



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

**NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY
ON
CLEANER PRODUCTION
FOR FISHERIES SECTOR**

Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

New Secretariat, Maligawatta, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

In collaboration with

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

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Preface

It is our responsibility to fulfill the nutritional needs of people and to ensure their food security by utilizing the fisheries and aquatic resources efficiently and fruitfully while securing these resources for next generations.

The implementation of the national fisheries policy prepared by incorporating the cleaner production policies and strategies is important for the sustainability of the Sri Lanka fisheries sector.

The depletion of resources and the occurrence of environmental instabilities are major challenges we are facing at present, which are unfavorable results of careless consumption practices. In order to successfully face these challenges, cleaner production technologies have to be introduced while making an attitudinal change for successful implementation.

There is a new trend worldwide to consume fisheries resources harvested from a well managed fishery with a minimum environmental impact. This is an excellent driving force towards an environmentally friendly fishing industry.

We all should adhere to environmentally friendly production practices and consumption patterns. By that, the over-exploitation and wastage of fisheries and aquatic resources can be avoided and these resources can be effectively utilized ensuring a sustainable development leading to improved living standards of people and poverty alleviation.

I convey my gratitude to the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources for the wonderful initiative taken to integrate the concept of cleaner production into fisheries sector. Cooperation extended by the National Cleaner Production Centre is also appreciated.

G. Piyasena
Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY ON CLEANER PRODUCTION FOR FISHERIES SECTOR

1. Preamble

Sri Lanka is an island surrounded by the ocean and rich with inland water bodies. Thus, it is fair to say that our country owns a considerable marine, inland and brackish water resources to carry out fisheries activities in a sustainable manner. Due to the importance of fish consumption as a cheap source of protein and the large contribution of the sector to income and employment generation, fisheries industry has a major significance in the Sri Lankan social and economical perspective.

There is a tendency among coastal community and the rural community living in the vicinity of inland water bodies to engage in the fisheries industry as it requires comparatively a less initial investment. As a result, this industry consumes considerable amount of offshore, near shore, lagoon, inland and coral reef associated aquatic resources. Therefore it is necessary to take measures to minimize the harmful impacts to environment and manage these resources for the consumption of future generations. These objectives can be accomplished by incorporating cleaner production concepts and routines to production activities in the fisheries sector.

The cleaner production methodology in the fisheries industry implies to the conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources, secure the quality and safety of fishery products and setting off precautionary mechanisms for adverse impacts on environment which result from making use of harmful fishing gears, techniques and raw materials.

The adoption to the environmentally friendly cleaner production methodology and consumption patterns is a prime necessity within the vision of becoming a leader in the South Asia region in sustainable utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources.

2. Vision

Sri Lanka becomes a leader in the South Asian region in sustainable utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources.

03. Mission

Directing the utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources in an eco-friendly manner for the benefit of the current and future generations.

04. Policy Goals

- 4.1 To achieve and ensure sustainable fisheries development in Sri Lanka;
- 4.2 To ensure high standard of quality and safety of fish and aquatic products produced in Sri Lanka;
- 4.3 To ensure management and conservation of fisheries, aquatic and coastal resources of the country;
- 4.4 To alleviate poverty and upgrade the living standards of the fisher and coastal communities;
- 4.5 To contribute to the country's economy in significant and ecologically sustainable manner.

05. Policy Objectives

- 5.1 To improve nutritional status and food security of people by increasing the national fish production in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- 5.2 To conserve the coastal and aquatic environment to ensure the long term sustainability of the ecosystem;
- 5.3 To prevent/minimize post harvest losses and improve quality and safety of fish and aquatic products to EU (European Union) standard levels;
- 5.4 To increase employment opportunities in fisheries sector and improve the socio-economic status of the fisher communities while maintaining the stability of the ecosystem;
- 5.5 To increase the foreign exchange earnings from fish and aquatic product exports in an ecologically sustainable manner.

6. Policy Statements

- 6.1 Promote the principles of responsible fisheries management through co-management;
- 6.2 Promote stock enhancement in perennial and seasonal water bodies and promote culture fishing with due attention to environmental sustainability;
- 6.3 Enhance fish production by adopting appropriate environmental friendly fishing gear and methods with special emphasis on deep sea and high sea fishing;
- 6.4 Develop and promote aquaculture as an environmentally friendly, socially acceptable and market driven industry through Best Management Practices;
- 6.5 Encourage the culture of marine, brackish water and fresh water fish species and other aquatic organisms including ornamental fish, reducing the stress on natural fish stocks;
- 6.6 Promote appropriate technologies to minimize post harvest losses and also to ensure quality, safety and hygienic standards of fish and aquatic products;
- 6.7 Assign priority to applied research leading to development of fisheries and aquatic resources including aquaculture, paying due attention to the environmental concerns;
- 6.8 Promote public/private partnerships in fisheries and fish processing by adopting ecologically sound practices;
- 6.9 Promote deep sea and high sea fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture to increase employment opportunities maintaining the sustainability of the ecosystem;
- 6.10 Promote diversification and skill development of the livelihood of fisher communities to increase the socio-economic status of them, ensuring sustainable utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources;
- 6.11 Apply cleaner production concepts and practices at all steps in fishing industry where applicable.

07. Strategies

- 7.1 Apply proper handling practices of fish from harvest to final product ensuring product quality and hygienic conditions;
- 7.2 Take measures to prevent/ mitigate over-fishing and promote limited entry fishing;
- 7.3 Take necessary measures to conserve the endangered species by creating awareness among the fishermen and relevant stakeholders;
- 7.4 Develop environmentally friendly and cost effective fishing gear, vessels, fishing techniques and practices, create awareness among fishermen and promote application of these practices;
- 7.5 Adopt measures to conserve the resources through establishing closed seasons and closed areas for fishing;
- 7.6 Conduct fish stock surveys at appropriate intervals to ensure sustainability of the ecosystem;
- 7.7 Minimize post harvest losses and promote new products based on fish waste;
- 7.8 Develop/introduce environmentally friendly and economically viable fish waste disposal systems;
- 7.9 Prevent disposal of hazardous waste including waste oil and untreated effluents into aquatic environment by improving existing systems and developing new systems;
- 7.10 Develop and continuously update the knowledge on social, environmental, economic and institutional factors that help ensure sustainable fisheries management through data gathering & analysis, monitoring & evaluation and research;
- 7.11 Formulate effective legal and administrative measures at national and local authority level for fisheries resource conservation and management;

- 7.12 Develop and implement an integrated plan to optimize fish production and distribution of fish by adopting ecologically sound practices;**
- 7.13 Prepare resource management plans in par with International Plan of Actions on fishing capacity, sharks, seabirds and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;**
- 7.14 Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and reporting systems to ensure the sustainability of the implementation of the National Cleaner Production Fisheries Policy.**