Localization of Beach Seine Fishing Industry: A Case Study of Southeastern Cost, Sri Lanka

S.H.S.M. Siriwardana[a], Pinnawala Sangasumana[a], S.A.R. Rasanga[b]

[a] Department of Geography, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda.
[b] National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, Colombo

As one of the fishing methods in Sri Lanka, Beach Seine Fishing Industry (BSFI) gives a substantial contribution to the regional economy of the country. This particular method is traditionally used by the fishing communities to catch fish and small pelagic in the shallow sea water. BSFI has bounded with several inhabitable norms, traditions, values and customs. One significant identity of this fishing industry is spatial and temporal functions based on the regional identity. Therefore, focus of this study has set been up to investigate the spatial variations of beach seine fishing activities in Southeastern region of Sri Lanka. Four ferries located in Hanbanthota district in Southern Province of Sri Lanka were selected as the sample of the study based on cluster sampling method. Two techniques; participatory rural appraisal (PRA) observation were mainly used for data collection and a quantitative methods were adapted to analysis the data. The research result revealed that spatial variation of BSFI is evident in terms of the location, labour, infrastructure and technology in selected four ferries. Furthermore, some local changes with modern knowledge of the weigh variables were identified in the ferries near *Walawe* River-mouth than the ferries near *Kirindioya* River-mouth that situated inside of the jungle.

Key words: Beach Seine, BNFI, ferries, Spatial Variations