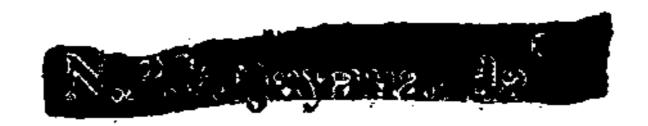
Journal of the Geological Society of Sri Lanka, Vol. 5 (1994) 135-139, Printed in Sri Lanka.

## A Note on the Continental Shelf Sediments Around Sri Lanka.



Oceanography Division, National Aquatic Resources Agency, Crow Island, Mattakkuliya, Colombo 15.

## **ABSTRACT**

Sediments on the continental shelf and upper slope around Sri Lanka are composed predominantly of terrigenous sand, biogenic carbonates (coral/shell debris) and mud. The sediment distribution around the island has a direct relationship with the climate in the adjoining land and seems to be controlled by the ocean current pattern in the region. Presence of high percentage (80%) of biogenic calcite in the outer continental shelf west and south-west of the island, at d epths more than 50 m, suggests submerged reef systems. Exploitable sand deposits are found to occur on the continental shelf north of Colombo.

## INTRODUCTION

Limited work has been done on the sediment distribution on the continental shelf around Sri Lanka. Some canyons, most parts of the continental slope are also cut by a series of slope valleys and gullies which indicate