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An overview of the inland fisheries of Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Inland fisheries development activities in Sri Lanka began in early twentieth century. However, the commercial-scale inland fishery was developed only after the introduction of African cichlid species, *Oreochromis mossambicus* into Sri Lankan freshwaters in 1952. Discontinuation of state support for the development of inland fisheries during 1990-1994 period, brought about a drastic decline in inland fish production. There is a significant potential for enhancement of inland fisheries production in the country through management of capture fisheries in perennial reservoirs and development of culture-based fisheries in seasonal reservoirs.