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DIVERSITY AND YIELD OF FIN-FISH AND SHELL-FISH IN THE BOLGODA LAGOON, SRI LANKA

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The dissolved nutrients in the Bolgoda Lagoon increase from about July with a peak around September and the primary productivity increase from about October with a peak around December.[1] The number of species of fish increased from 7 to 16 around December to a peak of around February/March, when the surface and bottom salinities were also relatively high. Six species of fish migrated into the lagoon during the peak species abundant period. The number of species of fish was relatively low from April to December, during which period the surface and bottom salinities were relatively low. Therefore fish found in the lagoon during this period were mostly fresh water species. There were four major species of penaeid prawns of which *P. indicus*, *M. ensis* and *M. dobsoni* were the most abundant species.

The fin-fish yield from the lagoon was about 70% of the total catch of fin-fish and shell-fish from Seine and Ja-kotu. Fin-fish catch varied from 18-20 kg/ha/year of which *Mugil cephalus* and *Etroplas suratensis* formed the bulk of the catch (42.2%). The standard length of the exploited *M. cephalus* varied from 8-30 cm and that of *E. suvatensis* varied from 6-18 cm. Penaeid prawns formed the bulk of the shell-fish yield and was about 30% of the total yield. Shell-fish yield ranged from 7-10 kg/ha/year.

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Reference

1. Perera, W. V. J. *and* Jinadasa, J. (1982). *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Advmt. Sci.*, **38** (1), 34.