

# SEA FOOD INDUSTRY OF SRI LANKA



The Fisheries Industry plays an important role in Sri Lanka's social and economic life. The sector contributes to about 2.7% of the country's GDP. With the end of the civil unrest that prevailed in the country for three decades, the country's fisheries sector has a significant scope to increase the level of contribution through exploiting high-seas for tuna fishing & value additions.



The industry has also emerged as a dynamic export oriented sector earning a considerable amount of foreign exchange. The total fish production in Sri Lanka was around 486,130 metric tons in 2012 and 5% of this produce was exported in the same year equating to US\$ 205 Mn. The sector has shown an average growth of 5% in the last 5 years and the key buyers remain as Japan, the UK, France, Italy, Netherlands and the USA. In recent years Sri Lanka has been steadily increasing its share in the international market.





With rapid advancements in increased shipping fleet capacity and the culturing of new inland species, the stage is set for significant expansion of the sector in the years to come.

There are about 32 EU approved processing plants in Sri Lanka. The country successfully comply with the stringent regulations imposed by importing countries and adheres to HACCP, BRP, Friend of Sea and other food security environment friendly requirement.

There are more than 75 medium and large scale companies engaged in exporting seafood from Sri Lanka. The majority of exporters operate at a large scale through networking with cooperative societies and also through backward integration in collecting fish through their own boats and infrastructure.

There are close to 2.4 Million direct and indirect employment opportunities generated in the sector. The key stakeholders are fishermen, breeders, processors, as well as logistics, cold chain, packing and other service suppliers.

## **Key Products and Varieties**

The main fishery export products include tuna, fresh chilled and frozen form, shrimps & prawns, crabs and lobsters. Other than the above shark fins, fish maws, beche-de-mer, cuttlefish & squid, sprats are also mostly exported to the Asian markets. Sri Lankan tuna, shrimps and crabs have a unique taste, texture and quality.

## **Government Policy and Support**

Under the Fisheries Sector development strategy, a modern and technically improved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will be established in order to curtail IUU fishing; this will be able to prevent national fishing vessels from drifting to territorial waters of other countries.

## **Sri Lankan Fisheries Industry is managed by two core legislative instruments;**

- Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act 1996 No. 2; and
- Fisheries (Regulations for Foreign Fishing Boats) Act No. 59 of 1979 and several regulations to assist in the implementation of these acts.

## **The other legislations have an impact on fisheries management in the following areas;**

- Endangered species (CITES),
- Export and trade,
- Biodiversity,
- Marine park/sanctuary legislation especially the lagoon areas and the use of Special Area Management areas through the CCD,
- Fisheries port management (Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation - CFHC), and
- Coastal legislation under CCD and Fisheries.





## Research & Development and Product Development Facilities

There are several organisations dedicated towards the development of the Fisheries Industry.

- National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency (NARA) - the apex national institute vested with the responsibility of carrying out and coordinating research, development and management activities on the subject of aquatic resources in Sri Lanka.
- National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) – the state sponsored organisation mandated for the task development and management of all fresh water aquatic resources in the country. It also promotes development of aquaculture and sea farming.
- Ceylon Fisheries Cooperation – in charge of maintenance of cold storage facilities and production and sale of fishery by-products.
- Ceylon Fisheries Harbours' Cooperation - maintains fisheries infrastructure facilities such as proper landing facilities through construction, maintenance and management of harbours and anchorages.
- Department of Fisheries – in charge of management, regulation, conservation and development of fisheries and aquatic resources
- Cey-Nor Foundation Limited – responsible for building, manufacturing and sale of fishing crafts, engines, & gear and the operation of workshops for repairing fishing crafts.

## SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board is Sri Lanka's apex organisation for the promotion and development of exports. It was established in 1979 under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act No. 40. EDB is the executive arm of the Export Development Council of Ministers, headed by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, which is the policy-making body of the EDB.

### What We Do

We assist in negotiating business with Sri Lanka, either as an importer or an investor in export production.

Functions of the EDB encompass a range of activities such as promoting exports, organising buyer-seller meets, and exhibitions, providing essential information to both local and foreign entrepreneurs and assisting in the formulation and maintenance of quality standards wherever applicable.

The EDB is manned by a team of professionals, knowledgeable in their own specialized areas, who maintain close personal links with the respective sectors and hence highly competent in providing you helpful advice.

The EDB has on its Board of Management, representatives of both state and private sector organisations involved in export activities. Dedicated to the task of promoting more exports and better exports for the benefit of exporters and importers alike, the full range of its services are provided free of charge.

# SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD



For further information please contact:

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