

Social economic and marketing aspects of interactive fisheries in the Kalpitiya peninsula of Sri Lanka

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Surrounding net fishery (laila) and bottom long line fishery which operate in the coastal waters of Kalpitiya peninsula compete for the same fish resources, resulted in a fishery dispute among respective fishermen. Both fisheries targets demersal as well as mid pelagic fishes such as travellys, queen fishes and barracudas. As the dispute had an adverse impact on the social harmony in the area, a socio-economic survey was conducted to study the underline factors and suggest policy measures to resolve the conflict. The laila fishermen were resident fishermen in the Kalpitiya peninsula while bottom long line fishermen were migratory fishermen from Negombo and Chilaw areas. The educational level and literacy rate of laila community was far bellow the same in bottom long line community, the laila community shows a better off economic situation compared to bottom long line community. The net economic returns from laila fishery shows clear distinction compared to that of bottom long line fishery. The boat owner's and crew's share per operation of laila fishery were LKR 3736 and 947 respectively. The same figures for bottom long line fishery were LKR 588 and 327 respectively. More over, the resource rent from laila and bottom long line fishery were rupees 5860 and 275 respectively. Therefore, the laila fishery exploits the targeted fish resource at a very high rate compared to bottom long line fishery. This situation badly affected the equitable distribution of resources among the respective fishing communities and resulted in unequal economic gains. To address this problem therefore, implementation of policy measures based on input output controls are suggested. One of the possible policy measures is to increase license fee of laila fishery to offset higher exploitation rate of fish resources.

Key words: Interactive fisheries, Fishery disputes, Laila fishery, Bottom long line fishery, Resource rent

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