

B-28: Present management level of a fishery in a hill country reservoir: Victoria reservoir

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Fishery in Victoria Reservoir was established at the end of 1988 by the Inland Fisheries Div. Ministry of Fisheries. During the period 1988 to July 1990, prior to the policy decision of the government not to sponsor inland fisheries, 46 fibreglass crafts had been distributed among the members of the co-operative society of the fishermen. Members in the co-operative society increased gradually from 36 to 108 by 1990. Presently, there is only one Fisheries Inspector for the entire district, while the other infra-structure facilities and the provincial administrative set-up have been withdrawn.

After the policy decision, the membership of the co-operative society who actively participated in the work, has decreased and the number of fishermen in the reservoir has increased from 106 to 182, where the majority are non-members. Fishing by gill nets below 3 inch mesh size is rampant both among members and non-members. Fishing by non-members, illegal fishing and the demand even for the small fish caught have contributed to the decline in the catch of 6.5 kg per fibreglass craft in 1990 to 5.3 kg at present.

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