

A Wellbeing Assessment from Small Scale Marine Fisheries: The Case of Small Scale Fishing Communities in Negombo

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The fisheries industry of Sri Lanka contributes significantly to the nutrition, employment and food security, foreign exchange earnings, and government revenue, and therefore its sustainability should be a primary concern in economic development of the country. This research study was conducted to find out the different wellbeing components of fishers. Further, it mentions to find out whether fishing is a way of life or it provides only a livelihood. Finally, to understand the perceptions of fishers of their future. The research was carried out in Negombo to study the wellbeing aspiration of small scale fisheries samples of 75 small scale fishers from Negombo were interviewed using a pretested structured questionnaire. Results indicated that, fishers in the study area possessed an average experience of 25 years. The most important wellbeing components of people in the study area are family relations, community assistance, and education for children and to be a knowledgeable fisher. Yet, people are only moderately satisfied with the achievement of important wellbeing aspirations. They are more satisfied with relational and subjective dimensions of wellbeing than material wellbeing. Although fishers wish to continue fishing in the future, they don't desire their children to engage in fishing. Evidently, fishing is not only a means of living or a particular type of employment. Since relational and subjective wellbeing components add more weight to the wellbeing of the people and that exit from fisheries is not common, fishing is not only a way of life but it is a livelihood. In that manner, it could be generally being said that global fisheries crisis itself is unlikely to lead to a disintegration of fishing communities or a disruption of fishing.

Keywords: Food security, foreign exchange earnings, government revenue, sustainability, wellbeing components

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