

F-10 Marketing channel of reservoir fishery: a study on Kandalama reservoir

P A J Chinttha Perera

(National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency, (NARA), Crow Island, Colombo 15)

The Kandalama reservoir was selected for studying the market channel of its fishery. There are about 25 fish vendors who purchase inland fish.

The objective of this study was to investigate how the inland fish marketing channel is operated and to examine the socio-economic status of fish vendor families. Primary data was collected through questionnaires, participant observation, interviews and casual conversations. Two questionnaires were

formulated for collecting the required information. Additional information was gathered using participant observation with respect to their interactions and behaviour patterns among the fishermen, fish vendors and fish assemblers. The results indicated that there were 2 types of marketing channels in the Kandalama reservoir. The study revealed that housing conditions are poor and a considerable number have been constructed temporarily. The educational standards of these fishermen are generally low. The study revealed that purchases made by most fish vendors ranged from 5 kg of fish per day, and that their income remained less than Rs.3,000 per month. Cessation of fingerling introduction into reservoirs by the Ministry of Fisheries had lowered their income. Results indicated that there is a separate fish vendor for each boat and there is no competition. He in turn, generally does not buy fish from other fishermen. Policies such as meaningful and realistic savings schemes for fishermen and fish vendors could be conceived and implemented. These should be directed to improve their socio-economic standards.