

Socio-economic and livelihood aspects of fisheries in Panama Lagoon of Sri Lanka

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This study was conducted to explore the socio-economic and livelihood aspects of the fisheries in Panama Lagoon located in Lahugala Divisional Secretariat of Ampara District from January to June in 2016. Total of 32 fishers were sampled based on convenience sampling and subjected to the direct interviews to collect data and relevant information using a pre tested semi structured questionnaire. According to the results, 53% of fishers were belong to 45-64 age category and the majority of fishers (53%) had only the primary education. Both male and female were engaged in fishing activities in this lagoon. On average, a fisherman engages 23 days in fishing per month in lagoon fisheries throughout the year where as a fisher woman engages 20 days in fishing during the prawn season. Only the non-motorized traditional boats were in fishing operation. Drift gill nets and cast nets were the most commonly used fishing gears in Panama Lagoon. The study reveals that the average daily fish catch per craft was 4 kg and the monthly average fishing income of a fisherman was Rs. 29,049.00. A fisher woman earned Rs. 412.00 per day by picking up 750 g of prawns per day on average. During the prawn season a fisher woman earned Rs. 8,240.00 per month. The average annual maintenance cost and replacement investment of fishing operation in Panama Lagoon fishery was Rs. 19,213.00 and 48,532.00 respectively.

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