

# Refueling fishing industry



OLUVIL: The Tsunami paralysed 80 percent of the fishing industry in Sri Lanka in 2004. Since then its recovery has been slow but steady. But the recent oil price hike has slowed the development of the fishing industry.

According to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources the total number of fishing villages in Sri Lanka in 2004 were 1,337 and the total fishing households numbered 132,600. The active number of fishermen was 151,800 and the population of fishing households amounted to 611,900. We have 703 fish landings in Sri Lanka.

In 2004, we had 30567 fishing craft out of which 1581 were multiday with inboard engines while the number of Day crafts were 1493. We also had 11559 fibreglass boats with out board engines and 674 traditional crafts.

Fuel prices have not only affected all these types of fishing craft, but it has also had an effect on the total fish production. In 2004 our total fish production was 286,370 metric tonnes, out of which coastal fish production was 154,470 metric tonnes while off shore deep sea fishing production was 98,720 metric tonnes and we used to produce from the marine sector fish production by fisheries districts since 1990-2004 -253,190 metric tonnes of fish.

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