

## **Abstract**

Though there are rules and regulations and mechanism to implement them, illegal fishing practices are recorded in inland wide. These issues are badly affected not only for the sustainability of the marine resources but also for the socio-economic status of the fishers. Therefore the study tries to identify some barriers and propose sustainable options for effective implementation of fisheries law in the country. UN binding and non-binding fisheries management initiatives, acts and regulations imposed by the ministry of fisheries of Sri Lanka and other regional fisheries information are used as secondary information for the study. Randomly selected 84 fishers who use three major types of boats in three fishery districts were subjected to the structured interview from May-August 2016. Collected Likert's scale data were analyzed using Wilcoxon sign rank test by SPSS software. It is found that, if the majority of fishers have understood the important of the rules and regulations, poor awareness and low participation of the fishers for the management process led to barriers for compliance. Therefore, proper awareness programs, meaningful fishers' participation for fishery management process, community based approaches, unbiased law enforcement, application of input and output control systems, improve government commitment and coordination, better data collection and monitoring system are proposed to minimize the barriers of fishery law enforcement of the country.

**Keyword:** Fisheries management initiatives, fisheries law, Sri Lankan fishery, fishes' prospects, and Illegal fishery.