

Kasun Randika Dalpathadu

Scientist

National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency (NARA),

Crow Island,

Colombo – 15,

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16th August 2023

Dear Dr. Romi Novriadi,

SUBMISSION OF NEW MANUSCRIPT FOR EVALUATION

I am enclosing herewith a manuscript entitled “Assessment of sea cucumber fishery in the Mullaitivu Coastal Waters in Northeast, Sri Lanka” submitted to the “Indonesian Fisheries Research Journal” for possible evaluation. With the submission of this manuscript I would like to undertake that the above mentioned manuscript has not been published elsewhere, accepted for publication elsewhere or under editorial review for publication elsewhere.

In this paper we show the current status in the fisheries aspects for sea cucumbers as well as the status of the stock of the dominant species in the Mullaitivu Coastal Waters in Northeast, Sri Lanka. According to the findings of this study it was proven that the exploitation level for the two dominant sea cucumber species in the area; *Bohadschia vitiensis* and *Holothuria spinifera* were not in a sustainable level. We consider that the findings of this study are significant because as not only there is no any stock assessment for the sea cucumber species in this area but also due to the scarcity of the scientific studies for the sea cucumber fishery in the Mullaitivu Coastal Waters, Sri Lanka. Further the findings of this study highlights the increasing vulnerability of the sea cucumber resources towards the extinction as a result of over exploitation. Examples for overexploitation of the sea cucumber resources are not rare in the South Asian region. Thus we believe that knowing of the current status of the fishery as well as current status of the stocks of sea cucumbers would be very important for management of the fishery resources in this region. We believe that this manuscript is appropriate for publication by “Indonesian Fisheries Research

Journal” because the journal publishes scientifically sound papers on regional and global aspects of capture fisheries and conservation.

Also we believe that this manuscript will be beneficial for relevant parties in other Asian countries that facing similar situation for management of sea cucumber fishery.

I declare that each author has read and approved the manuscript.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at kasun.randikad@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kasun', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kasun Randika Dalpathadu