



PROGRESS REPORT 2025

Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources

Maligawatta, Colombo 10

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01

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 Statements

1. Sustainable management of aquatic resources
2. Strengthening good governance
3. Increasing fish production
4. Compliance with international and regional conventions, agreements and standards
5. Improving infrastructure
6. Strengthening occupational health and safety
7. Promoting food security and fishery products
8. Moving towards the concept of blue economy
9. Promoting research and development activities
10. Employment generation
11. Popularizing social protection mechanisms among fishers
12. Promoting entrepreneurship skills through training and capacity building
13. Coping with the impacts of weather and climate change
14. Promoting gender equality
15. Improving the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities
16. Reducing the dependency mentality on subsidies
17. Increasing private sector participation
18. Non-violation of human rights
19. Anti- Corruption
20. Working collaboratively with community organizations

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 No2, 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 facilities
 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 2025

Individual, physical and mental fitness is a factor that influences the macro development of a country. It should not be deviated from a national policy. The foundation of a well-being multifaceted personal environment is reflected in a healthy population. The policy is to achieve national aspirations by managing the human, physical and financial resources of the state sustainably in approaching global, regional and national criteria. Our fisheries industry has a great potential for that. Focus has been drawn to manage its resources sustainably and harvest quality fish resources. The national policy “A Thriving Nation, a Beautiful Life” has presented eight (08) principles and twelve (12) measures to develop the fisheries industry.

According to statistics, the exclusive economic zone of Sri Lanka is 517,000 square kilometers. The territorial waters are 21,500 square kilometers. The internal potential including lagoons and river estuaries is 4,890 square kilometers and this entire extent is the capacity of our natural aquatic resources.

Meeting the animal protein needs of the people, improving the professional and living standards of the entire fishermen about 320,470 people who handle the labour in that regard, minimizing post-harvest losses, providing fish to the consumer at a reasonable price and developing infrastructure etc., are the main objectives.

70% of the entire fishermen or 225,480 fishermen are engaged in the marine fishing industry. Statistics confirm that the number of people engaged in offshore and deep-sea fishing is 33,980. The number of family units of fishing professionals is 272,900. Accordingly, statistics confirm that the number of people directly depending on the fishing industry is 1,031,160. According to estimates, the number of people engaged in and depending on indirect occupations related to fishing industry is 2.7 million. As a percentage, 12.3% of the total population earns their livelihood based on the fishing industry.

During the period from January to September 2025, a fish harvest of 237,395 MT has been harvested from the marine fishing industry and 44,360 MT has been harvested from the freshwater fishing industry. It is 281,755 MT in total.

Meeting the protein needs of the people is one of the main objectives and during the said period, per capita fish consumption has reached 34.03 grams per day. The local fishing industry has been able to meet 60.5% of the country's total fish consumption need.

In view of the existing challenges, it was expected that the fisheries industry would make a greater contribution to earning foreign exchange and during the period from January to September 2025, Rs.68,889.0 million has been earned from exports. That is USD 230.1 million.

The contribution of the fisheries sector to increase the national export revenue is 2.4 %. Out of this, 1.3% has been exported to European countries, including the European Union, and 1.1% to non-European countries. Moreover, the income earned from the export of ornamental fish during the said period is Rs.5,382.9 million.

A capital provision of Rs5,278.54 million and a recurrent provision of Rs2,020.04 million were allocated for the current year from the 151st budget head. Its financial progress as at September 30th 2025 is Rs1,320.78 million and Rs.1,442.11 million respectively. A capital provision of Rs187.00 million and a recurrent provision of Rs.4,191 million were allocated to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under the expenditure head 290 for the year 2025. Its financial progress is Rs. 46.83million (25%) and Rs.2,564.60 million (61.19%).

Under the development of fishery harbours, plans have been prepared for the development of Ambalangoda, Hikkaduwa, Valachchenai and Dodanduwa, and it is proposed to implement the Valachchenai fishery harbour in the year 2026. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has also been received for the same. The amount allocated for the development of 62 fishing piers and anchorages in 04 districts of the Northern Province is Rs.280 million.

Public and private institutions have entered into a joint agreement to provide early warning to ensure the occupational safety of fishermen engaged in the fishing profession near the coast. The number of beneficiaries of that is 120,000. According to statistics, the number of multi-day fishing vessels monitored by the vessel monitoring system is about 4,869.

This monitoring process, which has been praised by the European Commission, has also been identified as one of the most modern monitoring methods in Asia. A number of programmes were implemented in this year including ensuring food and nutritional security of the rural population, providing breeding facilities for the development of livelihood, transportation, establishing new hatcheries, importing mature fish, and awareness programmes using the grants from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Considering the global market innovation methods and competitive opportunities, three (03) new ornamental fish varieties were introduced.

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 2026.

Contribution to the Overall Fish Production

1.1 Increase of the Annual Fish Production

The total fish production of the country is 281,755 Mt. from January to September in 2025. Coastal fishery industry has contributed the larger proportion of it. It is 45.6% of fish production from coastal fisheries and 38.7% from deep sea fisheries and 15.7% 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 September, harvest of 109,085 Mt. from deep sea fish production and 128,310 Mt from coastal fish production could be obtained and the total marine fish production was 237,395 Mt.

1.3 Inland & Aquaculture Fish Production

During January to September 2025, the total inland fish & aquaculture production was 44,360 Mt and its contribution was 15.7% to the total fish production.

The total fish fingerling production was 51.44 million by 30th Sep 2025 and 19.01 million out of the above was produced at the Aquaculture breeding development centers 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 29.08 million by 30th Sep 2025 and 16.57 million out of the above was produced at the Aquaculture breeding development centers and the private sector has contributed to produce the balance.

Also, the private sector has produced 611 million 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 2025.

Table 1.1 Statistics for the Total Fish Production									
Fish Production (Mt.)									
Fishing Sub-Sector		2020	2021	2023	2024	2024 (Jan-Sep)	2025 (Jan-Sep)	Change in 2025-2024 (%)	Contribution (%)
1	Off shore//Deep Sea	144,370	153,415	128,950	143,390	105,330	109,085	3.56	38.7
2	Coastal	182,560	178,260	164,995	165,040	124,090	128,310	3.40	45.5
	Total Marine	326,930	331,675	293,945	308,430	229,420	237,395	3.48	84.3
3	Inland Capture	84,310	80,720	93,440	87,210	70,375	34,290	(51.28)	12.2
4	Inland Culture	10,140	9,105	8,085	7,800	6,560	4,530	(30.95)	1.6
5	Shrimp Farms	7,360	14,410	11,600	7,320	5,735	5,540	(3.40)	2.0
	Total Inland	101,810	104,235	113,125	102,330	82,670	44,360	(46.34)	15.7
	Total Production	428,740	435,910	407,070	410,760	312,090	281,755	(9.72)	100.0

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

Table 1.2 Monthly Fish Production Statistics								
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	
2025	109,085	128,310	237,395	34,290	4,530	5,540	44,360	281,755
Jan	13,920	15,390	29,310	3,775	245	470	4,490	33,800
Feb	14,520	17,230	31,750	3,325	235	265	3,825	35,575
March	13,885	16,380	30,265	3,520	285	280	4,085	34,350
Apr	11,790	13,640	25,430	4,890	240	480	5,610	31,040
May	9,090	11,820	20,910	3,890	290	790	4,970	25,880
June	9,150	11,990	21,140	4,265	360	785	5,410	26,550
July	11,230	13,670	24,900	3,970	530	700	5,200	30,100
Aug	12,860	14,260	27,120	3,405	895	1,160	5,460	32,580
Sep	12,640	13,930	26,570	3,250	1,450	610	5,310	31,880

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 September 2025 was 34.03 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, Maldives fish, and fish for food 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. 80.3% of the imported fish is mackerel, which is used as a raw material for the local canned fish industry during the period of shortage of local fish production. These imports are very important to fill the gap between domestic fish production and consumption. During the period from January to September 2025, 42,796.3 metric tons of fish and fish products were imported, valued at Rs.25,993.1 million.

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

Item	2022	2023	2024	2024 (Jan-Sep)	2025 (Jan - Sep)	Change % 2025/ 2024	Percentage to Total
Dried Fish	3,470	3,511	5,331	3,793.1	4,234.1	11.6	16.3
Dried Sprats	9,955	9,011	14,610	9,430.9	8,159.5	-13.5	31.4
Maldives Fish	926	926	1,422	929.5	1,147.3	23.4	4.4
Caned Fish	2,672	6,173	3,318	2,815.6	75.2	-97.3	0.3
Fish for food	2,108	2,744	5,186	3,884.6	6,156.3	58.5	23.7
Live Fish	430	369	486	354.9	369.2	4.0	1.4
Other	2,103	4,001	6,320	5,270.1	5,851.4	11.0	22.5
Total	21,664	26,734	36,672	26,478.6	25,993.1	-1.8	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.)	
	2024	2025 Jan-Sep	2024	2025 Jan-Sep
Live fish	n.a	n.a	7,392	5,385.2
Prawns	3,432	2,183.0	8,921	6,064.3
Lobster	82	76.9	790	689.7
crabs	2,187	1,273.7	9,056	6,623.6
Sea Cucumber	252	224.1	3,202	2,296.8
Other Mollusca	2,211	1,935.0	4,367	3,695.6
Shark fin	100	48.2	1,175	403.2
Shark Maws	10	7.0	290	145.7
Oysters & shells	465	180.8	234	144.6
Fish for food	13,451	12,354.9	49,731	42,595.5
Other	367	352.0	1,082	844.7
Grand Total	22,556	18,635.5	86,241	68,889.0

1.7 Ornamental Fish Exports

Introduction of new ornamental fish species, breeding activities, prevention of spreading diseases, conducting trainings & awareness programs 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 5,382.9 Mn. could be earned through Ornamental fish exports during the period of January to September 2025.

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

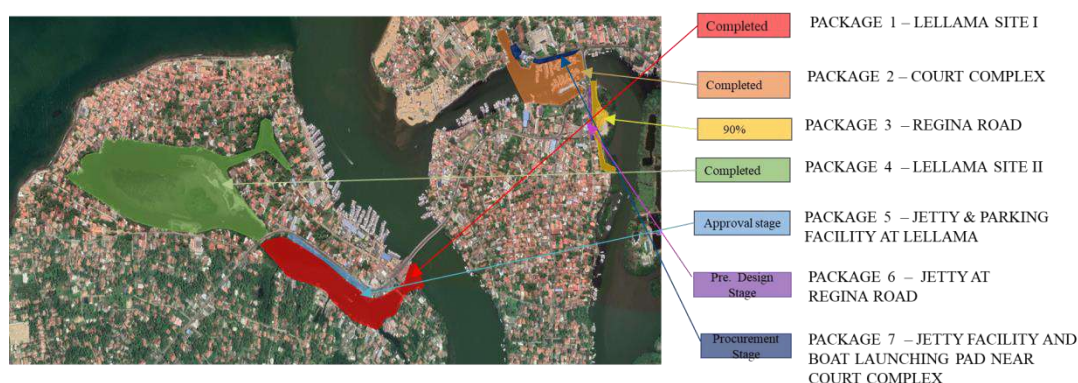
It is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries to plan, direct and manage all the development programs aimed at the development of the fisheries sector and to prepare policies that affect the overall development of fisheries. Accordingly, the main role of this ministry is to coordinate 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. Lagoon Cleanup and Conservation

1.1 Negombo Lagoon Development

Project Description:

This project is being implemented in 3 phases. Out of which, the number of packages implemented under Phase I is 7. The total cost of the 7 packages in Phase I of the project is Rs. 1,000 million. (Packages I, II and IV have been already completed)



1. Package III - Lagoon Development in the Rajina Road Area

Under Package III, the dredging of the lagoon near Queen's Road commenced on 20.07.2018, and the physical progress of the lagoon is currently 90%.



I. 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.

II. Package VII - Construction of Jetty near Court Complex

Under Package VII, a 15-meter wide and 100-meter long jetty will be constructed. The design and planning were completed and procurement process is in final stage.



2 Construction of Gandara Fisheries Harbour

i. Project Description:

The following items will be constructed under this project.

- ✚ Construction of breakwater
- ✚ Construction of platform
- ✚ Construction of shore facilities

Construction of fish auction hall, net processing center, sanitation facilities, shop building, staff dormitory, offices for fisheries inspector and coast guard, accommodation facilities, pumping stations, garbage collection point, weighing station, oil supply and water tanks

ii. Project Start: 2020.12.07

iii. Project End: December 2026 (Cabinet approval received)

iv. Revised Project Value: Rs. 11,354 million (excluding contingent costs at 10% and VAT)

v. Project Financial Progress:

Year	Financial provisions Rs.Mn	Cost Rs.Mn	Note
2020	408	202.48	
2021	1,710	1,595.30	
2022	1,599.44	1,145.43	
2023	2534.59	2,353.00	
2024	3,199.90	2,795.2	
2025	1,328	697.0	Financial progress as at 31.08.2025

vi. Physical Progress:

The progress is shown below.

Accordingly, the expected physical progress of the Gandara Fisheries Port Construction Project as of 31.08.2025 was 87.51% and its physical progress is 78%.



Breakwater



Construction of the platform wall



Construction of travel lift bay



Construction of the Fisheries Office



Construction of underground water tank



Construction of the fuel office



Construction of the administrative office



3 Myliddi Fisheries Harbour

The Cabinet has approved the project to be implemented in several phases, including the renovation of the docks, jetties and boat lights, dredging of the harbour basin including the access canal, construction of an auction hall, a net repair hall, a fuel filling station with a storage tank, a community hall, an administrative office, official residences for administrative officers, public facilities and coastal infrastructure. Accordingly, Phase I and II have been completed and handed over for operational activities, while Phase III will be constructed by Ceynor Company.

Project Phase III

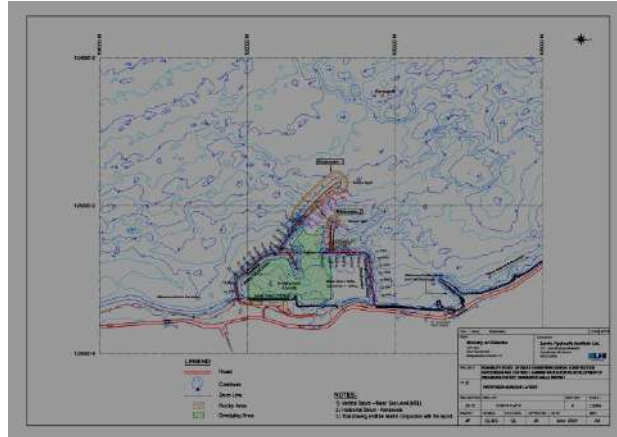
Phase III will provide beach facilities including an auction hall, administrative office, official quarters for administrative officers, common facilities and beach-related infrastructure. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2026.



4 Feasibility Study, Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment

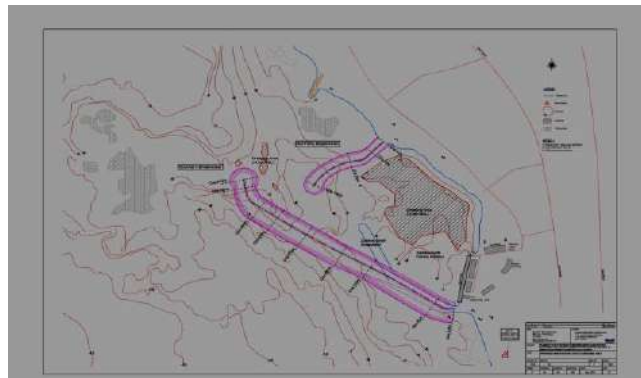
Upgrading Ambalangoda Fisheries Harbour

Upgrading Ambalangoda Fisheries Harbour - Planning has been completed. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed and the report has been referred to the Technical Committee of the Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management.



Upgrading Hikkaduwa Fisheries Harbour

Upgrading Hikkaduwa Fisheries Harbour - Planning has been completed. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed and the report has been referred to the Technical Committee of the Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management.



Upgrading Valachchena Fishing Harbour

- Upgrading Valachchena Fishing Port - Planning has been completed. Approval has been received for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Approval has been received and Cabinet approval has been received for implementation in the year 2026.

Upgrading Dodanduwa Fisheries Harbour

- Upgrading Dodanduwa Fisheries Harbour - Planning has been completed. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed and the report has been referred to the Technical Committee of the Department of Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resources Management.

5 Construction of Mawella Anchorage

The project has been referred to the Coastal Conservation Department for environmental approval and discussions have been held with stakeholders for the construction. The stakeholders have agreed to the structural plan for coastal erosion. The plans, the bidding documents for the invitation to bid have been finalized and the tendering process is currently underway to select a contractor.

6 Construction of Rekawa Anchorage

- Planning has been completed. It should be obtained further approvals

7 Development of the Fisheries Industry in the Northern Province

Under the 2024 Budget Proposal, Rs. 500 million was allocated for the development of existing fisheries landing sites and anchorages in the Northern Province. The 2025 Budget allocated Rs. 280 million for the development of existing fishing piers and anchorages in the Northern Province.

62 existing fishing piers in the Jaffna, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi districts will be developed.

Financial progress of the project: Rs. 183.41 million (as of 31.08.2025). Work has been completed so far.

4 fishing landing sites to be developed in Mannar District

- Dredging of Channel - Pallimunai Landing Site – 100%
- Construction of Saveriyapuram Coastal Road 700 meters long – 100%
- Construction of Thomayarpuram Chilawathurai Coastal Road 500 meters long -100%
- Construction of Kondachchi Kuda/Kakkupudaiyan - Coastal Road – 100%

Mullaitivu District

4 fishing landing sites to be developed in Mullaitivu District

- Development of 500 meters of Iranapalai Antoniyar Church Road – 100%
- Construction of Net Processing Building at Teethakara Fishing Pier – 100%
- Development of 900 meters of Chammalai Village Council Road – 100%
- Development of 900 meters of Neethal Mullivaikkal Sinnappar Church Road – 100%
- Development of 900 meters of Uppamaveli Road – 100%

Kilinochchi District

09 fishing landing sites are being developed in Kilinochchi District. Out of which,

- 03 boat access road cleaning,
 - ✓ Nachchikuda. Iranimatha Nagar landing site boat access road cleaning - 100%
 - ✓ Nachchikuda, Yagbar landing site boat access road cleaning - 100%
 - ✓ Poonakari. Cleaning of the boat access road at Valaimati Jetty - 100%
- Construction of 01 net processing building,
 - ✓ Construction of net processing building at Nachikuda and Nallyan Jetty - 100%
- Renovation of 01 fish auction hall,
 - ✓ Renovation of Nachikuda Kumlamuwani fish auction hall - 100%
- Renovation of 02 fish auction halls and net processing building,
 - ✓ Renovation of Nachikuda Kiranchi fish auction hall and net processing building - 100%
 - ✓ Renovation of Poonakari Kautharimune fish auction hall and net processing building - 100%
- Road development 01,
 - ✓ Nachikuda Valaipadu St. Anne's Temple Road - 100 meters 700 Road Development - 100%
- Installation of Beacon Lights
 - ✓ Installation of Beacon Lights in Palai Kilali - 100%

Jaffna District

The development of the fishing landing site in the Jaffna district is being implemented under Phase I and II. The procurement process has been completed and the contract has been awarded.

- Phase I - The procurement process has been completed and the contract has been awarded.
As a result,
 - ✓ Cleaning of 25 canal piers where vessels pass will be carried out.
 - ✓ Solar Lights will be installed on the piers and roads of 17 piers.
- Phase II - The procurement process has been completed and the contract has been awarded.
As a result,
 - ✓ Construction of a culvert on the Katkovaalm Theerthakkarai Beach Road - 100%
 - ✓ Reconstruction of 1700 meters of the Udayapuram Beach Road - 100%
 - ✓ Development of the Gurunagar Auction Hall parking lot - 100%

Other Activities Being Implemented

Sri Lanka becomes a State Party to BBNJ Convention

Sri Lanka's Instrument of Ratification on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) was deposited with the United Nations on 16 September 2025, becoming a State Party to the Convention.

The ratification of the BBNJ agreement marks another milestone in Sri Lanka's continued legacy of leadership in ocean governance. By ratifying the BBNJ Agreement, Sri Lanka will have the opportunity to benefit from fair and equitable sharing of resources such as marine genetic resources (MGRs) and digital sequence information (DSI) from areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Agreement also prioritizes capacity building and the transfer of marine technology, empowering developing countries like Sri Lanka to enhance its capabilities in conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. It also enable Sri Lanka to work collectively with other nations to protect biodiversity, build climate resilience, and advance Sustainable Development Goals.

WTO Fisheries Subsidies by BOBP-IGO towards capacity Development

Sri Lanka deposited its instrument of acceptance for the **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies** and **formally signed its instrument of acceptance** for the Agreement with the WTO on **06 August 2025**. Through this step, Sri Lanka reaffirms its commitment to **responsible stewardship of the oceans**, a principle embedded in the national policy of *“Thriving Nation and a Beautiful Life.”*

By ratifying the Agreement, Sri Lanka aligns its national laws with global standards to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and protect overfished stocks, thereby strengthening its role in the global effort to conserve marine biodiversity.

Sri Lanka has currently in the process of preparing project proposals to obtain technical assistance and capacity-building support under the dedicated fund established through the Agreement.

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.

Objectives

- Management, regularization, conservation and sustainable development of fishing activities in compliance with the 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 for 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 platform 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.

01. 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.

1.1. 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 DiyawaraKekulu children's saving programme
- 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

1.2 Ensuring the safety of fishermen

Table.01: Progress on the activities for ensuring the safety of fishermen

Activity	Progress up to 31.08.2025
Total number of fishing vessels insured	27,986
Total number of fishermen insured	10,194
Number of persons contributing to the Fisheries Pension Scheme	69,095
Issue of seaworthiness certificates	28,421
Registration of fishing vessels	35
Registration of fishing gear suppliers	19
Registration of fishing equipment suppliers	07
Compensation for natural disasters	02
Opening of Diyawara Kekulu Children's Savings Accounts	316
Total number of Fisherman's Identification Cards issued	1,528
Total number of Vessel Pilot Licenses issued	871

1.3 Diyawara Diriya Loan Scheme

Under Diyawara Diriya Phase One (1), loan facilities amounting to Rs. 1 billion has been provided for 755 beneficiaries while loan facilities amounting to Rs. 1.8 billion has been provided for 1017 beneficiaries under Diyawara Diriya Phase Two (11). The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is already remitting 4% interest installments to the Bank of Ceylon and the payments have to be continued until 2031.

1.4 Various programs implemented by the Development Division of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the year 2025 and their progress

1.4.1 The program to revive the fisheries industry by mitigating the impact caused on the fisheries sector due to the economic crisis

Under the program of reviving the fisheries industry by mitigating the impact caused on the fisheries sector due to the economic crisis, an amount of Rs. 2,086,706,652.52 has been distributed among the 154,035 OFRP, IMUL, I DAY, MTRB vessel owners in October, November, December 2024, January, February and March 2025 covering 15 fisheries districts.

1.4.2 Progress on measures taken to regulate the impact on the fishing sector due to the fire incident on the cargo ship MV X Press Pearl on 21st May

On 20.05.2021, the MV X-Press Pearl caught fire off the coast of Colombo while carrying cargo, and although it was initially brought under control, it flared up again and continued for several days. The ship sank completely off the coast of Pamunugama on 02.06.2021, and it is considered the worst marine disaster in the country's history.

The marine pollution caused by the release of a large amount of toxic/hazardous chemicals included 46,960 low-density and high-density polyethylene bags in 20 containers, which resulted in the release of at least 70-75 billion plastic beads onto the west coast. Marine pollution resulted in the deaths of turtles, dolphins, whales and a large number of fish species that washed ashore after the incident, cause for which was confirmed to be marine pollution.

Due to the heavy marine pollution, the government imposed a fishing ban in the western coastal region for more than a year. As a result of the prolonged fishing ban in the affected region, a significant number of direct fishers and indirect beneficiaries of the fisheries industry have been affected by this incident, and 23 categories of fishers and 24 types of other occupations related to the fisheries industry have been identified as the victims of the incident.

Table 02 : Particulars of the affected direct fishermen

District	Number of Fisheries Inspectors' Divisions directly affected	Number of affected direct fishermen	Number of affected indirect fishermen
Gampaha	13	11,081	3,866
Colombo	10	3,250	851
Kalutara	02	701	171

Compensation has been paid in 4 stages for the direct fishermen mentioned while in one stage for the indirect fishermen as follows.

Table 03 : Amount of compensation granted

District	Amount of compensation granted (Rs.)				
	Statage 1 (Rs.)	Statage 2 (Rs.)	Statage 3 (Rs.)	Statage 4 (Rs.)	Total Amount (Rs.)
Gampaha	206,197,500.00	242,825,000.00	551,220,000.00	1,006,356,485.90	2,006,598,985.90
Colombo	58,942,500.00	74,720,500.00	205,233,125.00	300,846,344.00	639,742,469.00
Kalutara	14,170,000.00	16,312,500.00	37,285,000.00	72,880,360.00	140,647,860.00
For netting gear	2,067,515.00			4,474,410.00	6,541,925.00
Compensation for damage to aquaculture		1,154,930.00			1,154,930.00
Total (Rs.)	281,377,515.00	335,012,930.00	793,738,125.00	1,384,557,599.90	2,794,686,169.90

Provision of Allowance for Administrative Expenses

Several government institutions worked hand in hand 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. In that case, 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, action was taken to pay an allowance for 292 officials of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for performing administrative tasks including assessing the damage caused to the fisheries industry, identifying people who lost their livelihood, and paying compensation etc.as from 21.05.2021.

Appeals made by fishermen

Appeals have been made from time to time by persons saying that either they were aggrieved due to the Express Pearl ship accident but were unable to claim compensation or they were engaged in fishing related occupations. These appeals have been forwarded to the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources to submit the same to the insurance company concerned while getting them verified and recommended to be the truly aggrieved persons by referring the same to the appeal committees and rural, regional, district committees . Further action will be taken in accordance with the instructions given by the Ministry in this regard.

Table 04 : Summary of total appeals

	Summary of total appeals			
	District	Number of total appeals received	The number recommended by the appeal committees.	The number recommended by the rural, regional and district committees
1	Gampaha(Negombo)	6097	3136	2033
2	Colombo	307	245	173
3	Kalutara	226	142	108
	Total	6630	3523	2314

1.4.3 Improving Safety at landing sites

With the aim of developing infrastructure facilities in landing sites, the procurement process for the purchase of 45 beacon lights and electric lights has been completed and is underway to provide them for selected the landing sites. In addition, 22 beacon lights and electric lights are to be purchased and provided for selected landing sites in the future.

1.4.4 Minimizing the impact on the fisheries industry owing to the natural disasters as well as the obstructions caused to the coastal fishing sector (Infrastructure Development /2090-1-1-13-2506)

Provisions of Rs. 3 million have been disbursed to the relevant District Secretaries for cleaning and development of canals/estuaries in order to ease the movement of artisanal fishing vessels operating in the fisheries districts of Puttalam, Matara, Jaffna and Negombo, and for facilitating the anchoring of fishing vessels at the Mylady Harbour, Jaffna.

1.4.5 New Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme

A new Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme is scheduled to be launched jointly by the Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board, the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Sri Lanka Aquaculture Development Authority. Accordingly, awareness programmes have been conducted among the officers of the Department of Fisheries regarding this new Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme so that it is proposed to hold enrolment drives in the future having educated the fisher community about the new Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme.

1.4.6 Program of providing 500 prefabricated housing units under the assistance of the Chinese Government for low-income fisher families in the northern and eastern provinces 2024

500 prefabricated housing units valued at Rs.750 million 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 constructed for the low-income fishermen engaged in active fisheries industry in the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Kalmunai. In accordance with the criteria for selecting the beneficiaries under this program, the identification of beneficiaries in all districts has been completed. The procurement of raw materials required to prepare the foundation of the prefabricated housing unit and the preparation of the foundation are currently underway..



Batticaloa District



Kilinochchi District

1.4. 7Program to provide 75,000 fishing nets for the low-income fisher families in the Northern and Eastern provinces under the aid of the Chinese government

Table 05: Summary of distribution of netting gear subsidy

District	Number of selected beneficiaries	Number of nets approved and transported for each district	Number of beneficiaries for whom nets were distributed	Number of nets distributed
Jaffna	3,614	21,684	3,449	20,694
Trincomalee	2,625	15,750	2,482	14,892
Mannar	2,309	13,854	2,006	12,036
Batticaloa	1,589	9,534	1,370	8,220
Mullaitvu	583	3,498	466	2,796
Kalmunai	887	5,322	887	5,322
Kilinochchi	870	5,220	665	3,990
Total	12,477	74,862	11,325	67,950

2.0 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 the 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 fishery 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 fishing vessels (multi day boats)
- Mortgaging and settlement fishing vessels

- Cancellation of fishing boat registration
- Issue of licences to the 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 licence for sea weed transport and export
- Issue of permits for catching, possession, transportation and export lobsters
- Issuance 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 the financial management under foreign aid
- To prepare, maintain and report to the relevant agencies the list of vessels operating in international waters.
- Allowing local fishermen to engage in the fishing occupation 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 task of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and towards this end, issue of management licenses for fishing vessels and fishing operations and taking action to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing operations are being carried out. With regard to the year 2025, licences have been granted for various fishing operations and fishing vessels up to 31.08.2025 as mentioned below.

Table 06: Progress on each activity as at 31.08.2025 in the year 2025

Se. No	Activity	Expected Target	Progress as at 31.12.2024
1	Registration of fishing vessels (New)	2,000	1,332
2	Issue of High Seas fishing operations licenses	1,020	1,316
3	Issue of skipper licences	500	81
4	Issue of licenses for the import of ornamental fish	25	35
5	Issue of licences for the export of ornamental fish	30	28
6	Issue of licences for the re-export of ornamental fish	15	
7	Issue of licenses for the export of spiny lobster	80	26
8	Keeping in possession, transport of spiny lobster	10	16
9	Issue of licences for transport and keeping Chunks in possession	80	40
10	Issue of permits for the export of Chunks	40	17
11	Issue of licences for taking, collecting, keeping in possession and transport of beche de-mer	200	127
12	Issue of licences for the import, export and re-export of beche de-mer	150	84
13	Issue of permits for collecting transporting of seashells and manufacture of fancy goods	20	25
15	Registration for import of fish and fishery products	200	106
16	Registration for export of fish and fishery products	150	140
17	Registration for re-export of fish and fishery products	13	7
18	Allotment, approval and issue of registration numbers for new vessels	IMUL-100	48
		OFRP-1000	1,392
		MTRB-250	106
		NTRB-500	355
		NBSB-0	2
19	Issue of permits for the export of murex (Operculum of <i>Chicoreusramosus</i>)	15	08
20	Issue of permits for keeping in possession, sale, exhibition and transport of murex (Operculum of <i>Chicoreusramosus</i>).	15	12
21	Issue of permits for keeping in possession, sale, exhibition and transport of murex flesh (Operculum of <i>Chicoreusramosus</i>).	30	11
22	Export permits of <i>Chicoreusramosus</i> flesh	15	8
23	Issue of permits for the Transport, keeping in possession and exhibition of dead sea shells.	20	25
24	Issue of permits for the transport and export of sea weeds	8	9
25	Issue of log books	1,000	1,093

2.2 National Fishing Vessel Census

The lack of updated fishing vessel information is a challenge for taking management decisions. Due to this, a census of all fishing vessels in Sri Lanka was planned to be conducted in several phases. The first phase of this was the census of OFRP and MTRB vessels with outboard motor launched island wide from 4th August. In the second and third phases, all multi-day fishing

vessels and non-mechanized vessels will also be censused. Accordingly, the census of all OFRP and MTRB vessels with outboard motor in more than 900 landing sites around the Island has been completed.



2.3 Training on fishing inputs and gear



In conjunction with the fishing vessel census, training on fishing gear and fishing inputs was provided for all fisheries field officers at the Kalawewa Training Center.

3.0 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. Traceability 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 seafood at 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. It operates as the authorized body for the export of Sri Lankan fish and fish products.

The Division is mainly implementing the following regulations in force under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act relating to the export of fish products.

- Fish Products (Export) Regulations, 1998
- Fish Processing Establishment Regulations No. 01 of 2003
- Fish Catch Data Collection Regulations, 2014
- Aquaculture (Monitoring of Residues) Regulations, 2002

The Quality Control Sub-Office was established at the Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake since 2014, and this office operates 24X7 providing services for local exporters throughout seven days a week.

In addition, our attention has been focused on providing safe fish and fish products to the local consumer and necessary steps have been taken to implement the necessary basic work for that.

Furthermore, recruitments were made to fill the approved cadre positions which remained vacant, in order to carry out the duties of the Quality Control Division in a systematic manner. Accordingly, eight new officers were recruited for the post of Quality Control Officer who performs a technical function in this division. Accordingly, necessary steps have been taken to increase the capacity of the Quality Control Division.

A report on the main goals, objectives, tasks and progress of the division is given below.

Goal

This division, established under the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to meet the requirements set by the European Commission on fishery products exported to the European market, has been operating since 04.01.1999. Currently Sri Lanka is conforming to the obligations required to fulfill the legitimate requirements of all those countries to which fish is being exported by Sri Lanka at present.

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

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.
- Granting authority for fish processing establishments to process fish for export.
- Analyzing HACCP systems and approving.
- Regular inspection of fish processing establishments and providing guidance and taking necessary action to correct shortcomings.
- Inspecting fish landing sites and taking necessary measures to ensure the quality and hygiene of fishery products.
- Inspection of fishing vessels supplying fish for export and taking necessary measures to ensure the quality and hygiene of fishery 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 that issue test reports confirming the hygiene of export fishery 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 notices made by such importing countries.

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

The number of fish processing establishments approved by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, suitable for export to the countries belonging to the European Commission, has been increased from 50 to 55 (as of 31.08.2025).

There are 23 fish processing establishments approved for export only to countries not belonging to the European Commission whereas the number of establishments approved for fish packaging is 21. Out of which, 38 institutions export to the People's Republic of China, 17 to Saudi Arabia, and 18 to Russia.

3.2 Inspection and monitoring of the activities and implementation of official sampling program

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

Microbiological tests: For water, ice and fish products

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

3.3. Implementation of the National Aquaculture Chemical Residue Monitoring Program

Under this, inspection, sampling and analysis and taking legal measures related to the implementation of the Aquaculture Residue Monitoring Regulation published in 2002 will be undertaken. 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)

Conducting awareness programs:

Under this, awareness programs are mainly conducted to educate relevant stakeholders on the quality and health safety of fish and fish products.

Table 7:Progress of the Quality Control Division as at 31.08.2025 in the year 2025.

Activity		Annual Target	Progress as at 31.08	Percentage %
Ensuring hygiene and quality of the fishery products in the local market				
01. Conducting harbour inspection.		10	4	40%
02. Inspection of fish auction centers and public fish markets		4	1	5
03. Awareness programmes (fishers/traders)		10	2	60%
Ensuring hygiene and quality of the export fishery products				
01. Obtaining official samples - Institutes		300	125	42%
02. Awareness programs (Quality Control Officers / relevant Field Officers)		10	2	20%
03. Awareness programs (Aqua-culturists / Officers of fish processing establishments/fishers)		10	1	10%
04. Inspection of hygiene and sanitation at fishery harbours		20	1	5%
05. Inspection of hygiene, sanitary conditions and better handling of fishing vessels.		85	10	12.75%
06. Inspection fish processing	Number of inspections of establishments expected to be	120	63	52.5%

establishments for exports	conducted			
	Number of inspections of packaging and lobster collecting centers expected to be conducted	15	2	13%
07. Inspection of laboratories		5	2	40%
08. Inspection of hatcheries, freshwater aquaculture farms and brackish water, marine aquaculture farms.		40	5	12.5%
09. Laboratory testing of aquaculture chemical residues		Determined annually in accordance with the plan recommended by the European Commission and the United Kingdom.	5	30 %
10. Organoleptic examination during landing/processing		70	19	21.5%
11. Implementation of statistical data programs established by Regional fisheries management organizations.		Depending on the occasion	1	-
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	-	-
13. Notification by importing countries about the unsuitability of fish products.		Depending on the frequency of notifications about unfitness by the respective countries	10	-
14. Approval of Fish processing establishments for export.	Approval of new fish processing establishments		1	-
	Updating the registration of fish processing establishments.	63	45	-
15. Issue of fish catch certificates.		17,000 (No. of certificates)	14,095	83%
16. Issue of health certificates for exports (for European countries)		18,000 No. of certificates)	9,325	52%
17. 16. Issue of health certificates for exports (for non-European countries)		10,000 (No. of certificates)	7,425	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		
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	30	-

3.4 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 22 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.

Further measures are underway to regulate this industry and registering of the relevant canned fish processing establishments with our department under the Fish Processing Establishments Regulations No. 1 of 2003 has been initiated by the Quality Control Division of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and further steps are being taken in that regard. Currently, 12 establishments are operating under the Fish Processing Establishments Regulations No. 01 of 2003.

3.5 Introduction of Official Brand Logos of Fish and Fish Products approved by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Permissions for export of Sri Lankan fish and fish products are granted under the supervision of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under the Ministry of Fisheries Aquatic and Ocean Resources. At present, nearly one hundred (99) fish and fish product processing establishments registered with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources are exporting high quality fish and fish products to various foreign markets. Also, these products are gaining popularity among foreign consumers by acquiring a high brand name as Sri Lankan products in foreign countries.

Accordingly, Sri Lankan fish and fish product export processors have been identifying the need for a brand logo that would establish the country's identity for their products making requests in that regard for some time. In this case, suitable brand logos have been identified based on the proposals received from the relevant parties. Accordingly, after receiving the approval of the relevant institutions, the relevant brand logo is to be provided to the institutions that fulfil the requirements.

3.6 Encouraging the landing of high-quality, hygienic fish harvests brought by small-scale 1day fishing vessels aiming at export market.

The coastal fisheries industry in Sri Lanka is an important part of the country's economy, culture and food security, providing livelihoods to a significant portion of the population and contributing to the national fish production.

The fish harvest exploited by these small-scale fishing vessels contributes significantly to the country's overall fish production, and a significant portion of that harvest is of exportable species.

Although the coastal fisheries industry harvests a wide range of species with export demand, the poor handling conditions during harvesting and landing have resulted in the deterioration of the quality of the fish products, making it impossible to use the harvest as an export raw material. Accordingly, although there is a huge demand for the fish catch in the export market, exporters are facing a problem of providing a supply that meets the demand.

Accordingly, it is important to follow the correct processing methods to minimize post-harvest losses and provide high-quality fish products to the export market. For this purpose, programs were carried out in the fisheries districts of Chilaw, Kalutara and Negombo to provide the necessary equipment and facilities to the fishermen and to encourage them to bring the fish harvest exploited by small boats safely to land. Fish exporters and fishermen participated in this and information on the need for quality fish harvests was also exchanged.



Figure 01: Picture showing the meeting being held for the Fisheries District of Chilaw on 25.06.2025



Figure 02: Picture showing the meeting being held for the Fisheries District of Kalutara on 03.07.2025





Image 03: Photo showing the meeting being held for the Negombo Fisheries District on 09.07.2025

3.7 Fish Products Export, Import and Re-export Management Regulation (Standard Operating Procedure for Re-export (SOP))

Sri Lankan fish exporters are currently in a situation where the capacity of approved fish processing establishments in Sri Lanka and the demand of foreign applicants cannot be met. Accordingly, in order to maintain the sustainable continuation of the Sri Lankan fish and fish products export industry, a shortage of high-quality raw materials suitable for export was identified and due to this, some processing establishments were identified as being at risk of collapse. Accordingly, in accordance with the requests made by exporters for a long time, the relevant parties have decided to facilitate the import of tuna, sail fish and shrimp, which are essential for the sustainable continuation of fish exports, and to repair them locally and re-export them. Accordingly, necessary steps were taken to formulate the operational procedures with the consent of the relevant stakeholders.

Accordingly, two Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) with formal procedures and conditions were established for the import of shrimp, tuna, sail fish and prawns into Sri Lanka and necessary steps were taken to add value through licensed processing establishments and subsequently re-export them. All the monitoring activities here are being carried out by the Quality Control Division.

The aim is to address the decline in seafood exports by positioning Sri Lanka as a leading seafood processing center, especially by designing facilities for export and import purposes. Its strategic location, advanced processing facilities, The program aims to achieve a greater market share for Sri Lankan products in the global seafood trade, utilizing strong safety and management protocols and a skilled workforce.

3.8 Appearing before the special inspections conducted by importing countries.

The Quality Control Division is also undertaking to explore the new market opportunities for fish export thus providing new export avenues to our country at international level.

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

3.9 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 (24X7) as a service provider to exporters of fish and fish products.

Following a strong request by local fish product exporters, necessary steps were taken to expand the activities of the Quality Control Sub-Office at Katunayake. Accordingly, by expanding the duties of the Quality Control Sub-Office, it is aimed to provide uninterrupted service for the issuance of health certificates for fish products throughout 24 hours a day, seven days a week, thereby encouraging exporters and increasing foreign exchange earnings.

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

4.0 Investigation and Training Division

4.1 Building good relationship between fisher community, fisheries officer and the other parties.

The main objective of the Investigation Division is to implement the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 02 of 1996 and the regulations made thereunder so as 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 by means of 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.

4.2 Functions of the Investigation and Training Division

Investigation Unit

- Preparing plans for annual raids/inspections
- Carrying out investigations into violations identified through the Vessel Monitoring System
- Providing approval for District Assistant Directors for raids on illegal fishing activities and supervising inspections, raids and investigations at the district level.
- Mediation activities convening the Administrative Penalty Board and supervising the implementation of the administrative penalty collection system
- Conducting inspections/raids on fishing vessels, fishing gear production supply and bait supply establishments
- Conducting inspections and raids on fishing product processing and supply establishments

- Conducting inspections/investigations on radio centers and High Seas fishing units
- Providing emergency callings for officers to declare special investigations
- Coordinating with the Attorney General's Department regarding all investigations
- Providing information reports requested for investigations conducted by the National Intelligence Bureau and other institutions.

Training Unit

- Preparing the plan for the department's annual training and awareness program.
- Organizing awareness programs for fishermen and stakeholders at the national and district levels
- Preparing training courses for fishing vessel skippers and supervising skipper training programs held at the district level
- Coordination of first aid training programs for fishing vessel skippers/fishermen
- Enhancing the vocational education of members of fishing families, conducting alternative income generation programs and skill development programs for fisherwomen
- Providing training and coordination for students sent by the universities and the technical colleges to receive technical/internship training in the fisheries sector
- Organizing local training and capacity development programs for all officers
- Feedback and analysis on training programs and awareness programs
- Designing awareness-related pamphlets, booklets and videos and preparing specifications and scripts.

4.3 Training and Investigation Division - Progress from January to August 2025

Table 08: **Investigation Unit**- Progress from January to August 2025

Se. No.	Activity of the Unit	Performance Indicator	Expected Target	Progress
1	Supervision of investigations and legal proceedings against district level raids and illegal fishing activities.	Updated data report maintained on legal proceedings at the district level	Specific goals cannot be given.	425
2	Directing the requests from all district offices for the imposition of administrative penalties for the imposition of administrative fines according to the relevant process.	Number of cases which were subjected to administrative penalties		22
3	Conducting investigations into the violations detected by the vessel monitoring system.	Number of investigations into the violations detected by the vessel monitoring system.		676
4	Conducting special raids.	Percentage of implementation of the planned raids	5	1
5	Inspections and investigations related to fishing vessels, harbours, fishing gear, products and establishments supplying fishing baits.	1.No.of inspections	7	0
		2.No.of prosecutions	Specific goals cannot be given	0

Table 09: Training Unit- Progress from January to August 2025

Ser.No.	Activity of the Unit	Performance Indicator	Expected Target	Progress	No.of participants.
1	Raising awareness among the relevant stakeholders about fisheries laws and legal fishing practices.	Number of awareness programs for the stakeholders	3	8	347
2	Organizing training programs and capacity development programs for the officers of the Department.	Number of relevant programs prepared for officers	38	33	1,280
3	Organizing fishermen's awareness programmes at the district level	Number of awareness programs conducted at the district level	46	68	2,961
4	Directing the officers of the Department to training programs/ postgraduate/diploma courses held at outside institutions	Number of training programs conducted in coordination with Outside institutions	15	13	58
5	Acting as an external supervisor in providing industrial field training for students from universities /technical colleges.	Number of surveys conducted regarding the provision of industrial field training for the students from universities/technical colleges	Specific goals cannot be given	0	*



Figure 4: Special raids to be carried out for illegal possession of lobsters during the lobster fishing ban



Figure 5: Raising awareness among the relevant stakeholders about fisheries laws and legal fishing practices



Figure 6: Programmes conducted for the training sailors of Shiksha Navy Base, Poonewa Medawatchchiva.

5. Information Technology Division

5.1. Objective

The main objective of this division is to develop and maintain online applications for managing fisheries resources. The main focus areas are maintaining the departmental network, implementing the online application system, handling the relevant hardware, extensive data analysis and reporting, and training on information technology.

5.2 Main Activities

- Implementation of departmental online application among the clients of the Department.
- Maintenance and content management of the official website of the Department.
- Training of officers on departmental online application and basic information technology.
- Supervision and support of e-teams to improve the use of the e-log system.
- Introduction and implementation of the dynamic reporting system.
- Improvement of the use of software for data analysis.
- Implementation of the staff-based monitoring system
- Maintenance of departmental computer hardware and software.
- Introduction of the Vessel Monitoring System and provision for its maintenance and monitoring.

5.3 Implementation of the departmental services through online application.



Departmental processes are being successfully implemented having converted more than 30 manual processes into digital processes by the departmental online application. This includes registration of fishermen, registration of boats, collection of scientific data, etc. and many other processes. The departmental online application is currently running on the departmental server system and can be accessed using <http://msdfar.com>. 62000 fishermen, 99 vessels (including old data), more than 45,000 boats, 7300 skippers have already been registered and more than 15,000 operations licences have been issued using the departmental online application. For the year 2025, more than 50,000 online departures were executed 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. It also won second place in the 2024 Public Service Best Innovative Product/Project Selection Competition.

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

www.fisheriesdept.gov.lk.



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 on a daily basis 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 the Best Sinhala Website and the Merit Award for the Best Government Website in the Best Web Competition 2020.

5.5 Evaluation of online application use by the officials of the Department.

A marking 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 to the officers who got more points as encouragement of their commitment. By that, all officers were directed to perform their duties through this system.

5.6 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 to all the districts that informed the training requirement.

5.7 Improvement to the system

It is a special fact that the software development of the department is done by the software development officers of the Information Technology Division. In addition to the software development done so far, the following components were created and added to the MSDFAR system this year.

- Online collection of money
- System of providing online overtime allowance
- Online issuance of Special Management Permits issued by the Head Office
- Online issuance of marine engineering reports
- Departmental Online document repository

In order to identify and minimize the risks in the server system and applications, the Information Technology Division organized a security assessment of the department's servers, online application and all the department's applications. The system improvements to minimize the shortcomings identified in this assessment were also carried out by the software development officers of the Information Technology Division. As per the recommendations of this assessment, the MSDFAR system, which was operating on a physical server system until now, was transferred to a cloud server system. Therefore, all the basic work on cyber security has been completed.

5.8 Vessel Monitoring System

The monitoring of all multi-day fishing vessels departing for fishing at international waters, by using satellite technology, is a mandatory requirement of international regulations. The main reason for the European Commission's export ban imposed on the country in 2015 was the lack of a suitable Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the country. However, since 2015, only licensed vessels operating at international waters have been monitored by VMS, but in line with the above international regulations and fish export requirements, there was a need to cover all multi-day fishing vessels with VMS. This need also arose as a cost-effective method of detecting non-fishing and other illegal activities (e.g. illegal immigration, drug trafficking) carried out by multi-day fishing vessels.

Accordingly, the Australian Government has agreed to provide funding for the purchase of 4200 VMS devices that meet the above requirement. Accordingly, the vessel monitoring system has been operational since 2021. The Blue Tracker VMS transponder uses Iridium as a satellite service. The VMS system software, known as "Second Screen", is equipped with modern facilities and has very active vessel monitoring facilities. This enables the provision of effective services for fishermen through the VMS system. Monitoring facilities have also been provided for harbour offices located around the Island through a web-based system. Vessel owners who have manufactured vessels after 2021 will have to purchase new VMS devices. The VMS system

can be accessed through all relevant harbour offices and is centrally managed by the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) located at the head office premises. The Fisheries Monitoring Centre has also been modernized with all the latest technology. In addition, vessel owners can access the system to view their vessel details through a mobile app. The FMC is currently operational 24x7. The Navy has also been given access to this system to identify vessels at risk of illegal activities such as illegal fishing, human trafficking, drug trafficking and border crossing.

Currently, all multi-day vessels of over 34 feet in the country engaged in fishing operations in the Indian Ocean, i.e. about 4800 vessels, are constantly monitored by this system. Representatives of the European Commission who had an inspection visit to the country recently have also praised the country's VMS system as one of the most advanced monitoring systems in Asia.

6. 0 Operations Division

6.1 Providing communication facilities for the exchange of radio messages 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 a day. This provides daily weather reports and early warning of bad weather conditions to fishing vessels and facilitates are made to have essential communication between boat owners 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. 19 regional radio centers are working with the Head Office in 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 in normalcy using the old radios available in the Department of Fisheries, and the need for new radios for the above fishery harbours has become dire.

6.2 Taking action to provide licences 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 High Seas 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 10: Number of applications

Number of applications given for the licences of radio communication devices.) From January 2025 to August 31, (2025	356
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6.3 Substantiation of information required to claim insurance cover in case of accidents caused to fishing vessels and fishermen.

When dealing with accidents caused to the 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 11: Number of Accidents (From January 2025 to August 31, 2025)

Number of accidents reported at the High Seas	160
Deaths and disappearances at the High Seas	18
Number of fishing vessels destroyed due to accidents	05

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

Table 12: Release and repatriation of fishermen with vessels arrested in foreign countries (From January 2025 to August 31, 2025)

Country	Number of fishermen arrested	Number of fishing vessels arrested	Number of fishermen freed	Number of fishing vessels freed
India	05	02	00	00
Maldives	31	06	25	03
Seychelles	06	01	00	00
Madagascar	07	01	00	00

Assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Sri Lanka's High Commission in India and Maldives, France as well as in London is obtained for this release.

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

Table 13: Number of rescued fishermen and fishing vessels (From January 2025 to August 31, 2025)

Number of fishermen rescued	Number of fishing vessels rescued	Number of abandoned fishing vessels
948	158	02

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.

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

The 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 120,000 fishermen and their family members have registered in this information service in the year 2025 so far so that they are enjoying the benefits.

6.7 Awareness for fisher community

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 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 countries 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.

Table14: Number of departures given for fishing vessels that departed each harbour (From January 2025 to August 31, 2025)

	Harbour	Number of departures
1	Kalpitiya	255
2	Negombo	3,777
3	Dikowita	837
4	Beruwala	4,041
5	Ambalangoda	844
6	Hikkaduwa	663
7	Galle	4,720
8	Mirissa	2,454
9	Devinuwara	3,131
10	Kottegoda	890

	Harbour	Number of departures
14	Tangalle	1,023
15	Hambantota	607
16	Kirinda	415
17	Valaichchenai	12,152
18	Trincomalee	2,312
19	Point Pedro	161
20	Milady	111
21	Wellamankaraya	779
22	Kapparatota	407
23	Gandara	1,882

11	Nilwella	1,907
12	Kudawella	3,853
13	Saindamadur	846

24	Kalametiya	345
25	Chilaw	277

6.8 Inserting and managing of reports and vessel photographs into the database

Table 15: Inserting and managing log reports and vessel photographs into the database
(From January 2025 to August 31, 2025)

1.	Number of log copies received by the unit related to operations at the High Seas	3,678
2.	Number of verification reports issued in relation to the operations	3,678
3.	Number of log copies inserted into the log database	24,025
4.	Number of reports entered into the Vessel Photographic Data base maintained for IOTC requirements	122

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 16: Services (From January 2025 to August 31, 2025)

Services	Number of licences issued	Number of inspections
Transshipment of fish	08	08
Maintenance and supply services	08	01
Exchanging services of Security officers and foreign fishermen	08	01
Total	24	10

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

Thus, the number of observers deployed for vessels over 24 meters in length during the period from 01.01.2025 -31.08.2025 and the number of operations performed by those vessels are shown in the table below

Table 17: Fishing vessels

Total No.of fishing vessels> 24m	Number of active vessels by 2024	Total number of fishing operations	Number of scientific fishing vessel observations
05	04	05	00

6.9 Providing timely reports for the 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 18: **Progress on compliance**

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
5%	18%	47%	51%	60%	74%	77%	82%	87%	90%	86%	76%	83%	73.8%	71.2%

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

Currently, 82 VMS devices are being installed in the final stage.

Current VMS has the ability to provide cost-effective and efficient service to boat owners. In this case, 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 VMS system is accessible through all the relevant 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.

03

National Aquaculture Development of Sri Lanka (NAQDA)

Vision

To be the leading aquaculture service provider in south Asia, contributing to national food security and economic prosperity through sustainable and export-oriented aquaculture.

Mission

1. To promote and develop sustainable aquaculture practices that ensure the long-term assurance of food security for the nation.
2. To enhance Sri Lanka's foreign exchange earnings by supporting export-oriented aquaculture initiatives.
3. To provide innovative, efficient, and environmentally responsible services for the growth of the aquaculture sector.
4. To empower communities and stakeholders through technical support, capacity building, and responsible resource management.

The National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) is mandated to promote and regulate the sustainable development of aquaculture and inland fisheries for the socio-economic well-being of rural communities and the nation's food security. In 2025, NAQDA continued to strengthen its role as the lead institution in inland fisheries and aquaculture by implementing strategic programmes, expanding production systems, and enhancing community participation in reservoir fisheries management and aquaculture. This performance report outlines the key achievements and progress encountered during the year, and highlights NAQDA's contribution to national development priorities.

Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Production

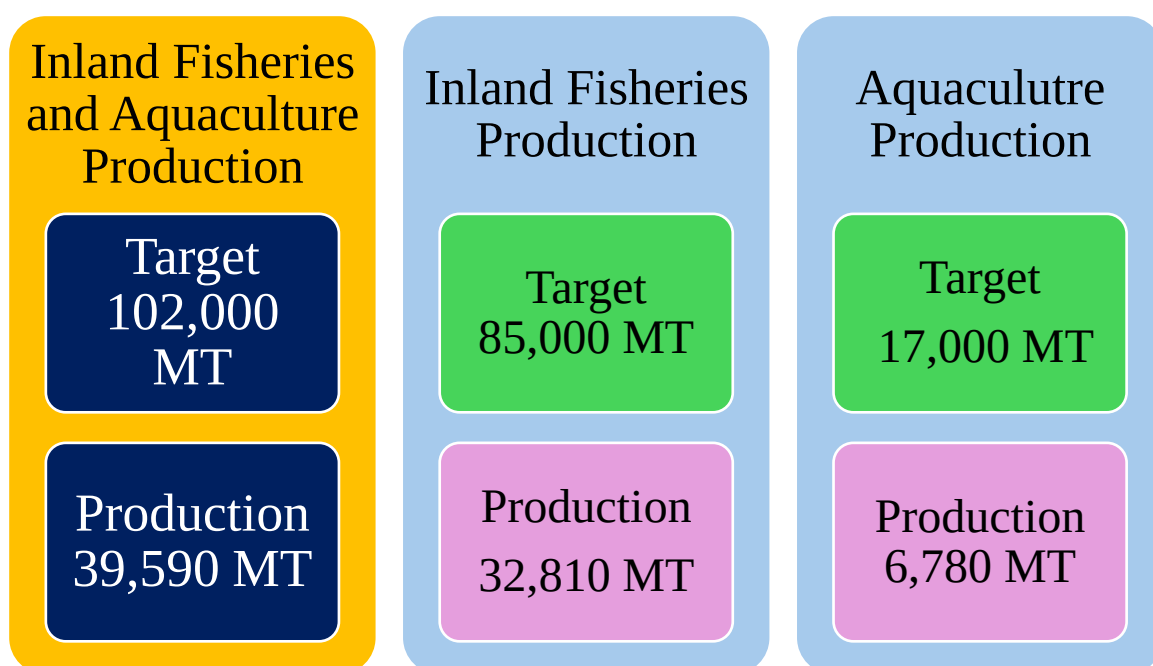


Figure 1: Inland fish and aquaculture production

During the first eight months of 2025, the total inland fisheries and aquaculture production in Sri Lanka amounted to 39,590 MT, representing 39% of the annual production target of 102,000 MT.

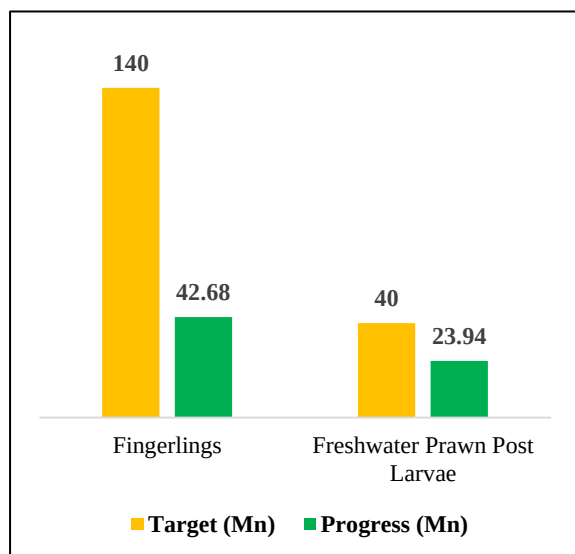
- Inland Fisheries Production contributed 32,810 MT, which is 39% of its target of 85,000 MT. This sector remains the dominant contributor, accounting for 83% of the total inland fisheries and aquaculture production up to August 2025.
- Brackishwater and Marine Aquaculture Production reached 6,780 MT, representing 40% of its annual target of 17,000 MT.
- This sector contributed 16% to the total inland fisheries and aquaculture production during the reporting period.

It is expected that inland fisheries production will increase significantly in the coming months with the seasonal reservoir harvesting.

Inland Fisheries Development

Development Activities

Stocking of Fish Fingerlings and Freshwater Prawn Post Larvae



Government special assistance programme for fish seed stocking

Government has allocated Rs. Mn. 200 for the seed stocking programme for the year 2025. Under this programme, it is planned to issue 16 million fish post larvae, 51 million fish fry and 16 million fish fingerlings from Aquaculture Development Centres and the progress is as follows.

Table 1: Progress of fish seed stocking programme

Description	Target (Mn)	Progress (Mn) 31.08.2025		Value (Rs. Mn)
Issue Fish Post larvae	16	11.79	74%	8.84
Issue Fish Fry	51	31.80	62%	49.30
Issue Fish Fingerlings	16	11.40	71%	74.75
Total				132.89

Business Plan Development for each perennial reservoir



In order to establish a long-term, sustainable inland fisheries system, NAQDA introduced a new mechanism in 2025, aligned with the Government's development initiatives. The program aims to enhance reservoir fisheries production through the consistent stocking of fish fingerlings in appropriate quantities and species.

Under this mechanism, each selected reservoir will operate under a comprehensive business plan, incorporating a scientifically developed fingerling stocking plan and a cash flow plan to ensure the sustainability of culture-based fisheries.

For 2025, a total of 115 perennial reservoirs were selected, and by August, business plans had been prepared for 75 reservoirs.

By integrating these strategies into their operations, fisheries organizations are better positioned to:

- Strengthen functionality and productivity through collective action and structured planning.
- Achieve financial stability while ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Serve as models for other fisheries societies aspiring towards self-reliance and growth.

Freshwater fish seed production

One of the major activities of NAQDA is the production of fish seed for stocking inland reservoirs to enhance fish production. The Aquaculture Development Centres (AQDCs) produced fish post larvae, fry and fingerlings. Post larvae and fry were distributed to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) managing mini-nurseries, Private Pond Owners (PPOs), cages for rearing to fingerling size. In addition, freshwater prawn post-larvae were produced at the Pambala, Kahandamodara, and Kallarawa AQDCs. Fish seed production and issuing up to August 2025 is presented in Figure 2.

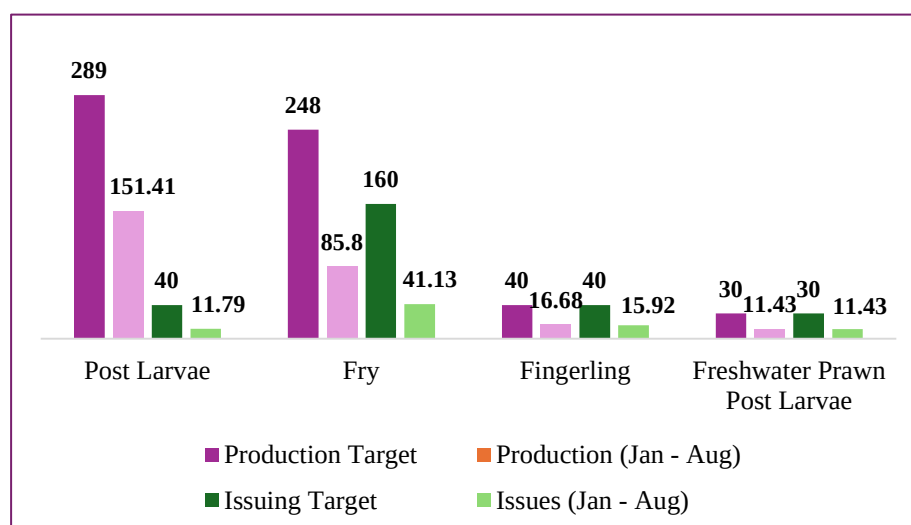


Figure 3: Fish seed production and issuing of AQDCS

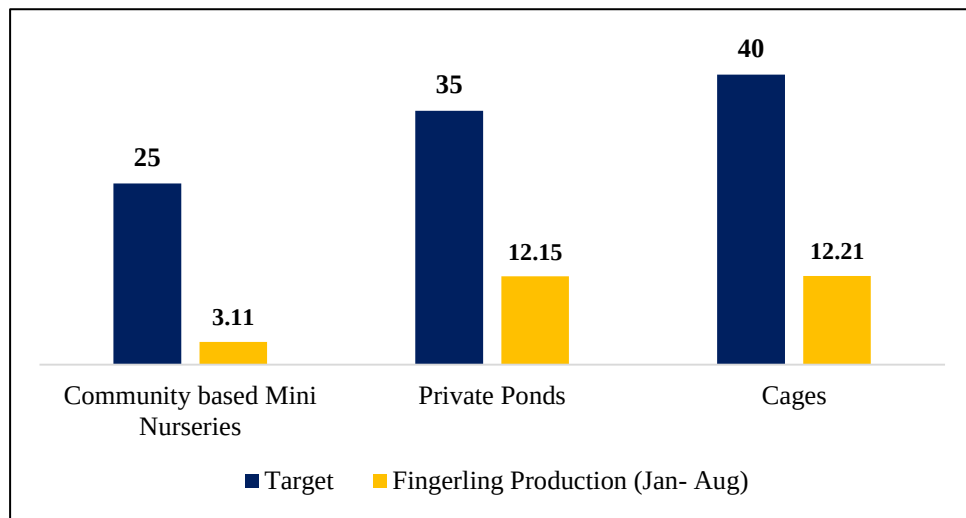


Figure 4: Fish fingerling production from Community based Mini Nurseries, Private Ponds and Cages



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 Project

The Japanese Government has funded 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, Aquatic and Ocean Resource. The project commenced in April 2024 and is scheduled for completion in December 2025. The following development activities were implemented during 2025.

- Upgrade four NAQDA Aquaculture Development Centres



Upgraded hatchery facilities at Inginiyagala Aquaculture Development Centre



Renovated 3 broodstock ponds and 1 mud pond at Dambulla Aquaculture Development Centre



Concreted Water storage tank bed at Iranamadu Aquaculture Development Centre



Shade nets for nursery tank system at Udawalawe Carp Aquaculture Development Centre

- **Upgrade Ekgal oya Mini Breeding Unit facilities to increase breeding and rearing capacities**



Concreted 3 mud ponds for Post Larvae rearing

- **Provide 03 fish fingerling transport bowzers to NAQDA**



- **Stocking of Fish Fingerlings**

District	No. of Fingerlings stocked (Mn) (Jan- Aug)
Anuradhapura	0.44
Batticaloa	1.12
Monaragala	0.49
Mullaitivu	0.65
Total	2.70

- **Establishment of 3 community based mini breeding units**

The key constraint to the sustainable growth of Culture-Based Fisheries (CBF) in Sri Lanka is the shortage of fish fingerlings, especially major carp species. Existing production facilities are limited by space and capacity and therefore, strengthening community-based breeding and rearing units is essential to ensure a reliable seed supply for CBF.

Accordingly, construction of three mini breeding units at Muthukandiya in Monaragala, Pulukunawa in Batticaloa and Padaviya in Anuradhapura are in progress.



Pulukunawa, Batticaloa



Muthukandiya, Monaragala



Padaviya, Anuradhapura

FAO funded Technical assistance for the development of a self-sustained culture-based inland fisheries cluster model in Ampara District

Under this project, Pannalgama, Ekgal Oya, Namal Oya, Himidurawa, and Konduwatuwana reservoirs, along with the Ekgal Oya mini breeding unit and the Raja Wewa mini nursery in Ampara District, were selected for development. The project commenced in 2024 and is scheduled for completion on 15th September 2025. The following development activities were implemented during 2025:

- **Import Broodstock**

On 28th July 2025, a consignment of 11,546 live carp was imported from Bangladesh, comprising Rohu, Catla, Mrigal, and Grass Carp. Following the quarantine period and upon confirmation of health clearance, the fish will be distributed to selected primary Aquaculture Development Centres (AQDCs) across the country.



- **Broodstock Collection from Reservoirs**

Broodstock collection from reservoirs involves capturing mature fish to use as broodstock. It is proposed to collect required broodstock for Ekgal Oya Mini Hatchery from the reservoir in Ampara District. Accordingly, 144 fish were collected from Ekgaloya, Namaloya, Jayanthi wewa, Kandikudi Aru reservoirs in Ampara District.



- **Bookkeeping and Record keeping Training for community**

Proper bookkeeping and record keeping is essential for managing community funds, planning and manage seed stocking and daily harvest, maintaining trust among members, preparing for audits, attracting external funding, and ensuring the long-term viability of development interventions. Many fisheries societies currently lack the capacity to maintain accurate



financial records, leading to inefficiencies, poor accountability, and missed opportunities. To address this capacity gap, a structured Bookkeeping Training Program was conducted targeting office bearers, treasurers, and suitable members of fisheries societies.

- **Awareness on Reservoir Fisheries Management**



Five awareness programmes were conducted for fisher community of five selected reservoirs to refresh and update on reservoir fisheries management and business plan development activities.

- **Feeding and Feed Management training for fisher community**

Two, 2-day training programmes were conducted for fisheries community at Ampara District on Feeding and Feed Management. 60 participants from Kalugal oya, Kanchikudi aru, Walathapitiya, Karangawa, Dumana, Walagama, Karagas wewa, Henanigala and Mahawanawala reservoirs were participated for the training programmes.



Coastal Aquaculture Development

Coastal Aquaculture Production (January – August 2025)



Shrimp

Production - 4,930 MT



Sea cucumber

- Wet Production - 382 MT



Sea bass

Production - 756 MT



Sea weed

- Wet Production - 546 MT

Development Activities

Establishment of a Sea cucumber hatchery, Jaffna

Sea cucumber farming is an emerging and promising sector within Sri Lanka's aquaculture industry. These species command high prices in international markets, particularly in China and other East Asian countries, where they are valued as a delicacy and for their medicinal properties. One of the primary challenges facing the sea cucumber industry in Sri Lanka is the lack of sea cucumber juveniles required for farming. This constraint has hindered the growth and sustainability of the sector. To address this issue, funds have been allocated through the National Budget to establish a commercial-scale sea cucumber hatchery in Jaffna, with an investment of Rs. 175 million.

The proposed hatchery is expected to produce 1.08 million sea cucumber juveniles annually, supporting farming activities across 300 acres of production areas. This initiative is projected to yield approximately 324 metric tons of wet sea cucumber production per year, generating an estimated USD 9.72 million in annual export earnings.

This initiative aims to enhance rural livelihoods, provide an alternative source of income, and generate much-needed foreign exchange for the country. By introducing sustainable farming practices and providing technical support, the sector has the potential to become a significant contributor to Sri Lanka's aquaculture exports while promoting community-based economic development.

Foreign Funded Projects ongoing in shrimp aquaculture sector

Smart and Sustainable Aquaculture through Effective Biosecurity and Digital Technology (GCP/GLO/086/ROK) Project

The Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), has funded the implementation of the project “Smart and Sustainable Aquaculture through Effective Biosecurity and Digital Technology”.

This project adopts a robust approach to strengthen biosecurity in the shrimp aquaculture industry. It aims to enhance communication, monitoring, and mitigation of biosecurity risks by leveraging smart and digital technologies. The initiative supports in adapting and effectively implementing biosecurity governance, systems. Development activities implemented during 2025

- Shrimp Farm Digitization and GIS Profiling

This includes collecting and digitizing data on shrimp aquaculture facilities particularly in the Northwestern Province to establish a reliable spatial database. The digitization of main sectors, sub-sectors, and shrimp farm boundaries was successfully completed, while the creation of KML datasets for these components is currently in progress. In addition, work has commenced on the digitization of individual shrimp ponds, marking an important step towards establishing a comprehensive digital mapping system for the shrimp farming industry.



Identified sectors for mapping



Shape file produced using digitized ponds

Ornamental Fish Industry

Ornamental fish keeping ranks as one of the most popular hobbies globally, second only to photography. The aesthetic appeal and decorative effect of aquariums have significantly contributed to the growing demand for ornamental fish. In Sri Lanka, the ornamental fish industry plays a pivotal role in the national economy by:



- **Earning Foreign Exchange:** In 2025 (Jan – July), Sri Lanka exported live ornamental fish valued at approximately **US\$ 13.93 million**. This positions Sri Lanka among the top exporters globally
- **Creating Livelihoods:** The industry provides employment opportunities across various sectors, including breeding, rearing, collection, export, and retail, thereby supporting the livelihoods of numerous individuals.
- **Contributing to Rural Development:** Small and medium-scale operations, particularly in rural areas, engage in captive breeding of freshwater fish species, contributing to local economies and community development.

The National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) plays a pivotal role in supporting the growth of this sector. NAQDA is involved in the development of new ornamental fish strains, advancement of aquaculture technology, provision of broodstock, fish disease diagnosis, and the delivery of training and technical assistance. These initiatives aim to strengthen ornamental fish and aquatic plant culture while enhancing export potential.

NAQDA operates dedicated Ornamental Fish Breeding Centres at Rambodagalla, Ginigathena, and Sevanapitiya, which focus on the production of ornamental fish and aquatic plants. Up to August 2025, these centers sold 2.26 million ornamental fish to producers and exporters. Additionally, the Ornamental Fish Breeding and Training Centre at Rambodagalla trained 1,660 individuals in ornamental fish farming, contributing to capacity building and rural development.

New Varieties Developed by NAQDA



Luminous Red Scissortail



Luminous Blue Scissortail



Silver Cobra

Through these initiatives, NAQDA contributes to the sustainable development and competitiveness of Sri Lanka's ornamental fish industry in the global market.

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

1. Research and Development (R&D)

NARA is responsible for conducting scientific research on both living and non-living aquatic resources. This includes studying marine and inland fish populations, assessing the health of coastal ecosystems like coral reefs and mangroves, and exploring potential for new resources like sea cucumbers and seaweed. The agency develops new technologies for fishing and aquaculture, and researches better methods for post-harvest handling and product development.

2. Conservation and Management

A major part of NARA's role is to ensure the sustainable use of Sri Lanka's aquatic resources. They conduct surveys to monitor fish stocks, gather data to inform fishing regulations, and advise on national policies for managing the country's extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This is crucial for preventing overfishing and protecting endangered species. NARA also investigates environmental emergencies, such as oil spills and pollution, and provides expert advice for mitigation and recovery efforts.

3. Advisory and Coordination

NARA acts as a key advisory body to the Ministry of Fisheries and other government agencies on scientific and technical matters related to fisheries and aquatic sector. The agency also plays a central role in coordinating research efforts with other institutions, both local and international. This ensures a unified approach to aquatic resource management and allows for the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

4. Knowledge Dissemination and Training

The agency is tasked with collecting, publishing, and disseminating scientific information to the public, policymakers, and the fishing community. NARA also provides training and extension services to stakeholders, from fishermen to aquaculture entrepreneurs, on new technologies and best practices. This helps transfer scientific findings into practical applications that directly benefit the nation's aquatic sector and economy.

1. MONITORING PROJECTS

1. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF MARINE LIVING RESOURCES, SEA BIRDS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF IOTC SPECIES IN SRI LANKAN WATERS

This project is focused on the sustainable management of Sri Lanka's marine resources, with a particular emphasis on coastal and large pelagic fisheries. It aims to provide evidence-based guidance by evaluating the socio-economic impacts of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) conservation measures on multiday fishers in key harbors like Dikowita, Negombo, and Beruwala. The research also includes assessments of seabird entanglement in tuna longline operations and shark bycatch in multiday fishing activities. Additionally, the project is using a combination of traditional and innovative methods, such as systematic port sampling and environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis, to monitor fisheries and assess marine biodiversity. To improve data collection, a web-based platform has been developed for recording fish length data at landing sites. The findings from this research will support Sri Lanka's commitments to SDG 14.4.1 and NDC 3, and strengthen its role in regional fisheries governance. DNA extracted from filtered water samples collected from Puttalam Lagoon and seawater from Beruwala and Kalpitiya showed high concentrations and has been sent for metagenomic amplicon sequencing, indicating strong potential for using eDNA analysis in biodiversity monitoring of Sri Lankan waters. Two kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) specimens and 21 grouper (*Epinephelus faviatus*) samples showing morphological differences were sent for molecular identification, which confirmed four grouper species and contributed to expanding the Sri Lankan and global grouper DNA barcode libraries. A total of 10 seabird entanglements in tuna longlines were reported through the survey along the western and southern coasts. Field surveys identified 13 shark species, with silky shark (48.5%) as the dominant species, followed by blue shark (26.4%) and shortfin mako sharks (18.1%); the length-frequency data indicate that silky sharks were mostly immature, whereas blue and tiger sharks included mature individuals. Ongoing analyses of multiday boat log sheets and published seabird distribution data aim to identify potential high-risk zones for seabird interactions in relation to oceanographic parameters.

2. FISHERIES INDEPENDENT SURVEYS (ACOUSTIC AND TRAWL) ON LIVING OCEAN RESOURCES USING R/V SAMUDRIKA (SRI LANKA NORWAY BILATERAL PROJECT – WP3)

Sri Lanka's fisheries face significant challenges due to overexploitation, particularly in coastal areas, as well as a lack of reliable data to monitor fish stocks. Fisheries independent surveys are crucial for understanding the status of key species like small pelagic fish and implementing sustainable management strategies.

Three acoustic surveys have been carried out in the Northeast, Southwest, and Northwest coastal waters by NARA's own RV Samuddrika to estimate the abundance of small pelagics. These surveys are complemented by plankton sampling to study ichthyoplankton (fish larvae) and measure oceanographic parameters, which help identify and protect fish breeding grounds. A parallel fish landing survey was also conducted to validate the acoustic findings.

A shrimp trawl survey has been conducted for the fourth consecutive year in the Kalpitiya trawl ground to monitor shrimp biomass and associated bycatch species. The latest results show a

continued low abundance of shrimps, while pony fishes remain the most common catch, consistent with previous years.

The time-series data generated from these independent surveys are critical for tracking changes in biomass and abundance, providing insights into the degree of exploitation, and guiding efforts to rebuild overexploited resources. Detailed findings and reports will be available following the completion of ongoing surveys and analysis.

3. SEA LEVEL OBSERVATION AROUND SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka, as an Island nation highly vulnerable to coastal hazards, the project provides the scientific foundation for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, sustainable coastal infrastructure development, and policy planning in alignment with international commitments such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

NARA has been presently maintaining six automated sea level monitoring stations at a functional state in Trincomalee, Point Pedro, Colombo, Mirissa, Dondra, and Hambantota. Eight number of monthly reports on sea level-related destructive events submitted to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) while sixty-four monthly sea level data products were uploaded to the NARA website for national and international use. An approval has been obtained from the Ceylon Fisheries Harbor Corporation (CFHC) to establish a new station at Wennappuwa fisheries harbor premises. For further network expansion, procurement of instruments for the Kirinda sea level monitoring station is in progress. Another two sea level monitoring station's (Point Pedro and Trincomalee) data has been directly connected to the NARA website through project website to introduce a real-time information system to capture, store, analyze and distribute all data and information related to sea level trend analyses, seasonal variation, and research outputs, enhancing accessibility for researchers, policymakers, and the public.

The annual sea level trends were estimated using the complete dataset spanning from 2006 to August 2025 (**Figure 1**). The long-term trend at the Colombo tide gauge station was compared against multiple independent sources, including Copernicus Marine Service satellite observations at the grid point closest to Colombo. The Results indicate that the sea level trend observed at Colombo is consistent with the satellite observation, exhibiting a positive rise of approximately 3.7 mm yr^{-1} (0.37 cm yr^{-1}) over the study period.

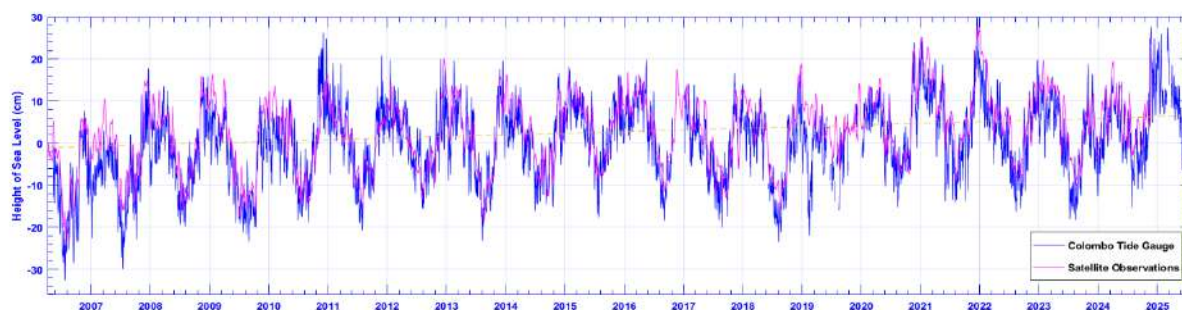


Figure 1: Comparison of sea level time series at Colombo from 2006 to August 2025. The blue line represents Colombo tide gauge observations, while the magenta line shows Copernicus Marine Service satellite data at the grid point nearest to the Colombo Sea level monitoring station. The yellow dashed line shows the trend line of the time series.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON SENSITIVE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS IN SRI LANKA

In a study on Sri Lanka's coastal ecosystems, which is part of a larger effort to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.3.1 indicator, which tracks ocean acidification significant differences in water quality were observed between the Kalpitiya and Negombo-Colombo regions, highlighting the impact of nutrient enrichment on biological productivity. The data collection is also for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 7 projects and in collaboration with IOC-UNESCO.

In the Kalpitiya area, particularly near the Kala Oya River outlet and Gange Wadiya, high nutrient concentrations were recorded, with Silicate-Si peaking at 435.55 µg/L, Phosphate-P at 21.65 µg/L, and Nitrite-N at 16.83 µg/L. This was linked to high turbidity, as seen by Total Suspended Solids (TSS) of 24.6 mg/L and a low Secchi depth of just 0.50 m. The nutrient influx stimulated biological growth, resulting in the highest Chlorophyll-a concentration (14.50 mg/L) in the lagoon, which corresponded with abundant phytoplankton (171,360 No/m³) and zooplankton (586,807 No/m³).

In contrast, the Negombo-Colombo coast showed generally lower nutrient levels. Surface water Silicate-Si ranged from 2.28 to 114.09 µg/L, and Chlorophyll-a varied from 0.06 to 7.91 mg/L on the surface. While biological activity was present, with phytoplankton ranging from 16,985 to 1,669,818 No/m³ and zooplankton from 13,211 to 93,230 No/m³, these levels differed from the more nutrient-rich areas. The study concludes that river outlets and lagoons are critical zones of nutrient input and biological productivity, which are vital for the overall health of the coastal environment.

5. DISEASE CONDITIONS IN SHRIMP AQUACULTURE TO REDUCE LOSSES ASSOCIATED WITH MONITORING HEALTH ISSUES AND TO FORMULATE EFFECTIVE HEALTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The study was conducted to assess the prevalence of the microsporidian parasite *Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei* (EHP) in shrimp farms and hatcheries across five zones in Sri Lanka's Northwestern Province (NWP): Chilaw, Arachchikattuwa, Mundalama, Kalpitiya, and Puttalam. A significant finding was the high overall prevalence of EHP, with 57.03% of all samples testing positive for the parasite. In contrast, all samples were negative for other major viral and bacterial pathogens listed by WOA (World Organization for Animal Health), including WSSV, IHHNV, AHPND, and others. The highest incidence of EHP was found in Zone 03–Mundalama, with a positivity rate of 66.66%. The prevalence varied among the other zones, decreasing in the order of Chilaw (62.5%), Arachchikattuwa (57.5%), Kalpitiya (50%), and Puttalam (33.33%). The EHP disease prevalence map for NWP based on findings from January to August, 2025 is shown in **Figure 2**. The study also highlighted a notable difference in susceptibility between the two major farmed shrimp species. *Penaeus vannamei* (white leg shrimp) demonstrated a significantly higher rate of EHP positivity compared to *Penaeus monodon* (black tiger shrimp). This finding suggests that *P. vannamei* is more susceptible to EHP infections in aquaculture settings, which has important implications for managing shrimp farming practices in the region.

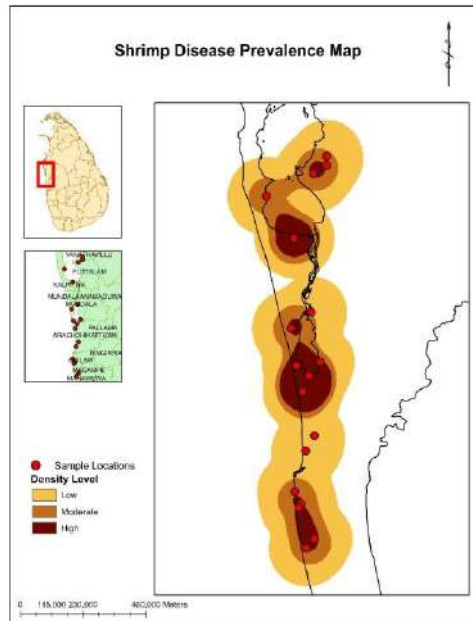


Figure 2: EHP disease prevalence map for NWP based on findings from January to August, 2025

6. SOCIO – ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND MARKETING ASPECTS OF FISHING CONFLICTS IN SRI LANKA

This project aims to address the pressing issue of fishing conflicts in Sri Lanka by analyzing the socio-economic and cultural impacts of both the Indo-Sri Lanka fishing dispute and localized conflicts among small-scale fishers. Using a mixed-method approach, the study is collecting data in fishing zones in Jaffna, Negombo and Chilaw (**Figure 3**) through surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews with various stakeholders. So far, significant progress has been made with 250 completed questionnaires and 12 focus group discussions.

Preliminary findings indicate that Indian trawler intrusions are the most serious problem affecting almost all surveyed fishers in the Jaffna Fisheries District. All respondents (100%) reported a 64.62% decline in their fish catch since 2009, following the end of the civil conflict, which they linked to resource depletion caused by poaching. Fishing crews are having to travel much farther to find good fishing grounds, which has caused operational costs to rise by 57.92%. The study also recorded a 64.48% drop in monthly fishing income, along with frequent reports of damaged fishing grounds resulting from resource degradation. Many respondents also reported greater damage to fishing gear, with estimated financial losses reaching LKR 311,176 per year. In addition, 45% of fishers reduced their fishing days from six to three days per week, demonstrating the serious economic and operational consequences. These results highlight the urgent need for joint management approaches and effective conflict resolution mechanisms to reduce the socio-economic impacts on Sri Lankan fishers.

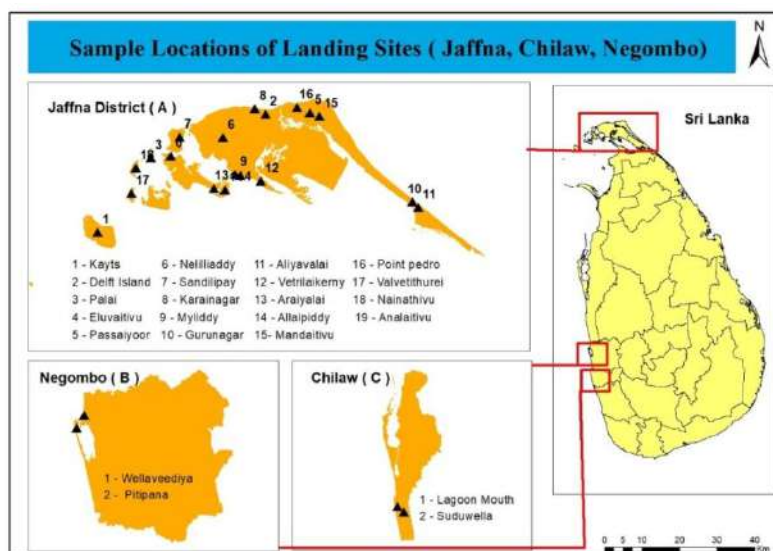


Figure 3: Sample locations of fishing zones in Jaffna District

Two external requests were successfully investigated, and technical reports were submitted to the Ministry. These include:

1. Study on Identifying the Management Issues of Mechanical Pole and Line Fishery in Panadura Port and Rocks, Kalutara District

The mechanical pole-and-line fishery in Panadura, Sri Lanka, is facing severe management challenges, as identified in a recent study requested by the Ministry. The primary issues include a drastic 70–80% decline in fish stocks, an estimate based on fishers' observations comparing current catches to those from a decade earlier, frequent conflicts with beach seine operations, and environmental degradation associated with sedimentation. While sedimentation was reported as a concern, the study found no evidence linking it directly to coastal development activities. Furthermore, the study revealed significant socio-economic vulnerabilities among local fishers, such as restricted fishing hours and the lack of official recognition for their societies. To ensure sustainable fisheries management, the project proposes actionable solutions, including extending fishing hours, formally registering fisher societies, and implementing stricter regulations on beach seines and sedimentation. These recommendations aim to balance resource conservation with improved livelihoods for the fishing communities in Panadura.

2. Sri Lanka's Fish Exports to African Markets: Potentials, Challenges, and Strategic Insights.

This desktop study highlights the significant potential for Sri Lanka to expand its fish exports to African markets, helping to diversify exports and reduce market concentration. The research shows that Africa's increasing demand for fish, particularly dried and frozen products, aligns with Sri Lanka's production capabilities. Key findings include the need to strengthen trade relations with nations like Seychelles, Côte d'Ivoire, and Egypt to stabilize exports of tuna, shrimp, and crabs. The study also identifies opportunities in inland water species (tilapia, carp) and fish by-products to access new markets in countries like Rwanda and Nigeria. To capitalize on these opportunities, Sri Lanka must scale up production, maintain quality control, and invest in aquaculture while leveraging regional trade organizations.

7. FEASIBILITY AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF AQUACULTURE PRACTICES IN NORTHERN PROVINCE

This project is evaluating the economic performance, value chain, and socio-economic contributions of aquaculture in Sri Lanka's Northern Province as a sustainable alternative to overexploited wild fisheries. The study aims to provide a thorough economic assessment, map value chains, and conduct a SWOT analysis of the industry, focusing on key practices like sea cucumber and shrimp farming. Using a mixed-method approach, the project is collecting both primary data through surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions (Figure 4), and secondary data from government records. To date, 50 out of 180 targeted questionnaires have been completed, and four of the planned ten focus group discussions have been conducted with sea cucumber farmers. This progress in data collection will form the basis for a final report that will provide a detailed cost-benefit analysis, identify challenges and opportunities, and ultimately help guide sustainable investment and management of the region's aquaculture sector.



Figure 4: Focus group discussions conducted during the survey in Jaffna District

8. INVESTIGATION OF EMERGENCY INCIDENTS AND CONDUCTING CASE STUDIES

NARA has investigated 20 cases during the current year, including five emergency incidents (**Table 1**) and eight nationally significant surveys, including environmental damage assessments related to the MSC ELSA 03 shipwreck incident occurred 38 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala, India and its implications to the various coastal regions in Sri Lanka (**Figure 5**). However, so far, the ship burning incident has not had a major impact on fisheries and aquaculture operations in coastal communities, monitoring will continue to evaluate the potential impacts and emerging challenges.



Figure 5: Contaminated beaches due to MSC ELSA 03- (Udappuwa, Nainathivu and Punkuduthivu)

A major focus of our work was on four significant fish kills events in Weligama, Lunugamvehera, Kudawewa, and Mahadivulwewa revealed that the mass fish mortality was occurred not due to diseases but was directly caused by severely deteriorated water quality (**Figure 6; Table 1**).



Figure 6: Onsite assessments for the causes of fish mortality in Mahadivulwewa

Table 1. Emergency incidents studied		
Emergency Incident	Cause(s)	Recommendations
Fish kills		
Algal bloom in Weligama Bay	Diatom formation due to nutrient loading, organic pollution, and changing costal hydrodynamics	Need to introduced proper waste management systems for house-holds and hoteliers
Fish kill in Lunugamwehera reservoir	High population density of <i>Microcystis</i> sp	Continue further analysis for microcystin residues in fish muscle tissues and to implement regular monitoring to trace potential pollution sources or root causes
Fish kill in Kudawewa	Unauthorized waste water discharge to the Kudawewa from an adjacent farms	Legalize the farms and regular monitoring
Fish kill in Mahadivulwewa	Oxygen depletion	Pollution management
Ship-wrecks/Oil spills		
MSC ELSA 03 (08 sampling events Northern, North western, Western and Southern Provinces	Ship fire incident occurred off the coast of Kerala, India	Environmental Damage Assessment Monitoring is in Progress

2. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. ENHANCING BATHYMETRIC COVERAGE OF NEAR SHORE AREAS IN SRI LANKAN WATERS FOR MARINE RESEARCH, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND CREATING BATHYMETRIC MODEL OF SRI LANKAN WATERS BY UPGRADING GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF OCEAN (GEBCO) MODEL

The bathymetric survey from Weligama to Hambantota commenced in January and continued until the end of March, during the North East Monsoon. With the activation of the South West monsoon season, surveys were shifted to the Mannar area (**Figure 7**). The near-shore bathymetric survey from Mannar to Mandaithivu has been in progress since May, as per the Action plan.

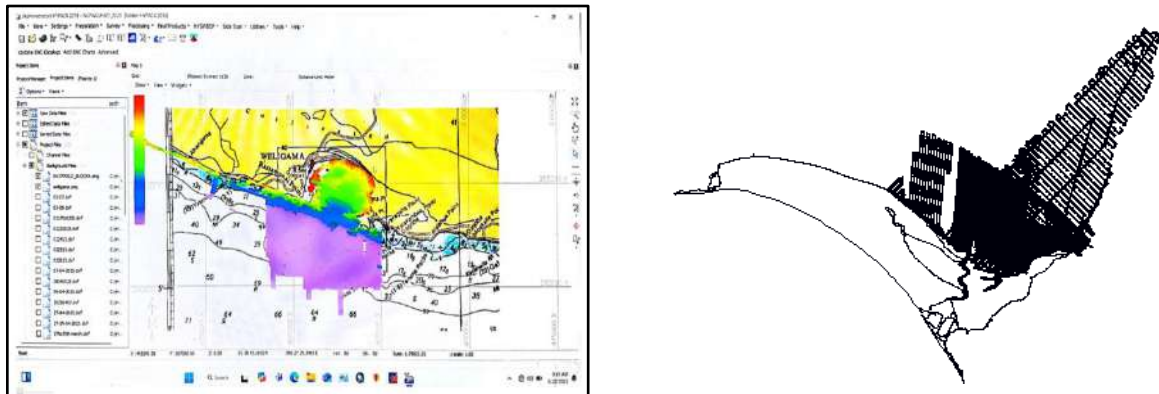


Figure 7: Near-shore bathymetric data coverage (L) Weligama to H'tota (R) Thalei Mannar to Mandaithivu

2. INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF RIVER AND COASTAL MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES DUE TO SAND BARRIER COLLAPSE AT KALU RIVER ESTUARY USING BATHYMETRY, BEACH PROFILES, GIS AND REMOTE SENSING

Satellite image processing has been completed, and the surveys using Drone and Unmanned Surface Vessel has been completed (**Figure 8**). The beach profile survey is currently in progress and the next field program is scheduled in October 2025.



Figure 8: Bathymetric surveys in the Kalu River estuary using an Unmanned Surface Vehicle and a drone

The following surveys and mapping projects conducted for several key government agencies in Sri Lanka highlight the organization's strong technical capacity in surveying and mapping.

The survey teams have completed several projects for the Ministry of Fisheries. These include a survey of the Dutch Canal, which stretches from Mundal Lake to Puttalam Lagoon, as well as an assessment of Oluvil Harbour. Additionally, they conducted bathymetric surveys for the Department of Fisheries at Kapparatota in Weligama, and performed a volumetric analysis at the Mirijjawila fishery landing site.

Moreover, the survey team conducted bathymetric surveys for the Irrigation Department, Southern Province on the Polwaththa River, as well as on the Thalawakele and Nillambe reservoirs, which are managed by the Ceylon Electricity Board. Beyond bathymetric surveys, GIS-based maps were developed for environmental damage assessments following a shipping incident, for the developments at Oluvil Harbour, and for a feasibility study on sea cucumber farming at Palaithivu.

3. NEAR-SHORE SEDIMENT DYNAMICS AND HEAVY MINERAL PLACER DISTRIBUTION: A QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE SHORELINE PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALONG SOUTHWEST COAST OF SRI LANKA AND SELECTED HARBOURS

The first study, focused on heavy mineral reserves, found significant concentrations (3%–35%) of Ilmenite, Garnet, and Monazite in the southwestern coastal region. However, the heavy mineral content in dredged sediments from the Oluvil and Kirinda harbors was generally lower. Despite this, both harbors showed promising signs, with mineral concentrations increasing in deeper layers (up to 6% in Kirinda). The study suggests that further analysis for valuable Rare Earth Elements (REEs) is needed to fully assess the economic viability of dredging.

The second study, investigating the coastal sediment budget along the western coast, revealed that human activities are a major cause of shoreline instability. Preliminary models show that the Colombo International Financial City (CIFC) reclamation is causing hydrodynamic changes and wave shadowing, disrupting sediment transport and leading to erosion. While the effects of offshore sand mining vary, it has notably increased wave exposure in areas like Pitipana. A key finding is the dramatic decline in riverine sediment supply; for example, the annual sand from the Maha Oya River has dropped from 0.05 to just 0.01 mcm/year, a deficit identified as a major factor in widespread coastal erosion. The research highlights the need for sustainable coastal management strategies based on these findings.

4. APPLICATION OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR ADVANCEMENT OF INLAND FISHERY AND FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE SECTOR

This research component is investigating new cultural methods to enhance aquaculture productivity while reducing environmental pollution, focusing on two advanced systems. The first project involves a biofloc system, where initial experiments are underway to evaluate the reproductive performance of guppies (**Figure 9**). Preparations are also being made for subsequent trials to study the guppies' feeding efficiency and determine the optimal stocking density. Simultaneously, a second project is developing two experimental Recirculated Aquaculture Systems (RAS) to assess the impact of different flow rates on microbial function and overall water quality.



Figure 9: Biofloc culture trials for guppy varieties

The second research component is currently in the data collection phase, investigating factors that influence the yield of culture-based fisheries in Sri Lanka's perennial irrigation reservoirs. To achieve this, researchers have been gathering socio-economic information through personal interviews with selected fishing communities. Additionally, a Rural Participation Approach (PRA) has been conducted to collect crucial qualitative data on the institutional robustness and co-management status of these communities. Several research activities are underway to advance the cultivation and genetic analysis of aquatic plants. In one activity, initial trials using aqua soil for cultivating *Microsorium pteropus* and *Anubias barteri* var *nana-petite* show that 10 mm and 15 mm-sized aqua soil enhance plant growth, leading to further experiments to find the best suitable medium. A separate project is focused on developing micro-propagation techniques for *Anubias nana* 'Golden' and *Anubias barteri* var. *Coffeefolia*, where sterilization protocols are complete and multiple trials are in progress to identify optimal media for shoot initiation and multiplication (**Figure 10**). Concurrently, a third activity is centered on DNA barcoding, having successfully collected field samples, optimized DNA extraction protocols, and initiated PCR trials to genetically identify two aquatic plant species, *Cryptocoryne beckettii* and *Cryptocoryne wendtii*.



Figure 10: Shoots of *Anubias nana* 'Golden'

5. DIVERSIFICATION AND PRODUCTION ENHANCEMENT OF MARINE AND BRACKISH WATER AQUACULTURE SECTORS IN SRI LANKA

Under the research findings three distinct activities collectively highlight significant progress and potential for sustainable aquaculture in Sri Lanka. The first activity successfully developed and implemented an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) model across three pilot sites

Valeippaadu, Ariyalei, and Mandathivu, in Northern Province. Findings from six months of monitoring revealed positive synergies: seaweed exhibited higher growth rates and pearl oysters showed lower mortality in integrated systems compared to monoculture. This model not only supports enhanced survival and growth of cultured species but also offers a viable livelihood diversification strategy, with farmers showing strong interest.

The second activity focused on *Artemia* strains, finding that the local species has higher potential to use in aquaculture. While the initial sizes of local and imported (Red TOP®) strains were similar, the local *Artemia* demonstrated significantly higher survival rates, better growth, and improved maturation. This superiority is attributed to its better adaptation to the local environment, suggesting that future research on optimizing local strains, particularly concerning salinity tolerance, is key to boosting aquaculture success.

Lastly, the third activity involved a master plan for mussel farming and protocols for green mussel breeding. The project aims to develop a comprehensive master plan for sustainable mussel farming in coastal waters. This involves designing a model for site selection and mapping suitable areas for mussel and oyster farming. In parallel, standardized protocols for the breeding of green mussels (*Perna viridis*) are being established to ensure a reliable seed supply to support large-scale culture initiatives. Biological and environmental surveys were conducted at sites in Negombo Lagoon and the coastal waters of Galle to identify suitable locations. Simultaneously, efforts to breed green mussels at a hatchery faced challenges, with five spawning attempts being unsuccessful. The broodstock is being maintained for future trials, indicating ongoing efforts to establish successful captive breeding techniques to complement the site-selection surveys.

6. REPLENISH AND ENHANCEMENT OF COASTAL FISHERIES THROUGH SEA RANCHING TECHNOLOGIES AND FISH AGGREGATION DEVICES (FAD) INSTALLATIONS

Under this project, the site selection for both bottom artificial habitats and floating Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD) (**Figure 11**) have been completed. This is a crucial early step, as it determines the physical locations for the entire project. Researchers have established a baseline by collecting extensive data at the chosen sites, including biological information on fish and plankton, as well as a range of physiochemical parameters such as dissolved oxygen, salinity, and pH. For this project, three locations were chosen: Trincomalee, Kalpitiya, and Negombo. In Negombo, two sites have been selected for the deployment of both floating and submerged FADs. Similarly, in Trincomalee and Kalpitiya, submerged FADs will be deployed to support the growth of the marine ornamental fish industry, which plays a significant role in generating foreign exchange for Sri Lanka. As part of this site selection program, the current status of seawater physicochemical parameters, aggregated fish species, and plankton species was examined.



Figure 11: Selected sites for FAD deployment program (Kalpitiya, Negombo & Trincomalee)

7. LABORATORY UPGRADING & TEST SERVICES: TO OBTAIN (ISO/IEC1025:2017 LABORATORY ACCREDITATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DIVISION AND DEVELOPING THE CAPACITIES OF THE INSTITUTE OF POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGY DIVISION LABORATORIES

The Environmental Studies Division Laboratory successfully developed and aligned Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for key water quality parameters with APHA standards. Staff capacity was enhanced through specialized training in laboratory safety and microbiology method verification, complemented by proficiency testing with ITI to validate methods. Simultaneously, the laboratory initiated infrastructure upgrades by procuring essential equipment like humidity/temperature meters and tachometers.

Post harvest Technology Division obtained accreditation for Histamine analysis of fish using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) from the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) on 30th June, 2025. Since then, 20 fish samples have been analyzed using this method, and the service is currently available to the public. This accreditation enables the laboratory to provide reliable and accredited histamine testing for fish. These achievements are critical steps toward ensuring the NARA's laboratory can provide an independent, third-party confirmation of its technical competence and the reliability of its results meets international standards.

8. INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL AQUACULTURE SPECIES IN SOUTHERN, EASTERN AND NORTHERN PROVINCES OF SRI LANKA

The Rekawa center had successfully introduced six new varieties of freshwater ornamental fish varieties to ornamental farmers. It also provided technical training for mollusk spats collection to 30 people in Dickwella, Koggala, and Galle, and introduced freshwater aquatic plants as a novel resource for income generation. The center developed waste management from the dried fish industry, where they developed methods to use liquid waste as a feed ingredient for fish and a fertilizer additive for coconut cultivation. Biological wastewater treatment system and a new seaweed foliar sprayer for aquatic plants are developed. Additionally, a large-scale restocking program was conducted in Rekawa lagoon, releasing 2.75 million prawns (*Penaeus monodon*), under the Ministry's Lagoon Development Programme, which could be benefited 150 community members.

9. IMPROVEMENT OF ORNAMENTAL FISH CULTURE AND FISH FEED DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Research Center of Panapitiya, NARA, conducted the experiments to enhance the aqua feed performance. The black soldier fly larvae meal (BSF) is supposed to be one of the sustainable alternatives to replace unsustainable fishmeal (FM) in aqua feed. However, solely replacing FM with BSF has resulted in some issues, such as reduced growth and hepatic issues in fish. Therefore, the first experiment was carried out replacing the FM with BSF and fish silage (FS). The findings of this study indicate that the combination of BSF and FS can effectively replace FM without compromising the growth performance of GIFT tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus* fry, and further revealed that the ratio of BSF: FS of 4:1 is most suitable to replace FM.

The findings of the second experiment confirmed that the BSF oil is a nutritionally adequate and functionally superior replacement for unsustainable fish oil and other conventional lipid sources, such as soy oil and coconut oil, in ornamental fish (*Poecilia reticulata*) feed. Nanotechnology is applied to improve performance in every field. Thus, the third experiment was designed incorporating nano-Zn in platy (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) fish feed. The results confirmed that nano-Zn included feed can improve the growth and pigmentation in platy without adversely affecting the liver functions



Figure 2. Adult Male Yellow Sunset Guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*)



Figure 7. Liver weight and Fish Length measurement of fish to calculate HSI and ILI Indexes.

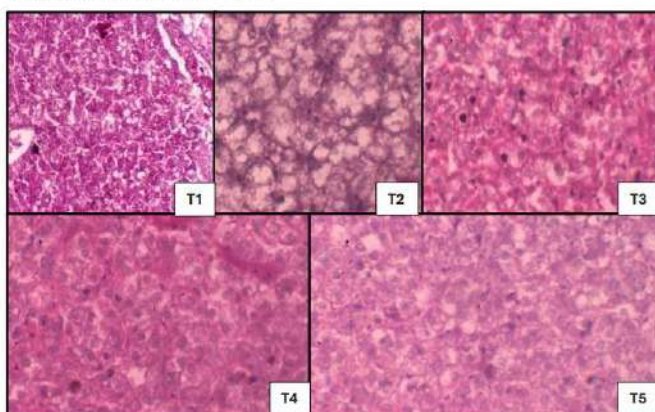


Figure 26. Representative histological images of liver tissue sections from *Xiphophorus maculatus* (Mickey Mouse Platy) under different dietary treatments



Figure 8. Total Carotenoid Test Procedure

Figure 12. Histopathological examination of the liver functions of fish

3. CONSERVATION PROJECTS

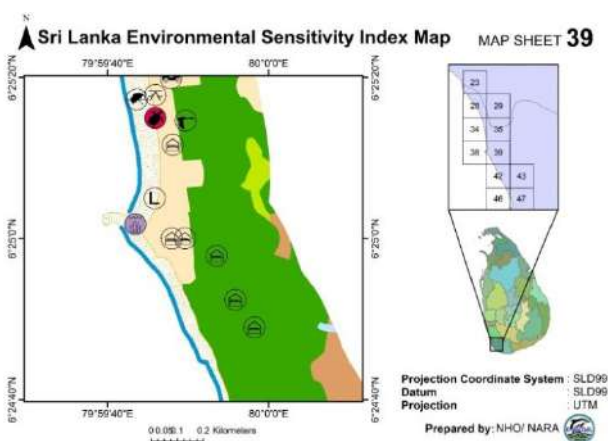
1. DEVELOPMENT OF A LAGOON WATER QUALITY GUIDELINE FOR FISH & AQUATIC LIFE IN TWO SELECTED LAGOONS IN SRI LANKA: CHILAW & KOGGALA

The studies on Chilaw and Koggala Lagoons highlight the significant environmental pressures facing these vital coastal ecosystems. The research on Chilaw Lagoon revealed a clear link between anthropogenic activities, such as shrimp farming and waste discharge, and elevated nutrient levels and organic pollution. This was evidenced by high concentrations of ammoniacal-N (0.0041-0.0938 mg/L) and nitrate-N (0.0104 -0.0278 mg/L) in key areas, which influence primary productivity and support a phytoplankton community dominated by diatoms (92.8%).

In Koggala Lagoon, a separate, long-term monitoring project has so far shown that while general water quality parameters like pH (mean 7.7 ± 0.2) and dissolved oxygen (mean 6.71 ± 0.77 mg/L) are stable and healthy, the ecosystem faces persistent contamination challenges. The study detected widespread microbiological pollution with fecal coliforms and *E. coli* with concentrations ranging from 0 to over 1,800 MPN/100 mL across all sites. It also found concerning levels of heavy metal bioaccumulation in fish tissues, with arsenic present in all samples (0.2-2.7 mg/kg) and lead in several (0.05- 0.17 mg/kg), despite low concentrations in the water itself. Together, the findings from both lagoons emphasize the urgent need for integrated management strategies and the development of specific water quality guidelines to protect these ecologically and socio-economically important resources from further degradation.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX AS A TOOL FOR COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SRI LANKA

The Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) project in Sri Lanka's Southern Province is a collaborative effort to develop a critical tool for coastal management and response to oil or chemical spills. The project has already made significant progress. It has successfully classified beaches and identified key biological resources along the entire coastline from Bentota to Hambantota. Furthermore, the team has completed the preparation of Geographic Information System (GIS) maps for the coastal stretch between Bentota and Matara, which visually compile data on shoreline, biological, and human resources (**Figure 13**). This work establishes a vital baseline of sensitive areas, providing authorities with the essential information needed to plan for and effectively respond to future environmental incidents.



3. **Figure 13: Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) map of the Galle district**
**AND LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE MANGROVE-
 BASED PRODUCTS IN NEGOMBO LAGOON**

An attempt was made to conduct a blue carbon assessment, which aims to measure the carbon sequestration capacity of the Negombo estuary's mangroves. Five islands in the northern region were selected to establish plots to measure above-ground and below-ground biomass and collect soil samples for carbon analysis



Figure 14: Five Island selected for blue carbon study

TABLE 2. BLUE CARBON VALUES FOR STUDIED ISLANDS

Location	Total Carbon in biomass; AGC+BGC (Mg C ha ⁻¹)	Total organic carbon in soil (Mg C ha ⁻¹)	Blue carbon in magroves (Mg C ha ⁻¹)
Mirissanduwa	1094.94	438.4	1533.34
Kaakaduwa	584.62	328.26	912.88
Wedikanda	982.74	405.68	1388.42
Mahauppalama	1025.37	410.98	1436.35
Mandagasalamba\	884.96	378.52	1263.48

The highest blue carbon stock was recorded at Mirissanduwa (1,533.34 Mg C ha⁻¹), with progressively lower values observed at Mahauppalama, Wedikanda, Mandagasalamba, and Kaakaduwa. The assessment also includes quantifying debris cover to evaluate the mangroves' role in trapping waste and will later assess microplastic retention to understand its impact on the ecosystem.

The second activity is a community-based initiative to develop sustainable livelihoods from mangrove resources. Key achievements include creating a mangrove-based herbal tea from *Acanthus ilicifolius*, a plant with medicinal properties. Researchers also successfully extracted natural dyes from *Xylocarpus granatum* and *Rhizophora mucronata* for potential use in textiles and crafts. Additionally, handmade key tags were produced from dried mangrove flowers, providing local artisans with an alternative income source (**Figure 15**). This integrated approach highlights the dual potential of mangroves for both environmental conservation and sustainable economic development.

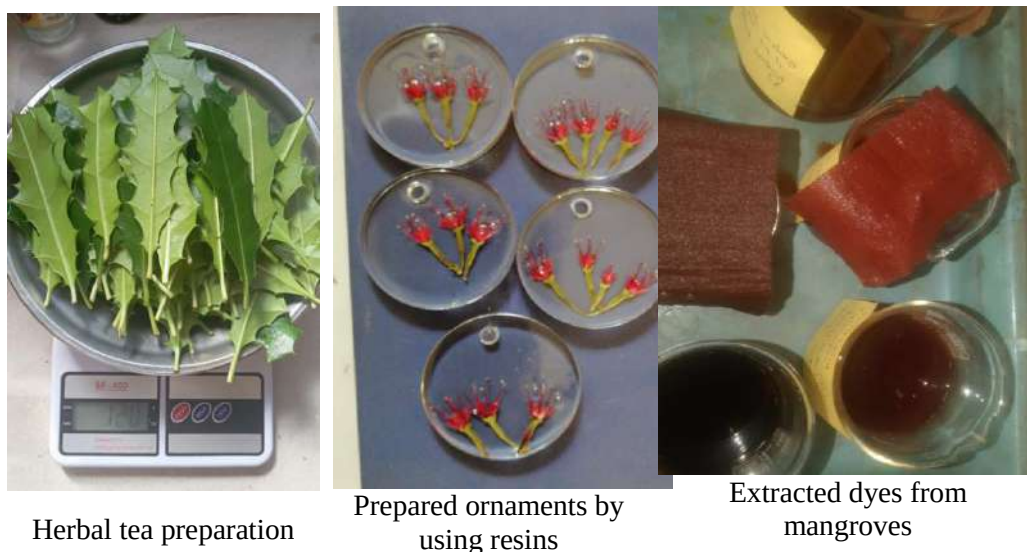


Figure 15: Mangrove base product development

4. INVESTIGATE SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL PATTERNS OF MARINE MAMMAL DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE: IMPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

This study investigates the species diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine mammals along the south coast of Sri Lanka, with a focus on key ecological patterns and population trends. Research carried out in collaboration with commercial whale-watching operators revealed a notable decline in blue whale sightings. The lowest number of sightings ($n=23$) was recorded between January and May, traditionally considered the peak sighting period in previous years. However, an increase in blue whale sightings was observed beginning in late July. Further 12 species of marine mammals were recorded within the study area from January to August. The most significant observation during the study period was that no strandings of large whales or ship strikes were reported. Cetacean aggregations were predominantly observed along the continental shelf edge, an area that overlaps with the busiest east–west shipping route. Although, within 2025 large whale sightings (blue whale) were very rare in this particular region. Large dolphin species are causing economic losses to fisheries, particularly tuna longline operations, through depredation. The study revealed that depredation by marine mammals poses a significant challenge to longline fisheries in the Indian Ocean, with 29% of the yellowfin tuna catch damaged and 32% of fishing operations affected, resulting in a depredation index of 1.35. The economic loss per fishing trip due to depredation of hooked tuna by marine mammals was estimated at approximately 1.2–1.4 million LKR. Depredation was particularly severe along the equatorial region, whereas comparatively lower levels of damage were observed within coastal waters. Solutions, such as commercially available pingers (acoustic deterrent devices), have yielded mixed results. To address this, a new collaborative project has been initiated with the Arthur C. Clarke Center to develop more effective deterrent devices.

4. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROJECTS

1. INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR SELECTED AQUA-BASED SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Several innovative products were developed by post post-harvest technology division, demonstrating the potential for value-added products in the fisheries and marine industries (**Figure 16**). An edible, biodegradable film was created using *Kappaphycus alvarezii*, chitosan, and triggerfish skin gelatin to serve as an eco-friendly replacement for plastic instant noodle seasoning sachets. Additionally, the skin of the rough triggerfish (*Canthidermis maculata*) was utilized to produce a collagen-rich facial mask and a proteinaceous spread, showcasing its versatility. Seaweed powder from *Gracilaria* sp. was incorporated into a breakfast cracker, resulting in a promising functional food. A new fish ball product was also developed by combining undervalued tuna black flesh with Catla mince to improve its nutritional and sensory qualities. Furthermore, a sustainable approach to leather production was demonstrated by creating high-quality leather from *Pangasius hypophthalmus* fish skins using natural tanning methods, with a prototype passport cover as proof of concept.



Using *Kappaphycus alvarezii*, chitosan and triggerfish skin gelatin for instant noodle seasoning sachets



Developed collagen rich facial mask by using rough Triggerfish (*Canthidermis maculate*) skin extract



Developed breakfast cracker by using seaweeds (*Gracilaria* sp.)



Developed proteinaceous spread by using Trigger fish skin (*Canthidermis maculate*)



Developed of value added fish ball product using Catla (*Catla catla*) mince and tuna (*Thunnus spp*) black flesh for sustainable fishery

Figure 16: Different kinds of innovative products developed by using fish and fish discards

Report on-An Assessment of the Factors Contributing to the Low Consumer Demand for Locally Produced Canned Fish Compared to Imported Brands

This study assesses the factors contributing to the low consumer demand for locally produced canned fish in Sri Lanka compared to imported brands. The findings reveal that a significant portion of consumers (46%) prefer imported products due to quality concerns, including issues with the appearance, texture, taste, and odor of local canned fish. The research concludes that to ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of the local industry, producers must immediately address these quality issues. This requires improving both the quality of the fish used (Indian Scad) and the processing techniques. The study emphasizes that meeting consumer expectations for sensory quality is vital to strengthening market confidence and boosting sales of locally produced canned fish. For the Sri Lankan canned fish industry, a combined recommendation is to enhance the supply chain to ensure a consistent supply of affordable, high-quality raw materials, while also implementing routine monitoring of both raw materials and finished products. This dual approach safeguards consumer health and product quality, and supports sustainable production by addressing both input shortages and quality control issues.

Report on an Assessment of Microbiological Quality of Ice in Ice Plants in Sri Lanka

A study assessing the microbiological quality of ice in Sri Lanka revealed that a significant majority of ice plants are producing ice of unacceptable quality. Of the 30 plants surveyed, 93.33% (28 plants) were found to have ice contaminated with *Escherichia coli*, a bacterium that serves as a strong indicator of fecal contamination. The investigation traced this contamination back to the water sources used for production; fecal coliforms were present in the water of 21 plants, with *E. coli* specifically found in 17 of them. Furthermore, the contamination was evident throughout the process, with fecal coliforms found in stored ice at all 28 plants and in crushed ice at 25 plants. Notably, *Salmonella* was not detected in any samples. These findings underscore the urgent need to improve both the sanitary practices in ice production and the quality of the water used, as the current state poses a potential risk to the preservation and safety of fish, a key part of the local economy and diet.

Report on an Assessment of Microbiological Quality and Establishment of Proper GMP for Culturing and Processing of Export-oriented Bivalves in Puttalam Lagoon to Develop a Safe Food Product

A study was conducted to assess the microbiological quality of oysters in Sri Lanka's Puttalam Lagoon, a key region for bivalve harvesting. The initial findings revealed significant contamination, highlighting the need for improved food safety protocols. Analysis of oyster samples showed a wide range of microbial loads, with the aerobic plate count (APC) ranging from 2.0×10^2 to 7.6×10^6 CFU/g. The presence of *Escherichia coli* was detected in both oyster samples (up to 1100 MPN/g) and water samples (up to 170 MPN/100 ml), indicating fecal contamination. Additionally, six isolates of the foodborne pathogen *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* were found. While no *Salmonella* spp. were detected, the results emphasize the necessity of depuration—a process to cleanse the oysters—before they can be safely consumed. This study provides critical baseline data, underscoring the need for regular monitoring, better pollution management, and strict adherence to good manufacturing practices (GMP) to ensure the sustainable development and safety of the oyster aquaculture industry.

2. TUNA FISHING GROUND ADVISORY AND FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

The Tuna Fishing Ground Advisory and Fisheries Information Service project aims to optimize tuna fishing by providing multi-day fishing vessels with advisories on potential fishing grounds, thereby enhancing economic and time efficiency. Using satellite data (sea surface temperature, height, chlorophyll) and global ocean models, the project identifies areas for yellowfin and bigeye tuna longliners and issues 5-day forecasts for skipjack tuna gillnet vessels three times weekly. These advisories are shared via WhatsApp (1,600 users), email (380 subscribers), and a NARA Facebook page with 2,700 followers. To strengthen the dissemination of advisories, NARA collaborated with Dialog Axiata PLC to integrate Potential Fishing Zones (PFZs) into the “Sayuru” mobile application. By August 31, 2025, the project delivered 84 yellowfin tuna, 30 bigeye tuna, and 72 skipjack tuna advisories (**Figure 17**). Challenges include limited staff, technical issues, and a lack of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data access, hindering validation. Awareness programs and leaflets were distributed across multiple fisheries harbors. Improvements are needed in data quality, staff support, and real-time data access for sustained success.

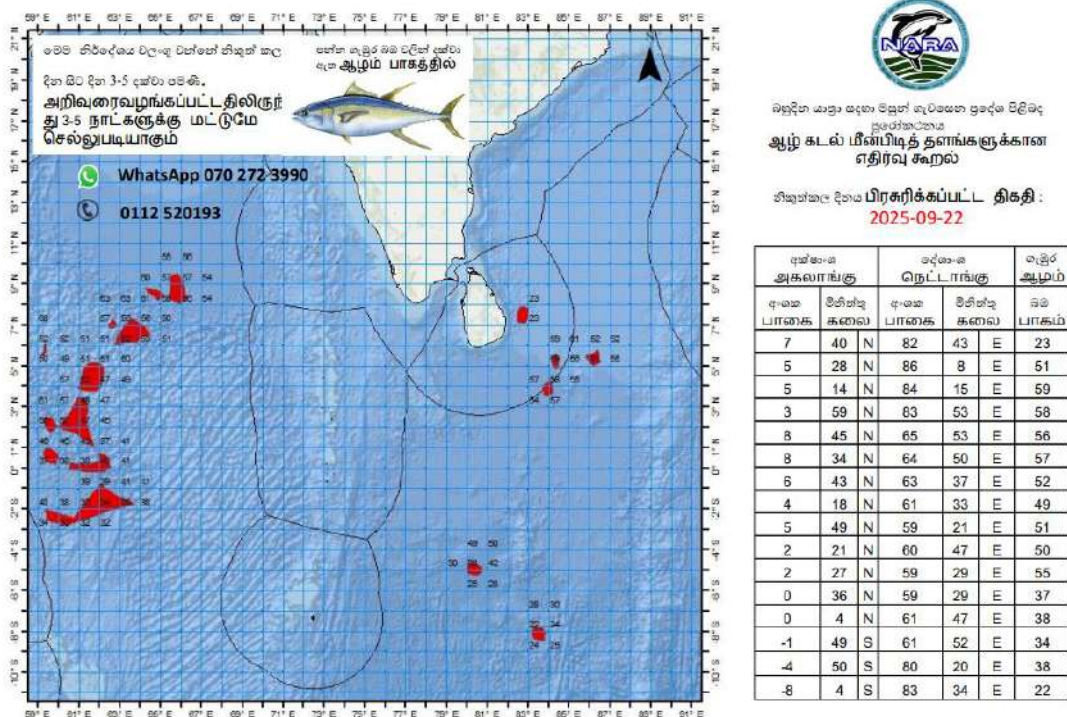


Figure 17: Tuna fishing ground advisory map

3. FACILITATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL OCEAN AND FISHERIES DATA CENTER AND DIGITAL LIBRARY

The project has made significant progress in data organization, data sharing, human resource development, and support for national digitization initiatives. A key achievement has been the updating and finalization of metadata sheets, which are essential for documenting marine and

fisheries data and ensuring their long-term accessibility. Development of a metadata web portal is also underway, which will serve as a central platform for standardizing and sharing datasets. In addition, project team members actively participated in six institutional meetings on data management, data sharing and digitization.

Capacity building has been another key focus of the project, which facilitated two expert training workshops organized with the support of Korean data science specialists (**Figure 18**). To further strengthen NARA's institutional capacity, 23 staff members have received training in data management and data science. Industrial training opportunities were also extended to five university students.

The project has additionally contributed to three major national digitization programs: Marine Spatial Planning, the FAO Interoperability Programme, and the Digitization Programme of the Ministry of Digital Economy. These contributions are vital for enhancing data interoperability and supporting the broader digital transformation agenda of the country.



Figure 18: Data management and data science training workshops

4. ONLINE INFORMATION SYSTEMS, WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT, INTERNET, LIBRARY, AND EXTENSION SERVICES OF NARA

1 Library & Information Unit

The NARA organization's digital infrastructure and services are being enhanced through a collaborative effort by the IT and Library units. Core systems have been strengthened by the IT Unit with updated antivirus protection, resolved issues with the mail server and internet usage, and the initiation of an SSL Certificate purchase for securing online applications. Additionally, an Software Requirement Specification (SRS) document for a new NARA web system was prepared, and technical input was provided for a new data center in preparation for future growth. Concurrently, the Library Unit's services are being modernized through the upgrading the version from 16.11 to 25.05 of the KoHa Library Management System and its Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) for collection management. A DSpace e-repository is also being maintained, and active work with the National Science Foundation (NSF) is being undertaken for institutional publications. Furthermore, digital platforms like WhatsApp and emails are being used to disseminate information on new arrivals, news, conferences, workshops and scholarships. Through this combined effort, improved security, digital accessibility, and information flow for staff and external users are being demonstrated.

2. Dissemination of Information & Extension Works

To provide comprehensive training and disseminate knowledge among diverse stakeholders including the fishery communities, the general public, and academia a variety of capacity development activities are conducted. These initiatives focus on offering practical, hands-on experience and valuable insights. Key activities include industrial training and research training, (Table 3) which provide targeted professional development. Additionally, awareness campaigns are conducted to educate the public (Table 4), while field-based research exposure offers participants real-world experience (Figure 19 & 20). These efforts collectively aim to equip stakeholders with practical skills and a deeper understanding of relevant subjects.

Table 3. Training for university/vocational training center students.

Training Programme (Degree/ Industrial/ Internship)	Number	Duration
Research Projects (Final year)	31	4-6 months
Intern/Industrial Training	68	2-3 months
Total	99	

Table 4. Training, practical sessions (*in-house*), field excursions, exhibitions and media programmes are conducted for different stakeholders.

Name of the programme	Number of programmes	Duration	Number of participants
Training programmes	12	01 day	350
	02	02 day	30
	03	03 day	50
Conservation & development programmes	06	01 day	110
Educational visits to NARA (Schools, universities, vocational institutes, & other organizations)	11	-	1250
Social media programmes (NARA Web, FB, U-Tube)	105	-	-
Exhibition programmes (participated/facilitated)	10	01-05 days	



Figure 19: Enhance awareness and capacity building



Figure 20 Community training & school children awareness programmes

05

Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (CFHC)

Vision

To be 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 harbor related service 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

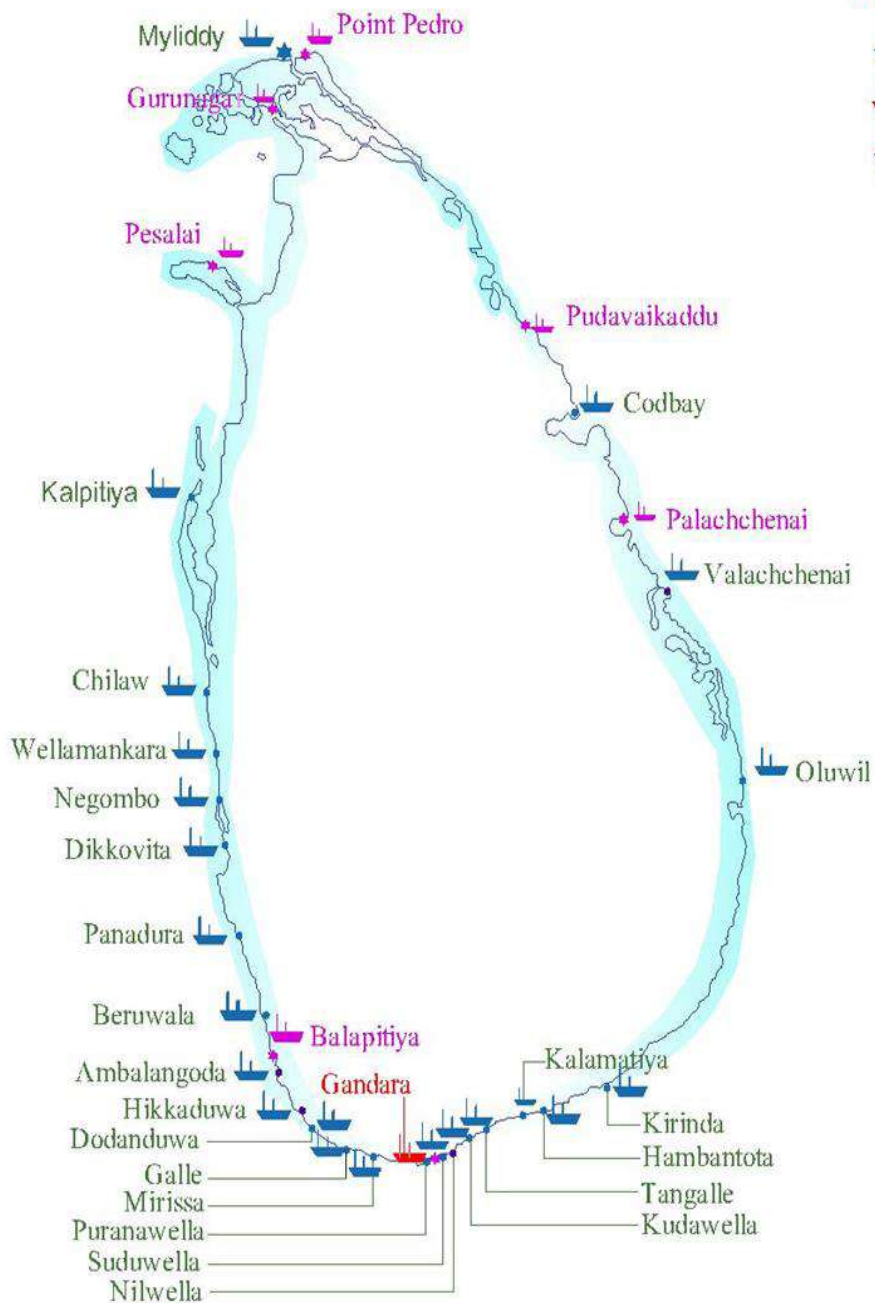
- Planning, designing and constructions of fishery harbours, anchorages, marine structures and other shore facilities,
- Establishment, operation, control and maintenance of Fishery Harbours, anchorages, marine structures and other shore facilities.
- Management of fishery harbours, anchorages, and other 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 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



Financing CFHC as at 31st of August 2024

Grant	Requested allocation for the year 2025 Rs. Mn	Approved Allocation Rs. Mn	Total Funds Released Up to 31st August 2025 Rs. Mn
Recurrent Grant	478	478	228.96
Capital Grant	405.204	50	29.75

Financing of CFHC as at 31st of August 2025

Capital Grant

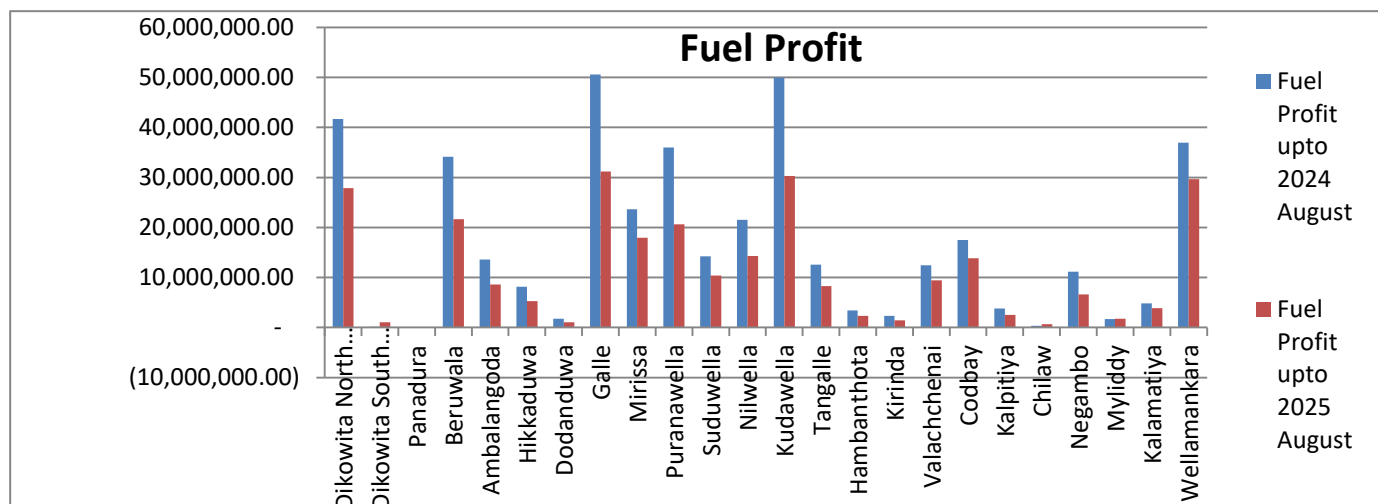
Approved allocation was divided as follows.

Grant	Approved Allocation Jan- Dec 2025 Rs. Mn	Civil Rs. Mn	Mechanical. Rs. Mn
Capital Grant	50	25	25

Fuel sale of Fishery Harbours - (up to 31st August 2024 vs 2025)

Harbour Name	Fuel Profit in year 2024 (August 31st) (Rs.)	Fuel Profit in year 2025 (August 31st) (Rs.)
Dikowita North Terminal	41,695,429.68	27,853,836.27
Dikowita South Terminal	120,638.05	1,069,151.44
Panadura	(47,353.86)	59,881.66
Beruwala	34,113,068.08	21,668,171.67
Ambalangoda	13,573,092.78	8,584,830.72
Hikkaduwa	8,159,312.28	5,284,250.39
Dodanduwa	1,771,623.60	1,072,976.04
Galle	50,586,132.45	31,195,958.21
Mirissa	23,640,834.13	17,916,500.01
Puranawella	35,978,377.94	20,605,478.69
Suduwellla	14,234,103.19	10,394,130.43
Nilwella	21,492,432.12	14,284,535.68
Kudawella	49,944,460.45	30,268,767.57
Tangalle	12,576,067.67	8,250,480.25
Hambanthota	3,392,524.59	2,337,273.23
Kirinda	2,327,322.83	1,433,761.72
Valachchenai	12,436,451.03	9,403,835.69
Codbay	17,493,181.94	13,851,211.54

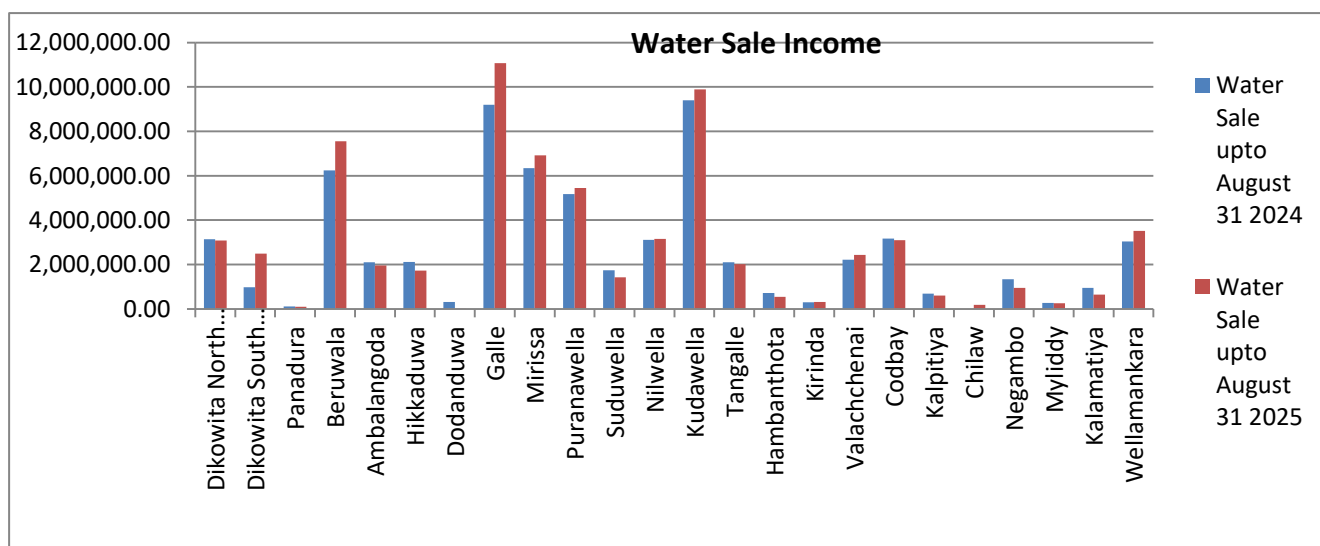
Kalpitiya	3,788,763.68	2,524,767.16
Chilaw	313,357.38	662,754.65
Negambo	11,137,217.63	6,641,868.54
Myliddy	1,663,003.66	1,750,351.81
Kalamatiya	4,809,830.93	3,835,989.19
Wellamankara	36,968,685.67	29,677,705.02
Total	402,168,557.90	270,628,467.58



Water sale of Fishery Harbours - (up to 31st August 2024 vs 2025)

Harbour Name	Water Sale in year 2024 (August 31 st) (Rs.)	Water Sale in year 2025 (August 31 st) (Rs.)
Dikowita North Terminal	3,136,120.00	3,079,394.29
Dikowita South Terminal	978,635.00	2,492,065.60
Panadura	105,588.00	95,900.60
Beruwala	6,238,172.80	7,556,249.60
Ambalangoda	2,097,707.80	1,955,516.60
Hikkaduwa	2,118,311.40	1,719,519.40
Dodanduwa	311,800.00	1,600.00
Galle	9,200,110.67	11,066,201.51
Mirissa	6,334,863.80	6,919,811.10
Puranawella	5,169,269.17	5,448,590.60
Suduwella	1,739,056.00	1,429,396.00
Nilwella	3,113,851.20	3,151,125.51
Kudawella	9,398,053.60	9,888,668.34
Tangalle	2,095,471.12	2,007,661.03
Hambanthota	721,340.89	536,796.80
Kirinda	299,668.80	317,273.20
Valachchenai	2,212,616.00	2,437,290.40

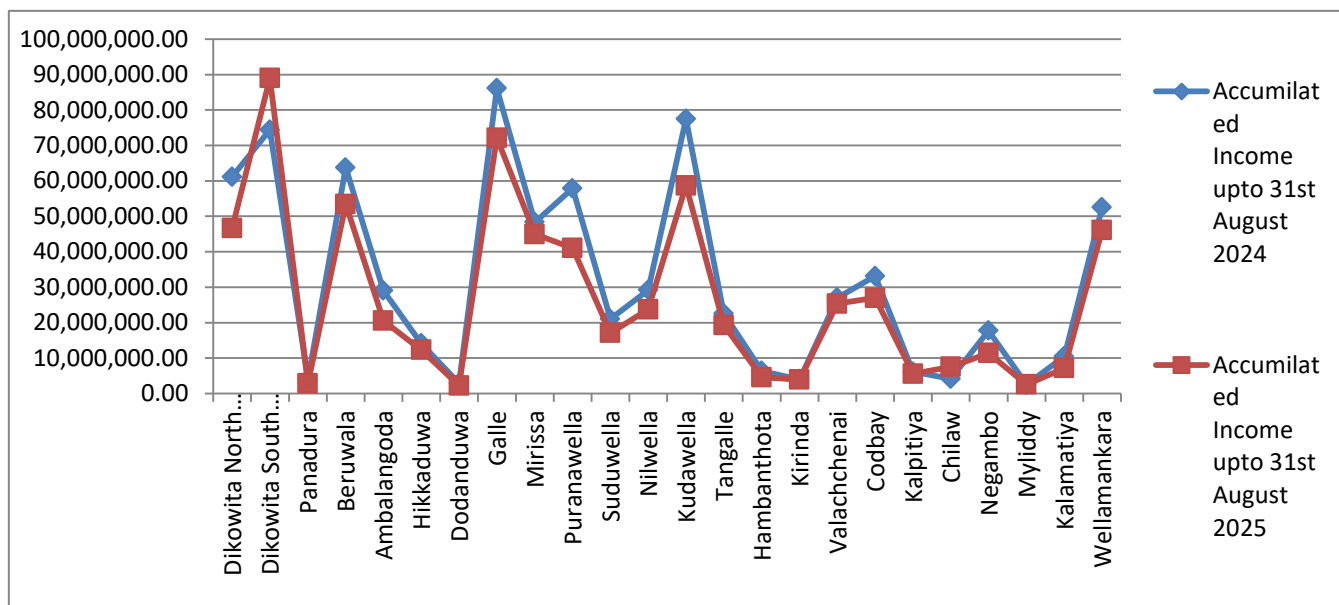
Codbay	3,165,787.54	3,089,769.30
Kalpitiya	691,921.00	600,753.00
Chilaw		182,767.36
Negambo	1,338,230.00	953,472.00
Myliddy	269,051.50	251,869.14
Kalamatiya	940,750.67	645,831.65
Wellamankara	3,037,882.00	3,509,794.66
Total	64,714,258.96	69,337,317.69



Accumulated Income of All Harbours - (up to 31st August 2024 vs 2025)

Harbour Name	Accumilated Income upto 31 st Aug 2024 (Rs.)	Accumilated Income upto 31 st Aug 2025 (Rs.)
Dikowita North Terminal	61,153,361.39	46,638,634.97
Dikowita South Terminal	74,421,494.35	89,007,005.56
Panadura	3,930,686.66	2,850,593.35
Beruwala	63,736,619.69	53,434,515.05
Ambalangoda	29,037,164.64	20,543,785.75
Hikkaduwa	14,118,599.34	12,308,968.11
Dodanduwa	2,865,688.83	2,242,560.07
Galle	86,129,790.87	72,169,531.84
Mirissa	48,366,227.78	44,945,719.80
Puranawella	57,873,266.57	41,042,997.80
Suduwella	21,012,027.12	17,110,376.60
Nilwellla	29,186,609.93	23,720,461.19
Kudawella	77,500,361.43	58,712,521.79
Tangalle	22,563,815.99	19,283,674.29
Hambanthota	6,345,092.15	4,572,948.21
Kirinda	4,005,604.43	3,907,274.28
Valachchenai	27,046,263.71	25,354,591.22
Codbay	33,129,229.78	27,002,110.41

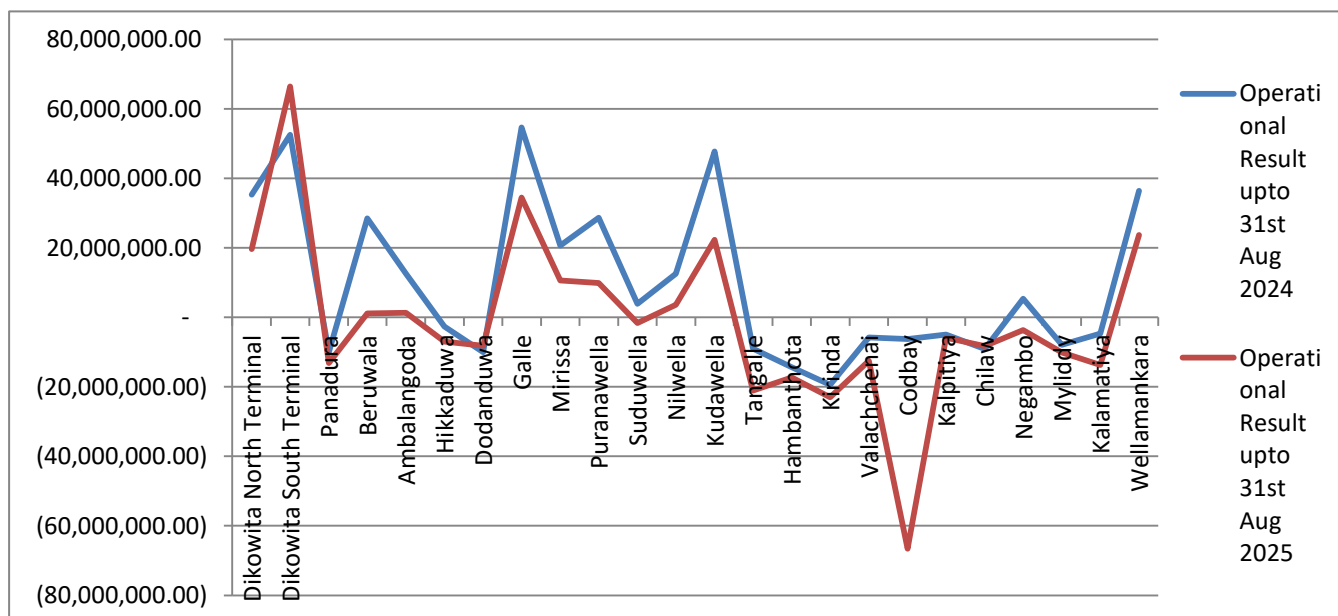
Kalpitiya	6,125,149.71	5,552,725.35
Chilaw	4,117,395.43	7,529,048.04
Myliddy	17,729,995.99	11,416,702.17
Negambo	2,492,668.09	2,545,413.06
Kalamatiya	10,438,101.25	7,139,252.91
Wellamankara	52,517,951.98	46,105,303.13
Total	755,843,167.12	645,136,714.94



Operating Result - (up to 31st August 2024 vs 2025)

Harbour Name	Operating Result up to 31 st August 2024 (Rs.)	Operating Result up to 31 st August 2025 (Rs.)
Dikowita North Terminal	35,270,325.11	19,667,795.09
Dikowita South Terminal	52,523,152.74	66,468,710.97
Panadura	(9,996,329.65)	(13,144,249.31)
Beruwala	28,496,259.46	1,091,840.06
Ambalangoda	12,588,247.83	1,322,503.84
Hikkaduwa	(2,604,492.24)	(7,011,367.96)
Dodanduwa	(10,049,029.21)	(8,136,721.85)
Galle	54,620,408.26	34,475,887.98
Mirissa	20,654,953.83	10,591,865.42
Puranawella	28,631,600.24	9,840,807.36
Suduwella	3,894,036.37	(1,658,655.66)
Nilwella	12,559,847.63	3,578,664.42
Kudawella	47,762,641.53	22,282,011.61
Tangalle	(9,007,100.99)	(21,092,846.36)
Hambanthota	(14,329,935.95)	(17,315,065.74)
Kirinda	(19,387,597.99)	(22,992,911.29)
Valachchenai	(5,767,741.59)	(12,487,143.83)
Codbay	(6,263,036.70)	(66,563,125.79)

Kalpitiya	(4,954,809.79)	(5,853,079.73)
Chilaw	(9,058,163.56)	(8,232,868.89)
Negambo	5,394,789.13	(3,700,151.49)
Myliddy	(7,875,660.81)	(10,083,579.43)
Kalamatiya	(4,701,420.85)	(13,713,081.50)
Wellamankara	36,422,340.51	23,732,449.05
Total	234,823,283.31	(18,932,313.03)



Capital Grant – Civil

(Allocation 25 Rs.Mn. – Capital Grant)

Progress review of Civil Engineering Works till 31st August 2025.

Serial No.	Name of the Project	Provisions required for the year 2025	Physical Progress % as at 27 th August 2025	Target Physical Progress	Financial Progress as at 31 st August 2025
CAHS	Monitoring Hydrographic Survey Works for all harbours	1,000,000.00	100%	100%	1,000,000.00
CABQ	Rehabilitation & Maintenance of Existing Breakwater, Quay Wall, Revetments ETC.	21,784,011.35	5%	13%	1,127,060.13
CABW	Proposed Boundary Wall and Chain Link Fence	500,000.00	0%	100%	

CAIR	Floor Preparation of Boat Yard and Other Areas	21,100,000.00	0%	15%	
CAPW	New Partition Works	200,000.00	100%	100%	200,000.00
CAR	Roof Repair Works, Head Office & Fishery Harbours	5,800,000.00	32%	40%	1,843,172.13
CARB	Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings	11,611,968.65	100%	100%	11,650,384.07
CHOSF	Rehabilitation of Existing Sanitary Facilities	17,304,020.00	70%	65%	12,121,424.11
CARPC	Regional Procurement Committee Works	8,000,000.00	55%	65%	6,545,878.73
	Total	87,300,000.00	40%	68%	34,487,919.17

Mechanical Engineering

(Allocation 25 Rs.Mn. – Capital Grant)

Progress review of Civil Engineering Works till 31st August 2025.

Serial No.	Name of the Project	Total Approved Budget	Physical Progress as at 27th August 2025(%)	Financial Progress as at 27th August 2025 (Mn)
MHDGM (II)	Repairs / Maintenance of Fuel Dispensing Unit at all harbours	3,500,000.00	70%	2,457,093.98
MHMGM	Service & maintenance of heavy machineries	8,000,000.00	93%	7,401,522.98
MCSPS (II)	Dredging Carried out at All Harbours by Cutter Suction Dredgers (Slapura Kinduri & Nildiywara)	2,500,000.00	32%	804,950.57
MAHGM (II)	Dredging Carried out at All Harbours by Grab Hopper Dredgers (Sayuru & Ruhunuputha)	20,384,230.00	24%	4,937,146.68
MHPWS	Purchase of small scale workshop items & other necessary equipment for all harbours	1,000,000.00	29%	286,067.50
MRFAH	Rehabilitation of Fenders , Chain, D-Shackle, I Bolts, Tires for All Harbours & other mooring accessories for all harbours & other on demand repair works of the all harbours	4,000,000.00	17%	676,247.00
MHUCS	Upgrading Communication systems for Head Office & All Harbours (IP phones, network cables ... etc)	4,000,000.00	53%	2,138,544.38
MSPFE	Purchase & Refill fire extinguishers in all harbours	1,000,000.00	4%	35,990.00

MHPFA	Purchase of Fixed Assets in Head Office & All Harbours (Furniture, Computers, Printers, & 17 No's of laptops... etc)	7,500,000.00	56%	4,197,770.98
MMREW	Repair & maintenances of all electrical repair works for all harbours & H/O	8,220,000.00	112%	9,178,995.82
MHMLV	Repair & Maintenances all light vehicles & Bus	7,595,770.00	97%	7,333,430.24
	Total Amount	67,700,000.00	54%	39,447,760.13

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	4.56	3
Dikkowita	2013	8.1	11.7	11.70	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 years

Dredging Vessels belonging to the CFHC



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 22 district offices and divisions related to the purchase and sale of fish, including 13 purchase and sales offices, 06 purchasing office and 03 sales divisions at the head office. The Ceylon Fisheries Corporation has 85 sales outlets island wide.
- Currently, the total profit of the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation (January to August 2025) is Rs. 126.93 million.
- As of this August, the Badulla, Jaffna, Gampaha, Kandy, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kegalle, Ratnapura, Ampara district offices, the head office sales division, the public service delivery division and the Anuradhapura Ice Factory are operating profitably. The other 05 district offices, Puttalam, Trincomalee, Galle, Kalutara, Ambalangoda offices are not profitable.

District offices and sales divisions located throughout the island

Purchasing centers

1. Mannar
2. Ampara
3. Jaffena
4. Trinco
5. Puttalam
6. Ambalangoda

Selling and purchasing centers

1. Anuradhapuraya
2. Rathnapuraya
3. Kurunagala
4. Kandy
5. Badulla
6. Kegalle
7. Polonnaruwa
8. Gampaha
9. Kalutara
10. Matara
11. Galle
12. Hambanthota
13. Colombo

Marketing Centers

1. Government Service Supply Marketing Division
2. Operations Division

Ceylon Fisheries Corporation Outlet Expansion (2025)

District		Outlets
Kandy	1	No.01 Central Wholesale Market
	2	No.02 Central Wholesale Market
	3	No.03 Central Wholesale Market
Kegalle	1	Rambukkana
	2	Warakapola
	3	Mawanella
	4	Galigamuwa
	5	Dewalagama
Hambanthota	1	Agunukolapalassa
	2	Tangalle
	3	Weerakatiya
Mathara	1	Hakmana
	2	Kirinda
	3	Kamburupitiya
	4	Akuressa
	5	Matara
	6	Pitabeddara
Rathnapura	1	Avissawella
	2	Yatyanthota
	3	Ehaliyagoda
	4	Batuhena
Badulla	1	Nuwara Eliya New Market
	2	Diyatalawa
	3	Bandarawela
	4	Hatton
	5	Badulla
Kaluthara	1	Thudugala
	2	Wadduwa
	3	Nagoda
	4	Bandaragama
	5	Munagama
Galle	1	Galle
	2	Karapitiya
	3	Labuduwa
	4	Alpitiya
Colombo	1	Nugegoda
	2	Narahenpita
	3	Bokundara
	4	Piliyandala
	5	Bambalapitiya
	6	Kalubowila
	7	Athrugiriya
	8	Kottawa
	9	Maligawatta
	10	Mulleriyawa
	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	Naththandiya
	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	Godawela
	3	Kubukgate
	4	Pannala
	5	Alawwa
	6	Galgamuwa
Anuradhapura	1	Fishmela Anuradhapura
	2	New Town - Anuradhapura
	3	Anuradhapura Mahajanapola
	4	Market - Anuradhapura
Total Outlets		85

10 New stores have been opened in the following areas from January to August 2025.

1. Batuhena
2. Horana
3. Kandy No 01
4. Godawela
5. Wadduwa
6. Agunukolapalassa
7. Kubukgate
8. Galgamuwa
9. Weyangoda
10. Hatton

Current operating process

Currently, the Fisheries Corporation (on average) purchases about 397 metric tons of fish per month and sells about 383 metric tons per month through outlets spread across the island.

Financial progress of the institution from January to August 2025

Source of finance	Income / (Expenditure) (Rs.Mn)
Revenue	3,570.92
Cost of sales	(2,962.65)
Gross profit	608.27
Other income	6.90
Administrative expenses	(343.99)
Seles and distribution cost	(138.24)
Results from operating activities	120.03
Financ costs	(6.02)
Profit or loss before tax and other comprehensive income	126.93
Actual gain/losses on pension plans	-
Total comprehensive income	126.93

Issuance of Lanka Fisheries Corporation products to the Lanka Sathosa store network



Opening of several new Sri Lanka Fisheries Corporation outlets



07

Cey-Nor Foundation Limited

Vision

To be the leader in boat manufacturing and the provision of fisheries services..

Mission

To sustain service excellence and customer satisfaction through innovation within a sustainable environment.

Objectives

- To become a recognized exporter of fiberglass boats.
- To be an internationally reputed manufacturer of fiberglass boats.
- To invest in fiberglass boat manufacturing ventures abroad.
- To become a provider of outstanding customer service.
- To be a significant contributor to the development of Sri Lanka's fisheries industry by supplying high-quality products such as fishing boats and fishing gear.
- To contribute 0.2% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Actual Financial Position - 2025

Description	Actual (Rs.)	Budgeted (Rs.)
Rental Income	16,891,000.00	39,800,000.00
Purchase and Sale – Fishing Nets	1,067,112.03	7,200,000.00
Sale of Fishing Boats	9,783,186.57	-
Sale of Other Fiberglass Products	12,422,754.08	164,262,500.00
Transport and Delivery	5,385,585.08	1,125,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	308,242.00	1,680,000.00
Total	45,857,879.08	214,067,500.00

Targets Achieved as of 30 September 2025

- Initiated steps to obtain Indian grants for the *Karainagar Project* and commenced production at the Karainagar Boatyard.
- Cabinet approval obtained to supply goods, services, and consultancy to the Ministry of Fisheries and affiliated institutions without competitive bidding; several such projects are ongoing.
Examples: Mannar Project (NAQDA), Cooling System Repair (DFAR), Civil Works (NARA).
- Government support received to commence a fiberglass waste recycling project aimed at reducing environmental pollution.
- Facilitated coordination between state banks (RDB) and financially challenged fishing communities interested in the fisheries industry.
- Established a new sales outlet within the Galle Fisheries Harbour premises.
- Received two international orders (Mauritius) for fishing boats currently under production.
- Commencement of construction work on Phase 3 of the Myliddy Fisheries Harbour.
- Development of the Udayapuram Road in collaboration with the Colombo Fort Jetty

Creating a Satisfactory Work Environment

- Providing morning tea and evening tea with light refreshments to the employees of the boatyard to enhance their efficiency and productivity.

Ongoing Orders

Cey Nor Foundation Limited						
Mattakkuliya Boatyard - 02.10.2025						
NO	ORDER RECEIVED DATE	ORDER NO	NAME OF CUSTOMER	DESCRIPTION	QTY	VALUE (RS.) with VAT & SSCL
					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
4	2024.09.25	1705	Ambuluwawa	Paddle boat repair	1	137,615.04
5	2024.11.25	1739	Ministry of fisheries, Galle	Multiday boat modle (1MUL)	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	
6	2024.12.09	1747	DFAR	FAD Boaya	4	23,631,441.84
7	2024.12.10	1748	Ramesh Chutto, Mauritius	55ft Fishing boat	1	64,787,020.55
8	2025.04.24	1770	Saventhiri Sundarji	36ft Wallam	2	2,340,116.73
9	2025.04.30	1771	Ceylon Petroleum Cor	Lanka 01 boat repair	1	5,574,546.54
10	2025.07.04	1784	Police Marine Division	PM-349 boat repair	1	266,773.82
		1785		NC-076 boat repair	1	455,913.38
		1786		NC-073 boat repair	1	455,913.38
		1787		NC-069 boat repair	1	455,913.38
11	2025.07.22	1791	DS, Mahaoya	15.5ft Canoes	2	109,672.45
				10.2ft Outriggers	2	
12	2025.08.05	1792	Vishwa Parami Trust	Roof top fiber work	1	1,875,633.09
13	2025.08.11	1793	Central Provincial Council, Peradeniya	Randenigala & Kotmale - Canoe, Outrigger repair	52	1,377,259.18
14	2025.08.11	1794	Central Provincial Council, Peradeniya	Kasalri & Maussa kale - Canoe, Outrigger repair	31	844,729.72
15	2025.08.14	1798	Mahawali Authority, Dehiattakandiya	18.5ft Canoes	5	1,337,245.30
				10.5ft Outriggers	5	
				15.5ft Canoes	5	
				10.2ft Outriggers	5	
16	2025.08.21	1801	Ministry of Agri, Trincomalee	18.5ft Ferry	2	829,263.21
17	2025.08.21	1802	NWP, Chillaw	13ft Canoes	50	3,113,465.47
18	2025.08.26	1804	Wayamba Dev Authority	18'x8' floating jatty	2	2,146,929.10
19	2025.09.01	1805	DS, Kataragama	18.5ft Ferry	1	1,713,888.28
				18'x8' floating jatty	1	
20	2025.09.11	1809	NAQDA	making Fish net cage - sample	1	
21	2025.09.12	1810	Northsea Ltd	4'x3'x2' fiber box	1	209,010.38
				trolly 46"x28"x36" with aluminum deck	1	
22	2025.09.15	1811	Disaster Management Center	15.5ft Ferry	4	1,798,391.40
23	2025.09.18	1812	Kumara Kariyawasam	Ice box 4'x1.5'x2'	1	87,411.88
24	2025.09.23	1813	Dep. National Botanic, Peradeniya	Swan paddle boat	4	2,788,597.02
25	2025.09.23	1814	J.A.S.S.K. Jayasingha	18.5ft ferry	1	486,996.18
26	2025.10.02	1818	Sabaragamuwa Council, Ratnapura	18.5ft Ferry	20	9,582,035.88
Total						127,442,135.33

Cey Nor Foundation Limited						
Head Office - 02.10.2025						
NO	DATE	ORDER NO	NAME OF CUSTOMER	DESCRIPTION	QTY Total	TOTAL with VAT & SSCL
1	2025.07.24	1791	DS, Mahaoya	27ply 2.5 x 115 x 6300	1	351,900.00
2	2025.08.19	1800	Mahawali Authority, Ethawatunuwewa	Blue Nets 3ft x 30m	5	101,887.20
				Bird Nets 6m x 30m	3	
3	2025.08.21	1801	Ministry of Agri, Trinco	Life Jackets	10	29,868.75
4	2025.09.23	1814	Airport & Aviation	HDPE nets 0.75mmx2"x300MD (blue)	150kg	578,124.00
				HDPE ropes 2mm thick (100yard (green)	50kg	
Fishing Net, gears & others						1,061,779.95

Cey Nor Foundation Limited						
Construction Work						
NO	DATE	ORDER NO	NAME OF CUSTOMER	DESCRIPTION	QTY	TOTAL with VAT & SSCL
					Total	
	2025.08.12	1797	MFAOR	Renovation Radio Unit	1	961,809.97
	2025.09.02	1806	NARA	Concrete FAD-Negombo	1	2,680,622.88
	2025.09.03	1807	NAQDA	Cement tanks	6	2,828,106.23
	2025.09.03	1808	NAQDA	Cement tanks	9	4,242,159.34
Total						10,712,698.42

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 fish and 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.

Values

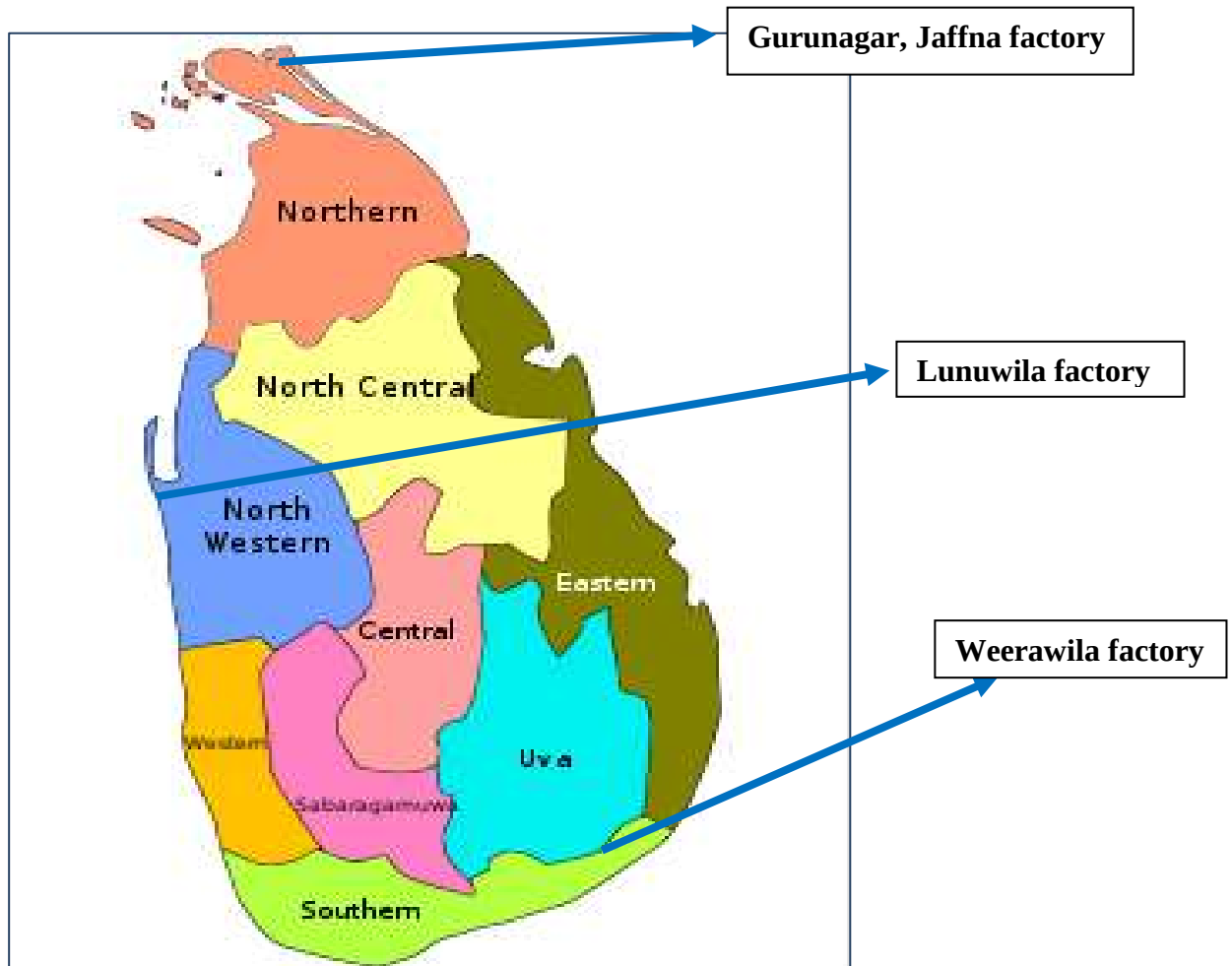
- Openness and Transparency – fostering honesty, clarity, and trust in all operations
- Connectedness (Teamwork) – promoting collaboration and strong teamwork across all levels
- Efficiency and Cost Optimization – streamlining processes while controlling costs effectively
- Innovation and Continuous Improvement – fostering innovation and efficiency in manufacturing processes.

Tasks

- 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 opportunities to rural fishermen, fishermen groups, fishermen entrepreturs, fishermen cooperative societies and giving priority to their welfare activities and thereby contributing to the economy of the country.



Jaffna



Lunuwila



Weerawila



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 inland fishing 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.

Demand for Fishnets

The demand for fishing nets is about 4,500 metric tons per year, of which 55% is supplied by local manufacturers (6 factories with a capacity of 1000-2500 metric tons per year), while North Sea Company Limited, with a production capacity of approximately 300 metric tons per year, meets about 7% of the fishing net demand (Previous Staitic survery and records).

The Total Fishnet Production Capacity of the Factories					
No	Description	Gurunagar	Lunuwila	Weerawila	Total
01.	Total production capacity (Minimum) – p. a (Mt.)	120	96	84	300

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 Institution (DS)
02.	Lunuwila - (Puttalam)	568	25,539	Owned Land
03.	Weerawila -(Hambantota)	137	15,000	Government Institution-Paddy Marketing Board

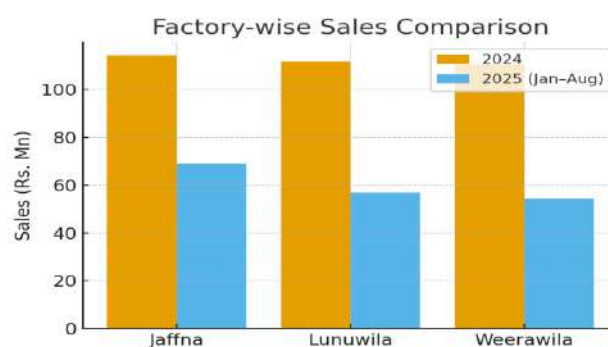
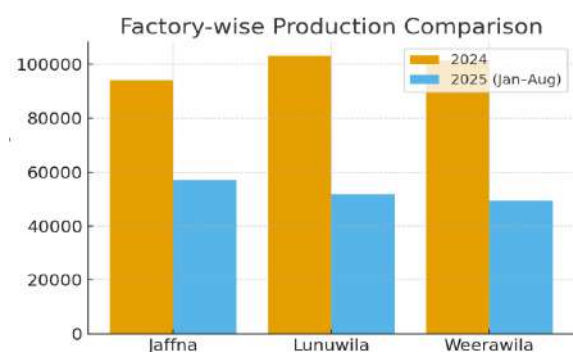
Production portfolios and Operating Facilities

The factories are equipped with netting, twisting and processing machinery of which details are as follows (Currently Running Condition);

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	01	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	05	08
	Total Annual production capacity		120MT.	96MT.	84MT.

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 as of August 2025				
Factory	Production (Mt.)		Sales) Rs. Mn)	
	Targeted Production (Annual)	Achieved Production	Targeted Sales (Annual)	Achieved Sales
Gurunagar	120	57.15	240.00	69.18
Lunuwila	96	51.66	240.00	56.88
Weerawila	84	49.48	180.00	54.28
Total	300	158.29	37800.	180.34



The total number of employees is current

Category	Head Office	Weerawila	Jaffna	Lunuwila	Total
Permanent	5	53	65	72	195
Casual / Contract / Trainee	2	11	13	14	40
Total	7	64	78	86	235

Challenges to Increasing Production Capacity

- **High Dependence on Rentals:**
Approximately 80% of the company's output is provided to private-sector institutions on a rental basis, which limits the company's own direct production activities.
- **Economic Pressures:**
Since 2020, the company has faced severe financial strain arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic crisis.
- **Limited Financial Resources:**
Most institutional income has been used solely for employee salaries and operational expenses, leaving insufficient funds to purchase raw materials for production.

Need to Expand Production Capacity

- **Achieving Production Goals:**
Increasing the institution's direct production capacity is critical to meeting strategic production targets.
- **Market Competitiveness:**
Enhancing production will enable the company to deliver fishing nets of higher quality than imported alternatives, strengthening commercial confidence in our products.

Recommended Methods

1. **Secure Special Grant Support**
Obtain targeted grants or government assistance dedicated to expanding direct production activities.
2. **Streamline Raw Material Procurement**
Improve sourcing and supply-chain processes to ensure a stable, cost-effective flow of raw materials.
3. **Create a Production Reserve**
Allocate a dedicated expense reserve from service income specifically for production investments.

Conclusion

By **streamlining production activities** and implementing these measures, the organization can significantly improve its efficiency, withstand economic challenges, and maintain a **strong, stable position in the market**.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Target Market share of the Company is 15% 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 safety 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 Sri Lanka
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 September 2025

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Other Income	434,489.98
Penalty Charge	1,347,020.00
Rent Income	120,347,725.00
Vehicle Parking	16,589,083.00
Water Charges	1,228,637.70
Solar Panel System	5,872,898.85
Total Income	145,819,854.53
Gross Profit	145,819,854.53
Expense	
Attendance Allowance Staff	687,099.28
Salary	17,256,381.56
EPF	2,633,236.40
ETF	588,424.56
Advertisement	181,307.00
Attendance Allo for t. Members	800,000.00
Bank Chg	1,575.00
Cleaning & Maintances	15,294,860.00
Bank Lone Boc	13,707,175.47
Electricity	
Genaral Area	11,690,859.78
New Conection	106,778.06
Electricity - Other	189,523.50
Total Electricity	11,987,161.34
Fuel	1,559,500.00
Garbage Remover	2,849,032.26
Other	254,865.22
Over Time	3,394,497.81
Postage & Stamp	4,125.00
Repairs & Maintains	
Repair & Main of Equipme	1,757,209.30
Repair & Main Of Vehical	13,623.00
Repair & Maintance of Bulding	3,655,267.96
Repair & Maintance of Pipe	63,531.00
Repair & Maintains of Premisess	424,958.00
Repairs & Maintains - Other	61,000.00
Total Repairs & Maintains	5,975,589.26
Security	9,875,600.00
Tea Allowance	115,250.00
Telephone	
SLT	59,794.30
Dialog Broadband Network	10,374.00
Total Telephone	70,168.30
Water	11,896,826.19
Fuel Allowance	95,000.00
Trust Board Active Members Allo	522,180.65
Audit Fees	534,540.00
Total Expense	100,284,395.30
Net Ordinary Income	45,535,459.23
Net Income	45,535,459.23