Minimum sustainable whinge: An approach to reservoir fishery management in Sri Lanka

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Reservoir fishery of Sri Lanka is almost entirely dependent on the exotic cichlid species *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Peters) which forms over 70% of the total landings. Previous studies have shown that the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and the Optimum fishing Intensity for this fishery were 256 kg ha^{-1} $year^{-1}$ and 3.2 boats km^{-2} respectively. However in addition to achieving MSY, profit and employment maximization is also necessary in the Sri Lankan reservoir fishery as in the case for most commercial and artisanal fisheries. As such, a triangular diagram is presented from which trade-offs between yield, profit and employment are determined. Since this approach is meant for minimizing complaints of the three policy makers in the fishery, i.e., biologist, economist and politician, this management goal is termed as "Minimum Sustainable Whinge." According to this analysis, in the reservoir fishery of Sri Lanka, fishing intensity has to be maintained in the range of 2.2-2.4 boats km^{-2}.

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