

## **Checklist of fishes and cephalopods of selected families collected from the Jaffna Lagoon**

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The present study was carried out to formulate a checklist of fish and cephalopod species included under certain families and to assess the abundance of fishes from the Jaffna Lagoon from November 2011 to August 2012. Fish and cephalopod samples were collected twice a week from three major landing centers Kurunagar, Pasaiyoor and Kakaithevu. These three landing centers have approximately similar climatic conditions. Specimens collected from each sampling site were brought to the laboratory and identified to species level using morphological characters and standard references. Simple identification keys were prepared for all collected species. The present ichthyological survey recorded forty five species of fishes and cephalopods from fifteen families. These families are Octopodidae, Sepiidae, Sepioididae, Loliginidae, Siganidae, Leiognathidae, Clupeidae, Tricanthidae, Lutjanidae, Terapontidae, Plotosidae, Mullidae, Ostracidae, Drapanidae and Centropomidae. Among the three landing centers, the diversity of fishes and total abundance were high in Pasaiyoor landing center but a high diversity of cephalopods was observed in Kurunagar. Kakaithevu landing center had relatively low diversity and abundance. Monthly fluctuation was observed for some fish families.

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