

## Inland fisheries of Sri Lanka and strategies for development

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### ABSTRACT

*The extent of freshwater reservoirs of Sri Lanka is about 150,000 ha. The inland fishery of the country is dependent on the multitude of the reservoir systems. The present annual inland fish production is about 30,000 tones which forms approximately 20% of the country's total fish production. Absence of management strategies is the major constraint for the development of capture fisheries in perennial reservoirs. An integrated management strategy which includes resource approaches and social approaches is appropriate for the reservoir fisheries of Sri Lanka.*

*Some village tanks where water usually retains from December to August each year, are highly productive so that there is an appreciable potential for the development of culture-based fisheries in these seasonal reservoirs. Community-based development strategies are useful for the purpose.*