

PURSE SEINE FISHERY IN THE  
SOUTH WEST COAST OF SRI LANKA

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Purse seining is an efficient fishing method that is used to exploit inshore pelagic fish stocks. This fishing method was introduced to Sri Lanka in early 1980's.

In Hikkaduwa/Ambalangoda areas there had been conflicts between the purse seiners and the other fishermen who use less efficient gear such as beach seine and gillnets. Therefore, in 1985 a study of the purse seine fishery and its impact on other small scale fisheries in these areas was undertaken.

At present there are 59 purse seines operating in the Galle District. This fishery is carried-out only during the calm months ie. from October to April. 3½ ton boats with inboard engines are used for this fishery. The size of the net, ranges from 150 - 210 meter in length & 50 m in depth with 9/10" and 5/8" mesh sizes.

The average catch per unit effort for purse seiners for 1985 and 1986 was about 185.7 kg/boat. The total production by the purse seine fishery in this area is about 250 MT/ annum. This is about (12%) of the total marine fish production in this area.

Sardinella sirm (herring) is the most dominant species in the purse seine catch. Among others caught are Decapterus sp (Scads) Rastrelliger Kanargurta (Indian Mackerel) and Loligo sp (Squids).

09th Dec. 1987 (Wednesday) 01.30 p.m. - 01.45 p.m.