

ABSTRACT

Presently, fisheries industry is in deep crisis in Northern waters of Sri Lanka due to illegal fishing / poaching by Indian fishermen. Increasing intensity of this poaching menace in Sri Lankan waters has had impacts on the target specie "Shrimp" and their supporting marine ecosystems. This dissertation summarizes the consequences and negative impacts of illegal fishing/poaching by Indian fishermen in Northern Waters of Sri Lanka. This dissertation also discuss the present status of shrimp fishing and its development to explore marine resources of Northern waters as a deterrent strategy to prevent poaching by Indian fishermen. The study focus on direct and indirect social, economic and environmental impacts emerging through poaching and reviews the current situation, problems and issues, as well as the solutions found through an effective strategy to address this poaching menace. Important topics related to the large scale poaching in Sri Lanka and shrimp fishing are examined and endeavours made to identify suitable bottom trawl and concept craft for shrimp fishery operation which could be effectively used in fishing hot spots in Northern Sea of Sri Lanka.

Many theoretical disceptations with regard to the historical rights and rights of fishing in Northern Sea of Sri Lanka had been debated in this research and found factual substructure to confirm as to why Indian poachers should not venture into Sri Lankan waters inspite of so called "historical fishing rights". Researcher's sea experience as a Senior Naval Officer has enhanced the ability on rigorous data collection relevant to poaching and has made the study more precise and empirical. This study has also been aimed to find as to why the poachers do come to alien waters a question from the beginning, and the research answers the same. Study reveals that loss of revenue due to poaching and absence of a mechanism to explore and generate income from trawl fishery (Shrimps and Bycatch) is approx US \$ 20.2 million

which is considered to be a large value. However the actual revenue loss is much higher than calculated.

In Northern Waters of Sri Lanka, it is found that, weak agencies dealing with fisheries, lack of political will and inadequate legal foundations cause failures in the management of not only shrimp fishing but also of complete fisheries sector. The research makes specific recommendations in a few key areas: Preventive actions on poaching., Development of technology through innovation of suitable trawl net and concept craft for target specie Shrimp., the management of fisheries industry through proper fishing policy and access to the fishery in Wadge Bank which is a deprived fishing hot spot for Sri Lankan fishermen in view of Kachchativu issue.