SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH SMALL - PELAGIC AND DERMERSAL FIN-FISH PRODUCTION CPUE, AND SPECIES COMPOSITION IN SMALL SCALE FISHER COMMUNITIES BEFORE AND AFTER TSUNAMI , BATTICALOA DISTRICT , SRI LANKA

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The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami caused significant devastation to the coasts of Sri Lanka. The worst impacted were small-scale inshore coastal fishers scattered along the coastal zone. Qualitative and quantitative socio-economic and environmental research , associated with commercial small-pelagic and demersal fin-fish production. CPUE and species composition was carried out in 12 of these small-seale communities in the Eastern District of Batticaloa.

The study showed that with data accumulated on pre-tsunami conditions, the impact of the tsunami highly varied, and the specific impact on production, CPUE and species composition were unique to each community. Nine communities showed substantial differences in daily production and were estimated to be lower. The species composition of all communities showed dramatic changes in abundance. Three communities observed new species and others experienced drastic losses of particular key species. These changes mount down to a combination of a variety of socio-economic and environmental issues ranging from marketing activities , NGO activities, infrastructure, craft and gear and income earnings to the dynamics of the tsunami and associated environmental degradation both before and after tsunami.

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