

The country report of Sri Lanka

Project Inception workshop on Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME)

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Maritime Zones of Sri Lanka

Coast Line: Length of about 1,700 km

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): 537,000 km² eight (8) times the land area

Continental Shelf Area: Covers an area of 44,250 km² (8.2 % of the EEZ). narrow, rarely extending beyond 32 km

Under UNCLOS, Sri Lanka stands to gain a larger extended area of the sea bed (23 times the land area)



Overview of the Sri Lankan Fisheries

Fisheries sector in the economy



- ❖ Contributes > 65% of the animal protein consumed by the Sri Lankan population (18.1% to total protein)
- ❖ Total fish production in 2008 is around 319 120 Mt. Total marine fish production 274 630 Mt
- ❖ Contributes 1.5 % to GDP of the country (2008)
- ❖ Annual per capita availability of fish and fishery products 17.5 - 18.5 kg.
- ❖ Active fishers : About 150,000
Fisher population: 625,000
- ❖ Provides employment to > 350,000 people
- ❖ Foreign exchange - nearly US \$ 175 million in 2008



Fisheries Sub-sectors

There are three main sub-sectors within the fisheries sector,

coastal fisheries – Single day

offshore/deep sea fisheries – Multi-day

Inland fisheries and aquaculture

For analytical and management purposes marine fisheries are sub-divided into 2 sub-sectors

Marine Fishery Resources

- **Coastal fishery resources** - on the continental shelf and slope
the resources include, small, medium and large pelagic finfish, demersal finfish and invertebrates
- **Offshore/deep sea resources** – beyond the coastal areas within Sri Lankan EEZ and high seas
Offshore resources are mainly finfish resources: Tuna, sharks and billfishes



Sector wise fish production



Developments that are relevant to the BOBLME project

- Coastal /marine living resources management and sustainable use
- Maintenance of ecosystem health and management of pollution

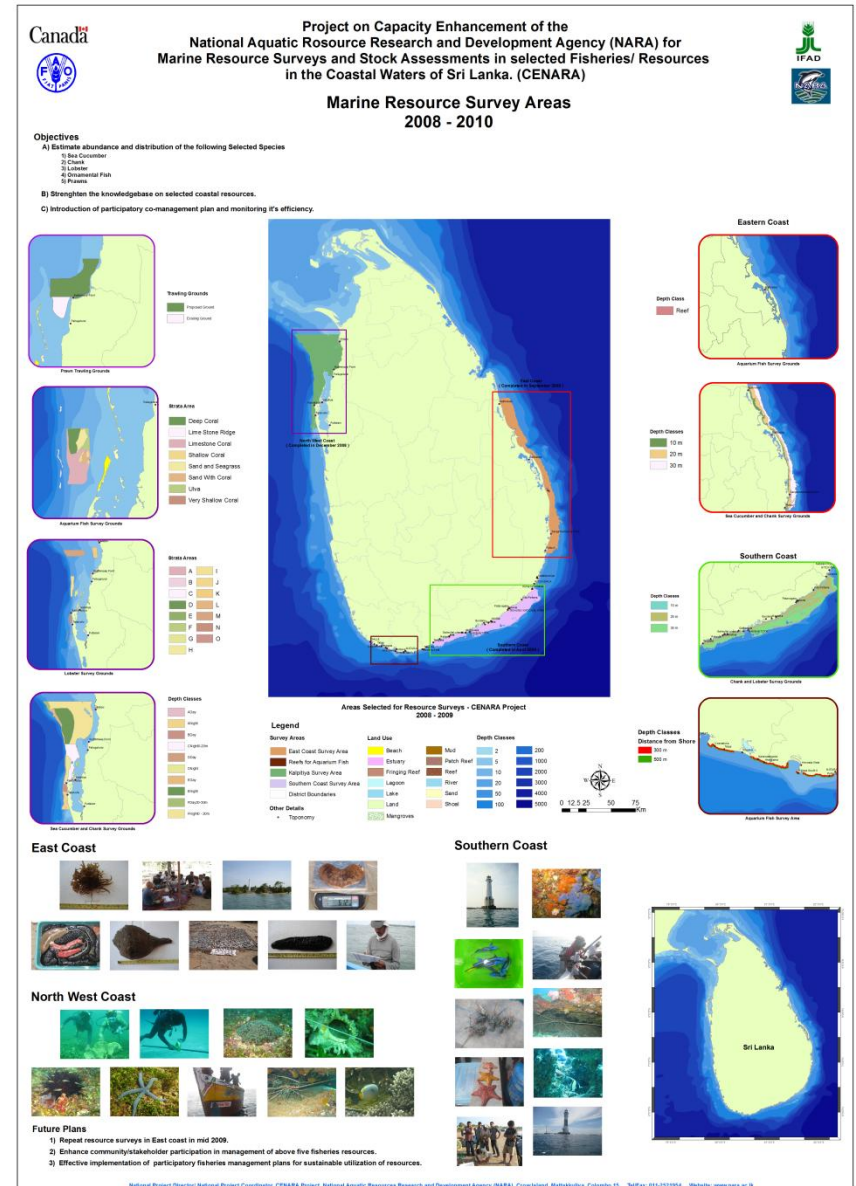
Coastal /marine living resources management and sustainable use

❖FAO/IFAD/CIDA/NARA Capacity Enhancement for Marine Resource Surveys and Stock Assessments for Selected Fisheries/Resources in the Coastal Waters of Sri Lanka (CENARA project)

Objectives:

- ✓Enhancement of NARA's skills for conducting resource surveys and stock assessments.
- ✓Upgrading NARA's logistics, capacities and facilities in the conduct of resources surveys and fish stock assessments.

- ✓ Strengthen and maintain the knowledge base on coastal fish resources.
- ✓ Introduction of participatory management of coastal fisheries resources.
- ✓ Facilitate the implementation of management plans and monitoring.

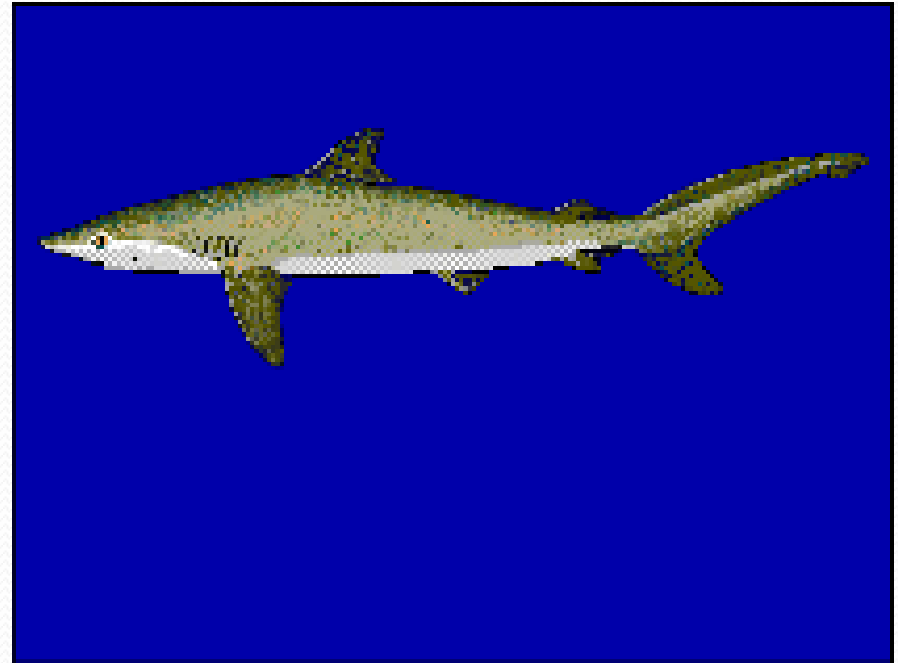




❖ Preparing National Plan Of Action for Sharks (NPOA - Sharks)

With the association of BOB –IGO, two regional consultation workshops held

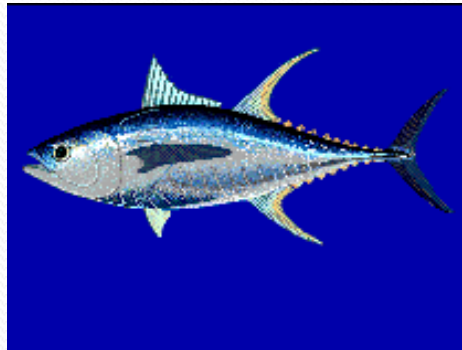
- ✓ Sri Lanka in March 2008
- ✓ Maldives in August 2009



- Action plan is being prepared and to be implemented
- Action plan will be submitted to BOB- IGO before February, 2010
- Set up the Task Force
 - ✓ Department of Fisheries
 - ✓ National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA)
 - ✓ Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic resources
- Focal point establishment - Department of Fisheries
- Awareness materials – in preparation
- Stakeholder meetings - Two meetings to be conducted
- Update status report on sharks – in progress

❖ The work done with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) for the management of highly migratory fish stocks like tuna

- ✓ Offshore fish landings including tuna catches has been monitoring by NARA since 1994
- ✓ Data are used to produce National statistics as well as status of offshore large pelagic fishery resources
- ✓ Data are also provided to IOTC for conducting stock assessments
- ✓ Data collection process was recently reviewed and improved accordingly



Maintenance of ecosystem health and management of pollution

- a. Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is the main Institute responsible for prevention of marine pollution in Sri Lankan waters
- b. Coast Conservation Department (CCD) of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is responsible for managing coastal resources within the coastal zone.



MEPA has already implemented following activities

1. Formulate and take necessary measures to implement National Oil Spill Contingency plan in any event of oil spill.
 - a. Prepare regulations - Oil Spill Contingency Plan
 - b. Capacity building - Training Officers
2. Provide waste reception facility
 - a.) Provide waste reception service for ships generated waste through service providers.
 - b.) Activities relevant to the proper waste reception facility.

3. Established waste reception facility at fishery harbors.

- (i) Waste oil collecting system
- (ii) Solid Waste collecting system





4. Awareness raising through the different groups of community.

(i) Establish school marine groups

(ii) Aware fishermen & fisher women's societies.

(iii) Aware government officers & non government officers

5. Marine research in collaboration with other organizations.

Coastal zone management initiatives being implemented


- Formulation and management of coastal zone management plan
- Control of coastal development activities through permit procedure
- Management of coastal habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass beds, salt marshes and sand dunes by means of regulations, education and awareness, direct developments and monitoring and evaluation
- Control of coastal erosion
- Formulation and implementation of special area management plans for habitat conservation

Other developments

- Improve post-harvest fish handling on vessels and in harbors
- Conduct training programmes to improve food quality
- Develop and implement a system for licensing different types of fishing boats and gears operate in the sea.
- NARA operates an Ocean Observation Centre (OOC) on 24 hr basis and monitoring ocean conditions around Sri Lanka. The centre provides ocean based disasters information and technical assistance to all relevant authorities.

New proposals

- Sri Lanka is willing to joint with the sub-regional effort for development of fishery management plan for Indian mackerel.
- Fishery resources surveys and stock assessments of medium pelagics: coastal tunas (Bullet tuna, Frigate tuna and Kawakawa etc.), Indian scad (*Decapterus russelli*) etc.



➤Fishery resources surveys and stock assessments of selected resources such as prawns, demersals, lobsters and sea cucumber in the northern waters of Sri Lanka to develop and manage the fisheries:

propose as a bilateral project with India as most of the resources are sharing stocks.



Thank you