

SAMUDRA Monograph

Social Welfare and Social Security in Sri Lankan Fisheries

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Since Sri Lanka's independence in 1948, successive governments have addressed the issue of social welfare for the country's fishing populations. Though the State has been channelling huge amounts of public funds into social welfare and security measures, the emphasis has been on promotional measures, such as housing, sanitation, infrastructure and training. Among the common problems in the delivery of such measures are regional disparities in the distribution of benefits, and the shrinking of welfare expenditure with changes in government.

If social security measures are meant to include those defined by the International Labour Organization, then, this monograph argues, only the Fishermen's Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme can be said to provide some kind of social security for Sri Lanka's fishing populations. There is an urgent need to address the social security issues of deep-sea fishworkers, women and children.



ICSF is an international NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers the world over. It is in status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is on ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental International Organizations. It also has Liaison Status with FAO. Registered in Geneva, ICSF has offices in Chennai, India, and Brussels, Belgium. As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, ICSF's activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns and action, as well as communications.

ISBN 81-902873-0-3