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ABSTRACT

Being a maritime nation, Sri Lanka has to safeguard her maritime zones and living and non-living resources. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea III (UNCLOS) has given sovereign rights to the country and powers in the maritime zones including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Sri Lanka has to face many maritime security threats due to nature of her location in the Indian Ocean Region. However, it's found that the ultimate responsible authorities for safeguarding the maritime zones were SL Navy (SLN) and the SL Coast Guard (SLCG). As government representatives, both authorities conduct monitoring, controlling and surveillance duties with satisfactory effort in maritime zones especially in the EEZ to overcome the all maritime threats. Both parties have to face monitoring, controlling and surveillance challenges due to insufficient resources and capabilities. The researcher attempted to identify existing challenges and causes and remedies to mitigate challenges and new applications to counter all problems. Stratified random sampling method used and designed the sample to cover sea going officers and sailors. Primary and secondary data collected by interviews, questionnaires and the literature. The researcher identified few reasons for the problems through that methods and those can be identified as the result of data analysing. They were lack of modern ships with new equipment for Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillances, lack of insufficient integration with other stakeholders, lack of awareness on existing maritime law and less contribution of laws on maritime crimes. Depending on those factors the conceptualization model was built up. The hypothesis of the research was formulated based on the conceptual framework and its independent and dependent variables. Based on indicators and dimensions, research questions were formulated. Based on these findings, summarised recommendations were made to implement new remedies and countermeasures to mitigate and control the Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillances challenges in Sri Lankan EEZ.

Key words: Monitoring, Controlling, Surveillance, Exclusive Economic Zone, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, Maritime threats, Challenges, UNCLOS.