

Title: **Who is responsible for fishery management of perennial reservoirs, Sri Lanka?**

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Abstract: A higher dependence on the resources motivates to community participation on resources management. Uses of common property resources are not benefit to each and every person in equal rate of resources since magnitude of the resources extraction depend on the number of criterion. Selecting of the interest group for the resources management is of common problem of resources management discourse. Therefore, this paper intends to investigate responsible community group among the fishermen for participation of reservoir fisheries management. The study consisted of a sample survey conducted in associate community of three main perennial reservoirs (Minneriya, Victoria and Udawalawa) in Sri Lanka. The survey was carried out from January to June 2000. Snow-balling method was applied for selection of the samples for fishers households and fish traders. A total of 796 fisher and non-fisher households were interviewed during the survey. The sample size represents 8% of the total population in the Grama Niladhari Divisions surveyed. The study revealed that 61 percent are full time fishermen in the peak period of harvesting. Percentage of time spending on fisheries is gradually decreased in order to involved in other economic activities during the lean harvesting period. Nevertheless, Fishermen who totally depend on the fisheries do not move to other economics activities. 13 percent of fisher community in Minneriya, 16 percent from Udawalawe and 14 percent from Victoria are totally depending on fisheries income and they are above in district poverty line. recommends as suitable community group for participated of perennial reservoir fisheries management.

Key words: Perennial reservoirs, full time fishermen, fisheries management, Sri Lanka.