

## PREFACE

The Occasional Papers series of the National Aquatic Resources Agency has been started with the intention of documentation and publication of various aspects of scientific work and other studies undertaken within the framework of NARA and the broad resource oriented mandate of the Agency. This publication is the outcome of research projects undertaken by the Aquaculture Unit of this Agency.

For successful culture of fishes, prawns and shell fishes, feeding the different stages with appropriate, balanced live or formulated feed is considered as one of the major requirements. Realising this, NARA has been concentrating on laboratory and field studies of the most important live feed organism - the brine shrimp, Artemia. The existing information on the nutritional requirements of cultivable species of fish (including ornamental fish) and prawns in Sri Lanka is meagre. Hence, research has been intensified in this area.

It is satisfying to note that the feed developed by the research workers of this Agency has been found acceptable by the local ornamental fish breeders and is now being commercialised. The various scientific papers contained in this issue deals with primary production, growth assessment of some ornamental fishes,