to 67.57%. This can be identified as an increment of 11.25%. Similarly, sales in 2023 were 36.06%, and for the year 2024 it has increased to 43.26%, it is an increment of 7.2%. Although the production volume calculated as 336 Mt. for the year 2023 was planned as 420 Mt. for 2024, But it has been difficult to achieve that target. The production achieved at the 31.12.2024 is 271.88 Mt.

Production Process

The factories and the technical staff have more than 30 years of experiences in fishnet production. The typical production process is mentioned below.



Challenges to increasing the company's production capacity

- About 80% of the company's production is provided to private sector institutions on a rental basis. This has limited the company's direct production activities. The company has been facing severe economic crisis since 2020 due to Covid 19 situation and economic crisis.
- Institutional income has had to be spent only on employee salaries and fund payments.
- There is a lack of financial resources to purchase raw materials for production.

The need to increase production capacity

- It is necessary to increase the direct production capacity of the institution.
- This is essential to achieving production goals.
- Our company's products can gain commercial confidence in the market by bringing better quality than imported fishing nets.

Methods to increase production capacity

- Obtaining special grant support for the direct production activities of the institution.
- Streamlining the process of obtaining raw materials.
- Prepare an expense reserve from the institution's service income and allocate it for production.

If the organization's production activities can be streamlined, the organization's efficiency will increase, and if it can face economic challenges and maintain a strong position in the market, Then **the stability of the organization can be ensured**.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Target Market share of the Company is 20% which would avail the fishing community of quality fish nets at reasonable prices, thereby enabling them to indulge in fishing activities and enhance their earnings capacity and sustainability.

The production and availability of fishnets could also increase the harvesting of fish and the production of associated fish products to the consumer requirements with safty and enhance the welfare of the fishing community.

The manufacture of fishnets would enrich the lives of fishermen and enable them to earn the income necessary for their welfare by meeting the consumer needs, which in turn would contribute to the country’s economy in terms of national income, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP).

09
Central Fish Market-Peliyagoda

Central Fish Market Complex - Peliyagoda operates under the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources. It is managed by the Peliyagoda Central fish Market Complex Management Trust. This trust board has been established as per the Cabinet Memorandum bearing No. 10/0958/438/001 submitted on 14 May 2010 and entitled "Establishment of the Management Trust Fund for the Ultra Modern Central Fish Market in Peliyagoda" and the related Cabinet decision No. CP/ 10/0958/438/001 dated 03.06.2010. The board of trustees are as follows and its chairmanship is borne by the Secretary to the Ministry. Currently, the draft bill required for establishment as a corporate body is being prepared.

1. A nominee of the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance
2. A nominee of the Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Development
3. A nominee of the Secretary to the Ministry of Trade
4. A nominee of the Secretary to the Ministry of Health
5. A nominee of the Central Environmental Authority
6. Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
7. The Chairman Sri Lanka Fisheries Corporation
8. The Divisional Secretary of Kelaniya Divisional Secretariat
9. Director General of Consumer Affairs Authority
10. Chairman of Peliyagoda Municipal Council
11. A nominee of the Minister of Fisheries
12. Chairman of Peliyagoda Central Fish Market Businessmen's Association
13. Chairman of the National Co-operative Society of SriLanka
14. Chairman of Colombo Consumers Society

The objectives of the Peliyagoda Central Fish Market Complex Management Trust Fund are,

1. Control and management of Peliyagoda Central Fish Market Management Trust
2. Effective operation, management and continuation of the Peliyagoda Central Fish Market Complex Management Trust Fund and making decisions related to the existing issues for effective management.
3. Taking each and every action for the fulfillment of above objectives without any limitation.

Central Fish Market Complex Management Trust
Profit & Loss
January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Stall transfer Fees	8,000,000.00
Other Income	2,481,954.20
Penalty Charge	1,911,180.00
Rent Income	131,032,831.22
Vehicle Parking	23,998,110.00
Water Charges	2,009,088.75
Solar Panel System	4,714,534.24
Total Income	174,147,698.41
Gross Profit	174,147,698.41
Expense	
Gratuity (Parithoshithaya)	982,463.00
Attandance Allowance Staff	992,342.09
Salary	19,838,120.00
EPF	2,769,273.85
ETF	514,796.65
Advertisment	465,232.60
Attendance Allo for t. Members	385,000.00
Bank Chg	1,925.00
Cleaning & Maintances	22,469,095.00
Bank Lone Boc	20,773,104.14
Electricity	
Genaral Area	19,810,224.25
RMU 03	27,056.63
Electricity - Other	323,530.87
Total Electricity	20,160,811.75
Fuel	1,556,750.00
Garbage Remover	4,056,774.19
legal Expenses	570,000.00
Other	539,221.22
Over Time	5,102,403.31
Repairs & Maintains	
Repair & Main of Equipme	3,684,565.61
Repair & Main Of Vehical	59,682.60
Repair & Maintance of Bulding	11,994,454.55
Repair & Maintance of Pipe	121,534.00
Repair & Maintains of Premisess	26,150.00
Total Repairs & Maintains	15,886,386.76
Security	16,868,273.80
Printing & Stationary	243,025.12
Tea Allowance	168,050.00
Telephone	
SLT	92,960.68
Dialog Broadband Network	22,281.54
Total Telephone	115,242.22
Water	14,663,565.95
Rate & Tax	3,167,879.68
Fuel Allowance	145,000.00
Trust Board Active Members Allo	894,675.00
Total Expense	153,329,411.33
Net Ordinary Income	20,818,287.08
Net Income	**20,818,287.08**