

Insights of fresh water giant prawns (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) fishery in North Central Province of Sri Lanka

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Fresh water giants prawns (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) are highly nutritious and popular in seafood baskets of local consumers especially in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. This paper explores economic and marketing aspects of the fresh water giant prawn fishery and its importance in the regional economy of Sri Lanka. A survey was administered with randomly selected samples of 40 stakeholders in the fishery in the North Central Province of the country in 2018. This fishery was totally dependent on the releasing of Post Larvae (PL). The capital investment of the fresh water giant prawn fishery was LKR. 85,000. The average annual operational cost was LKR. 156,210 while net income was LKR. 104,556 per unit respectively. Marketing of prawns are totally handled by the cooperative societies and assemblers and retailers. They are the middlemen in the value chain. An assembler collects prawns from 2-3 tanks per day. Prawns with weight >500 g fetched a higher price than others. An assembler earned an annual average net income of LKR. 275,000. Irregular releasing of PL and lower survival rate of PL were the issues raised in the fishery.

Keywords: cost of production, fresh water giant prawns, marketing, net income, North Central Province

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