

Jaffna Peninsula: Present Perspective and Changes on Fishing

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Fishing industry is one of the major economic ventures of the people of Jaffna Peninsula in the northern part of Sri Lanka. Jaffna Peninsula which contributed 20 to 25 % of the total fish production in Sri Lanka before 1983, is able to contribute only 3 to 5% because of the civil war. The war which has been waged for the last two decades has put the fishing industry of the Jaffna Peninsula under hardship and as a result, prosperous life of the fishing folks has been badly affected.

Though some of the restrictions implemented on fishing have been relaxed, it was not up to the expectation of the fishing folks. They are unable to fish freely in the sea, and face lot of problems in the shore as well because of the remaining restrictions.

Status of the Sri Lankan Fisheries

The fisheries sector of Sri Lanka plays an important role regarding employment, income generation, export income and the provision of animal protein for domestic consumption. It is further considered to be a potential growth sector in the future, especially in terms of inland aquaculture. At present the fisheries sector is estimated to account for 2.7 % of the GDP 2000. With 250 000 fishers and other individuals employed directly and indirectly, the fishing sector provides a livelihood for more than 1 million people. When secondary activities related to trading and the production of input factors are considered the number is considerably greater.

Sri Lanka has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 517 000 Sq.Km or eight times the total land area. The resources are varied and include finfish, shellfish, cuttlefish, sea cucumber, sea pens, shrimp, sea wed etc. It has been estimated that the potential catch is approximately 500 000 tons per annum, while the present catch is

around 300 000. Most of the catches 61 % originate in the coastal inshore areas, while 27% is caught offshore or in international waters. The remaining 11 % of the output is produced by inland fisheries and aquaculture. The fishing operations are conducted using 27 000 crafts, of which 46 % are motorized. This figure include nearly 15 0 Multi Day Boats (MDB) normally fishing for up to four weeks per trip. More recent figures indicate that 16 000 boats are actively fishing in the Southern, Western, and North Western Provinces. The predominant fishing method is gillnetting, accounting for 80 % of total landings. Other gear types include long lines, pole and line, trawl, purse seine and beach seine.

Infra structure facilities are mainly concentrated to 15 fishing harbors and 19 anchorages around the coast. In addition, there are approximately 600 landing beaches without any facilities. There are 60 ice plants in operation (flack ice or block ice) and 29 boat yards. Six factories produce 75 % of the fishing gear used in the local fisheries, while the rest is imported. Furthermore, there are 12 processing and packing plants, all privately owned and having the required EU standard.

The average fish consumption per annum is approximately 18 Kg per capita, and sea food thereby provides for nearly 70% of animal protein supply to the population of Sri Lanka. In terms of export(approximately 84 mil USD) in 2002 50 % of the products include high value products such as shrimp, crab, lobster, shark fins etc. But Sri Lanka is also importing large quantities of dried fish, especially from the Maldives. The largest potential for future expansion seems to be in inland lakes, tanks and reservoirs, covering an area of 420 000 ha. (including brackish water lagoons).

Administratively the fisheries belong under the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources (MFOR) established in 1970. MFOR consists of two departments; the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) and the Department of Coast Conservation (CCD). The National Aquatic Resource Research and Development Agency (NARA) is the research arm of MFOR. The institute, established in 1981, consists of 9 divisions with a scientific staff of 100 persons (Of a total of 377). In 1999, a new national institute of Fisheries and nautical engineering (NIFNE) was established in Colombo, with 6(+) regional colleges scattered around the coast. The

purpose of NIFNE is to train fishers in technical and managerial skills as well as to provide the fishing sector with other qualified personnel. Also belonging under MFOR is the Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (CFHC), being responsible for the operation of the existing harbors and the planning and constructions of new harbours. Another state agency is the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation, originally established in 1965, to undertake the purchase and sale of fish (and ice) in order to provide an alternative to the dominating group of middlemen (Mudalalis). At present CFC handles only 1 % of the total catches and consequently only plays a marginal role in the fishing sector. The same applies to the fishing gear production unit CEYNOR Ltd, originally established as part of the Norwegian NGO-based project back in the 1960's. From being a large producer of boats and fishing gear this currently state owned company is reduced to operating two fishing gear production units. A grand total in excess of 4000 persons are employed within public administrative bodies, including the state owned companies.

The co-operative sector in Sri Lanka is still larger comprising 943 village level fisheries co-operative societies with a total of 116 000 members of which 24 000 are women. In the south and west most of these societies are inactive, while they are still up and running in the North and North-east. Approximately 120 of the co-operative societies have been transformed into fisheries banks (Converting their savings into loan capital), intended to assist the fishers to acquire better boats and equipment. However, since the main subsidy schemes ended during the 190s, interest in maintaining the co-operative structures in the South and on the West coast has dwindled. However, the increasing number of autonomous fisher's organizations currently in the process of emerging, organized by the fishermen themselves of by boat owners, is a very interesting structural feature of the industry.

Jaffna Peninsula

Jaffna District is one of five districts in the Northern province, 410 km from Colombo. Jaffna consists of the peninsula and small islands with the palk strait in the north, Indian Ocean in the east, Kilinochi District and the Jaffna lagoon in the south and the Palk Bay in the west. The total land area including inland waters is 1023.2 sq km. The land is flat with less than 5% slope. The Jaffna District is surrounded

by sea, and lagoon fishing was a dominant sector before 1983. Due to the conflict, fish production decreased, and many fishermen lost their fishing gears and vessels.

The fishing industry was the major industry in the Jaffna area before the conflict. As an example, the Cey- Nor Group had more than 1,500 employees in Karai nagar in boat building, fish net production, fish meal production fish processing onboard and fishing vessels, in addition to operating a hospital. All of this was destroyed during the conflict, and the equipment was removed or damaged. Today, the site is within the military controlled High Security Zone, and there is no fishing activity.

Marine sources in Jaffna Peninsula

Since the marine potential lies as a vast natural resources in the Jaffna Peninsula, the fishing industry has been very important for the people of this area for a long time. When compared with the other parts of Sri Lanka, the Jaffna peninsula has a remarkable marine environment suitable for fishing. The total coastal length of this area is nearly 392.6 km. Further the area of the Jaffna peninsula contains shallow continental shelf 'Pedro bank', pearl bank, prawns bank, and brackish water of 11917 hectare and mangrove areas of 7070 hectares.

These features contributed to the development of lagoon coastal, and offshore fishing and collection of marine products by diving. As the marine environment of the Jaffna peninsula has various environmental features, traditional small scale lagoon fishing with gears, such as (Siragu valai, ral codu), setnet, castnet, trap, handline, etc., and other coastal fishing involving beach seine, gillnet, trawl net, and long line has been used successfully in the water. Chank, sea cucumber, crabs and lobster were collected by diving.

The fishing around the peninsula is divided into different areas. The general situation before the conflict started was as follows:

The **Palk bay**, south of Jaffna peninsula and west of the main land consists of shallow waters and large patches of eel grass. The area is dominated by in-shore shallow water species, predominantly silver belies, young breams, prawns, rabbit fishes, mullets, cuttlefish and squids. Also large pelagic fish as parai, ser, baracuda and katta are caught in addition to prawns and crabs. Silver belies were heavily exploited, but this is a fast replenishing stock so the yield may be high.

The **Jaffna lagoon** is enclosed by the Jaffna peninsula, mainland and the Islands. The catches consist of various pelagic and demersal inshore species, breams, rabbit fish, small parai, barracuda, rock cods, mullets, various other miscellaneous species, prawns and crabs and the area is fairly well exploited.

The **Palk Strait** is a shallow area north of the Jaffna Peninsula from Kayts up to Point Pedro. The fish resources in this area are fairly well exploited. Fishing is not possible during North-East Monsoon, October to January. The dominant species in the catches are young breams, rock cods, small inshore fish sardines, herrings, small parai, barracuda, pomfrets, wolf herring, ribbon fish, cuttle fish, squids, lobster, crabs, and miscellaneous varieties such as sharks, skates and rays.

The **Pedro Bank** is a long strip along the East Coast of the Jaffna Peninsula, wide in the north and narrow in the south. There are different types of large sized demersal fish. The small fishes are mainly utilized locally while the bigger fishes are sold to Colombo. Skates and rays are produced locally and sold in dry condition and shark fins are produced from the sharks for export. The fish resources are probably not fully utilized by the Sri Lankan fishermen, but fishermen fear that the foreign trawlers will over-exploit the resource.

There is a narrow strip of open seas along the East Coast of the peninsula. No fishing is possible during the North-East Monsoon, October to January.

There is a concern for over-exploitation if the annual catches exceed 35,000 tons. Through monitoring it will be detected when the annual catches approach this level, and from this point onwards there should be a cautionary increase in the number of fishing boats and fishing effort. To assist in the monitoring, the team suggests that a *census-point be established near the Elephant Pass*, where the trucks document what they carry, a procedure of registration of vehicles number and the location where the fish was loaded

Human Resource

According to the DFEO's statistics of 1989 on the distribution of fishers population, 101,177 persons from 22563 fishing families have involved in fishing. Among them 24839 persons were active fishers in this year, and they were distributed

in 106 fishing villages along the Jaffna peninsula coastal line, (Table 1 map) due to the ethnic conflict, specially after the capture of the Jaffna Peninsula by Sri Lankan Forces, most of the fishing families were displaced, and in 1999, there were 10688 fishing families and 11192 active fishermen that remained in the peninsula.

After the signing of the (MOU) Memorandum Of Understanding between the LTTE and GOSL, some of the displaced fishing families have begun to resettle gradually. As a result the number of fishing families in the year 2003 increased to 15,822. However because of the HSZ's high security zones 4436 fishing families are unable to return to their own places and still live in welfare centers.

They rely on the provision of scanty food relief provided the state for their livelihood. More than 12193 houses that belonged to fishing community were completely destroyed during the war. The signing of the MOU has made possible the rebuilding of some of the destroyed houses.

Changes in the fish production

Fish Production Trends

Because of the rich resource potential for fishing industry, the northern region specially in the Jaffna District recorded a higher production than other parts of Sri Lanka. The production remained high up to 1983 when the ethnic conflict erupted. Owing to the abnormal situation in this part, the production declined gradually.

The production is analyzed under the following five stages. (Table No.1.)

Stage-1

Modernization Efforts

At independence before the war (1950 – 1983), Sri Lankan fisheries were entirely based on traditional technology, and the nation had to rely on imports of fish from India, and the Maldives. Inputs to the fishing industry were locally available raw materials the boat builders used locally available raw materials the boat builders used local timber and the fisher folk made ropes from coconut fibers and they make fishing nets also from juts, caroler twines. Fishing gears were usually locally made, often by the fishermen themselves, therefore fish production were very low. Fish which were not locally marketed, were often dried. No preservation facilities like

ice etc. Private traders, mudalalis. Controlled the marketing fish it is applicable including Jaffna peninsula.

Table I : Fish production in the Northern Region in Sri Lanka (Mt)

Year	Jaffna	Mannar	Mullaitivu
1951	4351	9200	2560
1961	11935	4309	5696
1971	16364	9117	4009
1981	43797	13175	11205
1983	48776	11768	6254
1984	13161	9026	3215
1985	13775	8246	3426
1986	13053	8246	3669
1987	13775	8567	3669
1988	14702	8694	3812
1989	15078	9050	3868
1990	11078	6299	2868
1991	11912	7872	3141
1992	1327	6225	N.A
1993	1514	6300	N.A
1994	3112	3500	N.A
1995	2263	2350	N.A
1996	1540	2247	N.A
1997	2762	4528	N.A
1998	2428	N.A	N.A
1999	3232	N.A	N.A
2000	2211	N.A	N.A
2001	2676	4758	N.A
2002	5311	6083	N.A
2003	21203	6066	N.A

Statal interventions during the past 20 years (1960 to 1980) (Ministry of Fisheries 1972, 1977, 1979, 1980, Ministry of Plan Implementation 1982) have resulted in considerable changes.

The model for the first fishery planners in Neylon was Japan. The plan made by Japanese experts (Colombo Plan Fisheries Survey Team to Ceylon) in 1958, encompasses every aspect of fisheries development except the welfare of the fisher folk. The aim was increased production, which should secure a larger self-sufficiency of fish. This should primarily be obtained by mechanization of the fleet and by the construction of harbors. The latter was specially emphasized because the experts recommended that the country should explore the deep sea resources of the Indian Ocean. Imports of big mechanized boats and trawlers were recommended as well as an increase in the capacity of building coastal vessels. Workshops for the modern fleet were also planned, as well as improvements of existing, and production of new, fishing gears.

The two-year plan of 1959 recommended progressive mechanization, the state should finance infrastructure, harbors, freezing plants, work shops and several new mechanized boats. A credit/lease program granting loan without interest to buy 2 ton boat was introduced. In the following years, several changes were made in this plan. FAO, IBRD, and IECA (International Engineering Consultants Association) also made reports on the development of fisheries in 1960.

In 1965, a functional division was made between Department of Fisheries and Ceylon Fisheries Corporation (CFC). The department was hereafter responsible for research, training of fishermen, welfare and development of inland fisheries. CFC should develop the trawling (11 ton trawler) fisheries and fish processing, and was also made responsible for boat building and sales of fishing gears.

The 'Master Plan' of the fisheries sector for the period from 1978 – 1983 follows in broad terms the guide lines of the previous plan. The plan covers mechanization of the fleet, construction of harbors, improvement of transportation, increased ice production and betterment of infrastructure in fishing villages. The development program has 3 fold aim:

To increase the production of fish and per-capita consumption to a minimum of 20 kg / yr

To increase the income and to improve the living condition of the fisher folk. To maximize the employment opportunities in the fisheries sector.

In previous plan, strengthening of the co-operative organizations was considered essential. This plan represents in that respect a shift, In line with the general economic policy at the time emphasis is put on the private sector.

In total, Sri Lanka's fleet number approximately 25,000 crafts, 2800 of these are 3.5 tonners, 3900 are glass fibre beach landing crafts and 4500 are traditional crafts with out boat engines. The rest, about 15200 crafts, are non mechanized. Most of them without sails. In 1981, about 60 % of the fleet was non – mechanized. Their share of production was 37 %, of this about 5 % were caught with a *Ma-del* (Beach seine). There is no doubt that the great production increase of the latter years is caused by the mechanization of the fleet. Before mechanization, the most important methods were handling, small nets made from cotton yarn, cast nets, traps and beach seine. These methods are still used aboard some crafts. During the 1960s the Nylon drift gillnet has become most important and this is the dominating gear aboard 'Industrial boats. Long lining is common, but not as important as gill netting.

Mechanization gained momentum after the introduction of the 3.5 tanner in 1960s. This is a 28 – 32" feet boat with inboard diesel motor. This became a success after 1955, when it was possible to get fishing gear on the same terms. The rate of payment, however, proved to be low, which led to increased emphasis on the mechanization of the traditional fleet by issuing outboard engines. In the late 1960s, the fiber glass craft was introduced. This is 17.5 feet long, and sufficiently light to drag ashore. It is however, too light to compete with the 3.5 tonner in high seas during monsoon season.

The fisheries may obtain loans to buy mechanized boats and fishing gears in Fisheries Bank, in Asian Development Bank, or in private banks. In addition to stately boat subsidies, some imported inputs are duty free. After 1980, the fisheries bank has given loans to buy non-mechanized crafts as well. The criteria to obtain subsidies are in addition to some capital.

They must be skilled industrious and enterprising fishermen who are prepared to the use methods and gear, or in the case of now – comers to the industry, they must

be energetic persons of enterprise and pioneering skill. They must be sufficiently outstanding among fishermen to give the initial leadership and fillip necessary to further the program of mechanization (Goonewardena, 1980).

. In stage 1, the fish production was generally high owing to normal situation and the introduction of mechanized boats and the use of synthetic nets. The production which was 4352 mt, in 1951, rose to 11935 mt in 1961, 16364 mt in 1971, and 48776 mt in 1983, it was higher production in Sri Lanka.

Stage-2

In stage 2, the production declined in the year following 1983, because of the military activities in the northern part, and the declaration of security zone in the marine water from Talaimannar to Chudikulam in 1985, and the displacement of refugees to Tamil Nadu in South India. Production which was 13161 mt, in 1984, dropped to 1303 in 1986. During this period (June 1986), 31 fishermen were killed in mandai tivu by the Sri Lankan Army.

Stage-3

In stage 3, following the arrival of IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force), from India in the northern part of Sri Lanka, IPKF has been relaxed some fishing restrictions, therefore normally has considerably restored and fishing activities were revived and the productions which was 14702 Mt in 1988, 15078 Mt in 1989 and in 1990 21361 Mt.

Stage 4

In Stage 4, following the departure of the IPKF from northern part of Sri Lanka, the fishing industry dwindled, because of the resumption of war between the LTTE and GOSL – forces. In addition due to various state restrictions including enforcement of laws,

- Fisheries was completely banned in the north sea.
- Continue implemented – forth
- Economic embargo
- Shelling, bombing the coastal line
- Fisheries were forbidden from venturing into the deep sea.

Several members of the fisheries family sought refuge in Vanni and South India.

As a result again the fishing industry in the north especially in the Jaffna peninsula collapsed. The decline continued and the production which was only 1199 Mt, in the year 1991, 2263 Mt in 1995. This trend had been static till Ranil's Government was placed in power.

Stage-5

In Stage 5, the years following 1995 were the worst period as far as fishing industry of north specially of the Jaffna Peninsula concerned. The Jaffna peninsula is declared to be liberated, but the fishing activities are banned in certain areas and strict restrictions are imposed in other areas.

The details of the restrictions are below.

The restrictions imposed by the ministry of defense are reproduced.

These factors attributed to the fall in fish production in this period from 1540 Mt in 1996, to 2211Mt in 2000.

Trespass of Indian fishermen

Hundreds of Indian fishing travelers that trespass the northern territorial water of Sri Lanka, not only exploit our marine resources, but also cause severe to the gear of northern part of Jaffna Fishermen. Indian fishermen who trespass our territory has assaulted our fishermen in our territory and as a result of this, many of our fishermen were wounded. Other than this, some of the fishermen were cruelly massacred in our sea. For example, one fisherman in Pesalai, of Mannar district in 1995 was killed and another in Point Pedro, Jaffna District in Feb 2004. More than 100 Indian Travelers caught by Sri Lankan navy in our sea are now under the custody of navy. Travelers were convicted by the district court, Jaffna and are in various prisons in Jaffna. Among those, some were released

High Security Zones

One of the severe threats faced by the fishermen in high security zones is, they are engulfed about 81.5 km of the coastal area and driven away about 4436 fishing families from their own villages.

They still live a refugee life depending on the relief provided by the Govt. of Sri Lanka and NGOs. Some of the fishing villages allowed to fishing but not allowed to resettle.

In early 1980s, around 22,500 families depended on fishing for their livelihood in the peninsula. The majority of these families were displaced during the war. Many of them were displaced more than once and a considerable number sought refugee in South India. Displaced fisher families began to return to Jaffna since mid 1996 and by 1998, some 8600 families had returned. This trend accelerated after the CFA/MOU. Today, more than 50 to 60 % of the peninsula's displaced fishing families are back although not all of them are living in their original homes or villages.

Many of the displaced families are still living in welfare camps like 'fish out of water' as an elderly displaced woman in a camp in Udukil told (me) in Aug. 2003. The same woman also said that for her, peace meant being able to return with her family and others to their native village of Myllidy and revive their lives as a fishing community. The vast majority of Jaffna's fishermen lack the means to rebuild their basic capital stock. A considerable number (Probably about a quarter of the total number of fishermen) is unable to do any fishing at all as they are displaced and pauperized.

This group also includes female-headed house holds. The recently concluded needs assessment survey reported that more that 90% of the boats , engines and gears might have been lost or rendered unusable in Jaffna.

The fishermen also suffer because of the barbed wire fences up also the coast line by the security forces, the security turrets and army posts, and the restrictions on the distance allowed to fish in the sea from the coast and the time permitted to fish"(Prof.N.Shanmugaratnam).

Marketing activities

During the civil war, all the 13 ice factories which had been producing 150 mt ice per day were destroyed. At the same time, marketing the catch out of the peninsula was also curbed. With the opening of the A 9 road after the signing of the MOU Jaffna fishermen have a limited access to the market out of the peninsula.

Ice plays very important part in the preservation and transportation of the fish out of the peninsula, but today, only three small scale ice production, which produce only 40 blocks of 25 pounds a day, is taking place in the peninsula. This meets only a very small part of the ice need of the peninsula. Further vehicles with refrigerators (Coolers) bring ice blocks from Colombo and take back 200 kg of fish in on cooler. The Jaffna fishermen have to pay a higher price for the ice brought by the cooler. The fishermen have to spend a lot of money and more and more time in transport because of the difficulties they face on the check-points.

Lack of fishing boats and equipments/Gears.

The traditional boats such as catamaran, vallam, and mechanized boats such as OBM (Out Boat Motor), boats without motors, and 3.5 ton travelers were in use in these areas, prior to 1995. 3.5 tons boats are preferred for travel nets, gill nets, and long lining, and OBM boats are preferred for gill nets generally.

For Lagoon fishing, the use of set nets, hand line, traps, vallam and catamarans are preferred. Although 569 travelers were in operation during the 1990s it has none at 2000, now only 100 operated. OBM boats, catamarans, and vallams have also been reduced.

Some of the other types of crafts, especially the mechanized boats and travelers were removed by fisheries during the course of their displacement. Most of them were damaged and beyond use. Particularly 3.5 ton travelers were used as firewood and mechanized OBM boats (Fiber glass boats) were abandoned. The table No.2 , indicates the numbers of damaged boat engines and gears in 1990s.

The private sector reacts quickly and positively to the market potential for new fishing boats. An additional effect of the cease-fire agreement in February 2002 and the opening of the A-9 was easier access to materials to the traditional craft, kattumaran. One fisherman said that while he recently had paid Rs55,000 for his kattumaran, its present value was Rs 15,000.

Since the cease-fire agreement and up to August 2002, Jaffna fishermen have purchased about 250 second-hand fibre glass boats from outside the Northern Province. The price for these second hand boats without out boat engine and fishing

gears is Rs 30,000 – Rs 38,000, compared with a new one costing Rs 99,000 – 115,000. The Hatton National Bank in Jaffna reported that it had requests from fishermen to borrow money to buy second-hand vessels, but due to lack of documentation of the registration of the boats, the bank was not in the position to lend money.

Fishing harbours

Fishing harbours at Kytes, KKS, Point Pedro and Myliddy in the Jaffna District have been occupied for security purposes for long time, there were under the high security zones. Consequently fishers are facing several problems in protecting and maintaining their boats.

Institutional situations

The Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Jaffna, is functioning in a private building with branch offices with inadequate facilities such as furniture equipment and vehicles. It is service to the people and the sectors are to manage and develop the fishing industry for the better nutrition for the public and income for the fishing community.

Fisheries Department ran short of staff who are proficient and well versed in fishing profession, further, they do not have any access for scholarship. Facilities to go abroad for training programs and similar other programs that may update their knowledge.

In the northern region, there is no institution other than the Center for Development of Fisheries of the university of Jaffna to conduct research and promote fisheries production and development of the industry. There is an urgent need for the setting up of a fisheries research institute in the North Region.

Arrangements should be made to re-organize the fishermen's co-operative societies which have been defunct and obtain optimum service out of them. Further action should be taken to protect the coastal environment.

Suggestions / or Action needed

In order to revive this important sector and improve the living conditions of the fishermen the following actions are necessary.

Ban on fishing (Time and area limits) should be lifted or relaxed to a meaningful level and fishermen should be allowed to do fishing with reasonable restrictions.

High security zones should be lifted and the displaced fishing families should be resettled providing all basic amenities, and replacing the destroyed fishing equipments.

Payments of compensation in respect of personal/Property loss/ damages.

Loan schemes with concession to purchase fishing gears and boats.

Eventhough the income of the fishers is generally high, their standard of living remains low. The factors such as the absence of saving habit, misuse of money, early marriage, and greater number of fishing members can be attributed to this condition. Illiteracy is the basic and major factor for this condition. Therefore scheme should be devised to provide children informal and adult education in order to achieve a fair literacy among fishers.

Basic needs such as hygienic facilities, including latrine, supply of drinking water, and electricity, sheds for shelter etc should be provided to the fishermen not have resettled.

The fiber glass boat factory, fishing net factories, the ice plants and the fish processing centers should be reconstructed and the should start production immediately.

Reactivate the CEYNOR factory.

Promote the export of high yielding items such as prawns, lobsters, and beach demur.

- Easy credit program to facilitate the rehabilitation of private sector related to fisheries.
- Filling the vacancies the exist in the dept. of fisheries to promote efficiency.
- Establishing separate faculty of fisheries in the university of Jaffna.
- An amicable settlement should be arrived to solve the trespassing through negotiations between the Indian fishing community and our fishing community.

Despite the suggestions, actions and recommendations, I wish to make my very modest and sincere observation that unless a stable and autonomous political

administration prevails in the North-East Province, there won't be any feasibility for the development of fisheries sector, with the expected objectives.

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