

## Abstract

Fisheries and aquaculture industry is one of the most growing industries in Sri Lanka and has a great potential to improve up to international standards. This study was aimed to observe the Chilaw landing site, evaluate the present status of landing site, review of the fish marketing chain and aquaculture shrimp value change in North Western Province (NWP).

Primary data were collected from visiting the landing site and interviewing relevant actors and the workers in the field. The shrimp farm zones in NWP was visited occasionally and had with the secretaries, presidents, farm coordinators of the shrimp farm societies. Secondary data were collected from Assistance Director Office of Chilaw fishery district.

Chilaw fishery district consists of eleven sub-zones with 36150 Mt (2012) of total aquaculture and fisheries productions. It is 9% of total Sri Lankan fisheries production. Chilaw town landing site contributes to 4207.9 Mt/12% (2012) of total production in Chilaw district. Chilaw landing site consists with newly constructed harbor. Appraisals of the facilities are available in landing site too. But, some are not meeting with the requirement of users. Harbor management and landing site management, Commission agents, small scale sellers, delivers, dry fish producers and vendors are the main actors who directly contribute to fish marketing chain. Vendors and delivers are accountable for distribution of fish throughout the inland area.

Shrimp farms in the north western province are distributed on the intertidal and supra tidal areas around Chilaw, Mundal and Puttalam lagoons. Results showed a map of actors, production statistics, and zone-wise production. Farmers, wholesalers, brood stock suppliers, hatchery owners, and exporters are the main actors which contributed directly to shrimp production and influenced the economical value.

The main issue is the sand bar formation in Chilaw lagoon mouth. It is recommended to have a permanent rocky barrier at the lagoon mouth. Many shrimp farmers tend to sell their harvest in local market mainly because they can get a higher profit in the local market compared to export market, and also the reduction of the harvest due to diseases such as white spot disease and higher stocking density.

**Key words-** Chilaw landing sites, Fish value chain, Shrimp value chain, North Western Province