

A Note on the Continental Shelf Sediments Around Sri Lanka.

[Redacted]

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 depths 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