

Preface

Sri Lanka being an island nation, fishing has become an important industry for many years.

In the development of the Fisheries industry throughout the world the quality of the gear used is one of the most important factors. Among Asian countries, however, the introduction of new fishing gear and methods without control may not be appropriate because of its possible adverse effects on the environment and resources.

The modification of traditional gear to improve the value of the catch, is therefore highly recommended. To do this, a detailed study of the types and styles of available gear must first be undertaken.

In early 1990's, Ministry of Fisheries initiated a systematic study under the funding of UNDP and first book on fishing crafts and gears of Sri Lanka was published in 1995.

The present Fishing Gear catalogue is the first catalogue produced in Sri Lanka having technical information which can be used for educational as well as for legal and management purposes.

Being a tropical country having a multi-species fishery, fishing gear types and their mode of operations are varied and complex. Hundreds of variations of minor nature were observed with respect to certain fishing gear types which made this exercise more difficult.

This book contains descriptions of some 40 major important marine and lagoon fishing gear types presently employed in Sri Lanka.

While preparing this catalogue, FAO accepted International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) was adopted and standard abbreviations were used in the technical drawings.