

Cruising Eastern

Text and pictures: HARSHA UDAYAKANTHA PEIRIS

The brutal arms struggle carried out by the LTTE terrorists destroyed thousands of innocent lives while causing immense damage to public property and services. A number of prospective changes are emerging in the war affected regions promising a greater socio-economic development for Sri Lanka, with the end of the war. Giving life to the bygone tranquil environs that were troubled due to the conflict, every sphere of public life and activities in the war ridden areas is rapidly returning to normality.

Following is a pictorial that depicts the boom of post-war marine transport and related activities in the Eastern waters of Sri Lanka captured in lens in Trincomalee



The passenger craft 'Seruwila II - Colombo' transporting passengers between Trincomalee and Mutur entering from the Trincomalee Port and cruising towards the passenger jetty.



An aerial view of three fishing boats leaving the Trincomalee harbour to the deep sea after performing traditional rituals with the hope of bringing a good catch while another returning with its load of fish.



During the final stages of war, the 'Green Ocean 1' that had a capacity of transporting 400 passengers and 15 of its crew was transformed into a mobile hospital to transport war casualties. Several foreign doctors also worked in the vessel saving the lives of the injured civilians till they were brought to Trincomalee, while many succumbed on board due to severe injuries. The 'Green Ocean 1' will soon undergo several changes to its infrastructure to cater to a greater number to expand the tourism industry and travel - trade in the country. The vessel will be re-structured with facilities of a star class hotel and will serve its guests in the deep blue oceanic environs of the eastern Sri Lanka. In the refurbished 'Green Ocean 1', both local and foreign tourists will soon be able to celebrate the most unforgettable moments of their lives in the picturesque oceanic surroundings while gaining a first hand cruising experience in the oceanic waters of eastern and northern Sri Lanka.



A closer view of the resting one day and multi-day fishing boats at the busy end of the Trincomalee harbour.



A sea side view of the 'Green Ocean 1' earlier named as the 'City of Trinco' berthed at the Trincomalee Harbour. 'Green Ocean 1' is one of the well-known passenger vessels during the war period. With the closure of the ASF road for passenger transport due to security reasons, 'Green Ocean 1' was the only passenger vessel that operated as a sea transporter to carry passengers between Trincomalee and Kankesanthurai. Passengers were allowed to travel in it following lengthy security check-ups and the vessel was provided naval security.

