

ABSTRACT: BIONOMICS OF MUD CRAB FISHERY IN THE  
NEGOMBO LAGOON

A B S T R A C T

Mud crab Scylla serrata is a commercially important species in the Negombo Lagoon. In the recent past the demand for crabs increased rapidly due to export as well as high acceptance in the local market. This resulted in rapid but hap-hazard exploitation of the resource endangering its existence in the lagoon. Thus, a necessity arose to introduce management practices to utilize the resource efficiently without overexploiting the species. In the light of this need a study was carried out to understand the biology and fishery of the Scylla serrata in the Negombo Lagoon.

The study was commenced in February, 1985 and was continued till December 1987.