

A review of the status of the mud crab (*Scylla spp*) fishery in Sri Lanka.

Crab farming is a highly profitable industry, which earns a large amount of foreign exchange while providing employment opportunities to fishermen. Crab culture is now considered vital for the economic upliftment of fishing communities. In Sri Lanka the main crab species is *Scylla serrata* known as "Kalapu Kakutta" locally. *Scylla serrata* has an export potential. Until now very few studies have been carried out to investigate the net profitability of crab farming. The present study is an attempt to study the net profitability of crab farming in Sri Lanka and investigate the current situation of the mud crab fishery. Sri Lanka has a relatively extreme coastline, which is used efficiently for harvesting fish and other marine organisms for domestic consumption and for export. Principle method used to appraise crab farming was conventional Benefit Cost analysis revealed that Internal rate of Return of the crab farms is around 135% of complete harvest method, However, the potential yield of small scale crab farms is never reaped due to poor management conditions giving risk to many yield uncertainties.