

ABSTRACT

Poaching is a major issue in the Mannar district; this has directly or indirectly affected the livelihood of fishermen. This research will focus mainly on the poaching issue which has caused formidable economic problems to the livelihood of Mannar fishermen; however, there are many other factors which have also affected the livelihood of the fishermen. Issues like resettlement and illegal activities have contributed to further exaggerate the above issue.

Further, it was found that the law enforcement authorities have failed to prevent poaching due to the fragile policy adopted by the Government with regard to apprehended Indian trawlers. Destructive fishing techniques used by the Indian fishermen, while discarding various non target marine species and damages caused to local fishermen's fishing gears are a few of the problems faced by local fishermen on a daily basis.

The conceptual framework was developed through the literature review and primary data was collected through semi structured interviews. In addition to the above, a structured questionnaire was distributed among fishermen in Urumalai and Pier village. Researcher selected the 'Thematic analysis' to analyse the data gathered. However, the limited access to informants, time and space constraints and language barrier whilst interviewing Tamil/ Muslim fishermen were few limitations during the study.

During the research, it was identified various barriers that prevented providing a viable solution to the existing issue. Therefore, this dissertation provides several recommendations to overcome such problems and to develop the livelihood of Mannar fishermen.

Keyword: Poaching, Law enforcement, Destructive fishing techniques, None target fish