

## ABSTRACT

The fishing industry in the Northern part of Sri Lanka presently confronts a crisis due to poaching by the Indian Fishing Trawlers with the opening up of seas around the northern regions. Almost 18,000 fisher families in the North of Sri Lanka directly depend on fishing as their main livelihood, while another 10,000 indirectly depend on fishing-related activities. However, poaching by the Indian fishermen makes a daily loss of five billion rupees to the country.

With the opening up of the sea surrounding the northern part, Sri Lanka expects a rapid increase in the fishing sector and related fishing activities, and the increase of national fish production of the country. However, presently, poaching by Indian fishing trawlers has put the fishing industry in the Northern part of Sri Lanka in a severe predicament.

Poaching by Indian trawlers rigorously impacts the social and economic issues of the fishing communities in the northern part of the country and the conservation of the marine environment in Sri Lankan waters. This has become a diplomatic issue between Sri Lanka and India while affecting the fishing communities in the northern part of Sri Lanka. Poaching was prohibited after enacting the maritime boundary agreement between India and Sri Lanka in 1976, yet, these violations continue in the northern region of Sri Lanka.

This study focuses on the marine fishing industry in the northern part of Sri Lanka and involves fishers and boat owners as subsectors. The purpose of this research is to examine the economic, social, and environmental impact on the livelihood of fishing communities by poaching Indian fishing trawlers in northern Sri Lanka. The sample was selected by a cluster sampling method from the selected five Fisheries inspector divisions in the Jaffna District, Delft Island, Point-Pedro West, Kankasanthurai East, Kayts, and Jaffna West.