

FISHERY AND LENGTH-BASED POPULATION STUDIES OF
SARDINELLA SIRM (WALBAUM) FROM THE SOUTHERN
COASTAL WATERS OF SRI LANKA

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The fishery for *Sardinella sirm* in South coast of Sri Lanka is carried out by small mesh gill nets with mesh sizes ranging from 28 to 38 mm. These nets are operated by non-mechanised as well as mechanised crafts operating in depths ranging from 20 to 70 meters. The catch per unit effort (CPUE) of mechanised crafts are higher than that of non mechanised crafts. However both kinds of crafts show better CPUE values during November to January period.

The length frequency data of *Sardinella sirm* obtained from September 1983 to August 1984 was analysed using ELEFAN computer programmes. This has shown an asymptotic length (L_{∞}) of 23.8 cm. and a growth constant (K) of 0.95. The exploitation rate of the stock was found to be 0.31. The *Sardinella sirm* stock also shows a recruitment pattern with two pulses separated by five to six months.