

Socio-economic aspects of indirect fishery workers with special reference to Negombo Fisheries District in Sri Lanka

H.D. Wimalasena*, D.W.L.U. De Silva and K.P.G.L. Sandaruwan

National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Crow Island, Colombo 15, Sri Lanka

This paper reviews the socio-economic aspects of indirect fishery workers (IFWs) in the Negombo Fisheries District. Indirect fishery workers provide supporting services to fishers from pre-production to post production stages until fish and fishery product reaching the consumer. Data collected using semi-structured questionnaire from 139 indirect fishery workers from March to September, 2016. The gender divide of indirect fishery workers was confined to male and female by 79 and 21% respectively. Six percent (6%) of them never attended school. Primary and secondary education was achieved by 32 and 62% of IFWs respectively. The mean monthly income of indirect fishery workers was in the range of Rs. 15,000.00-53,000.00 depending on the type of activity. The highest monthly income was earned by engaging in fish retail marketing followed by dried fish making. Fuel supply for boats, net mending, sorting of fish, repairing of engines were among the other economic activities of the indirect fishery workers. The IFWs should be registered under the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to upgrade their services. This may lead to increase the quality of services provided by them and to upgrade their socio-economic status.

Keywords: indirect fishery worker, semi-structured questionnaire, socio-economic aspects

*Corresponding author – email :wimalherathykk@gmail.com