

Owners' perception on mechanization of beach seine fishery in Sri Lanka

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Beach seine fishery (Madal), one of the oldest fishing techniques that has been introduced from India, has been practiced in coastal waters of Sri Lanka. This fishery which was legalized in 1985 through the Madal (Beach seine) Fishing Regulation and section 33, has given provision to seine operations which should be done with manually operated boats and nets which should be gradually dragged or pulled ashore manually by two groups of people. This study explores owners' perceptions on mechanization of seine fishery and its implications. A total sample of 30 seine owners were interviewed during the period May to July, 2018. Descriptive statistics as well as independent t-tests were used in data analysis. Traditionally used wallam, coir net and manual hauling has been changed to the use of mechanized boats, nylon nets and the operation of a winch in present operations. Lack of skilled labour, material and high time consumption were major factors affecting the evolution of seine fishery. Although mechanization has generated an economic efficiency in operation, about 20 percent of owners perceived that negative environmental impacts could be expected.

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