

(Extract from the Gazette extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
No. 948/25 of November 07, 1996 amended as Gazette extraordinary No. 1392/8, May 11, 2005,
No. 2115 /8, March 18, 2019)

L.D. – B 4/96.

THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT, No. 2 OF 1996

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development under Section 61, read with sections 6, 28 and 29 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996.

INDIKA RUPASINGHE GUNAWARDENA
Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development.

Colombo,
31st October, 1996.

Regulations

1. These regulations may be cited as Fishing Operations Regulations of 1996 and shall come into operation on the first day of December, 1996.

“PART I”

2. (a) No person shall catch, land, transport, sell, buy, receive or have in his possession any marine mammals or turtles.

(b) The following fishing operations are hereby prohibited:-
 - (i) Push Net fishing operations;
 - (ii) Harpooning for marine mammals;
 - (iii) Moxi Net fishing operations;
 - (iv) Gill Net or Trammel Net fishing operations on coral reefs or rocks.

3. No person shall engage in, or cause any other person to engage in, any fishing operation specified in Part I of the Schedule hereto, in the sea, estuaries or coastal lagoons of Sri Lanka except under the authority of licence issued under these regulations and otherwise than in accordance with the terms and conditions attached to such licence.
4. Every application for a licence referred to in Regulation 3 shall be substantially in Form “A” in Part II of the Schedule hereto, and shall be sent by registered post to the Licensing Officer of the Administrative District in which the relevant fishing operation is to be carried out, and shall be accompanied by the relevant licence fee specified in Part III of the Schedule hereto, Application shall be made by the owner of the boat (if such boat is used in the fishing operation) or by the owner of the fishing equipment, as the case may be. Where a Licensing Officer has not been appointed for any Administrative District, the fishing equipment, as the case may be. Where a Licensing Officer has not been appointed for any Administrative District, such application may be addressed to the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (hereinafter referred to as “the Director”).
5. Every licence granted under these regulations shall be in Form “B” in Part II of the Schedule hereto and shall be in force for a period of one year from the date of the licence unless it is cancelled earlier under Section 10 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act.
6. It shall be the duty of every licenses to surrender his licence immediately after its expiry or cancellation or when applying for renewal of such licence.
7. A licence granted under these regulations may be renewed upon application made to the Licensing Officer or the Director as the case may be not less than 30 days before the expiry of the licence. Such application shall be substantially in Form “A” in Part II of the Schedule hereto and shall be accompanied by the fee for renewal of licence specified in Part III of the Schedule hereto.
8. A licence may be renewed by the issued of a licence on Form “B” in Part II of the Schedule hereto with an endorsement by the Licensing Officer or the Director as the case may be, that it is a renewal of licence.
9. The holder of licence granted for fishing operations under these regulations shall take steps to ensure that –

- (1) the Skipper or Master of the fishing boat keeps the licence for fishing operations within Sri Lanka Waters together with the registration certificate of the boat or a certified copy thereof on board at all times and produces such licence and the registration certificate of the boat upon the request of an authorized officer ;
- (2) No fishing is carried out in any part of Sri Lanka Waters except under the authority of a license issued under these regulations;
- (3) No generators are carried on board of any fishing boat belonging to the following categories :-
 - (a) traditional non-motorized boat (NTRB) ;
 - (b) traditional motorized boat (MTRB) ;
 - (c) beach seine boat (non-motorized) (NBSB) ;
 - (d) FRP boat with outboard motor (OFRP) ;
 - (e) day boats with inboard engine (IDAY) ;
- (4) The Skipper or Master of the fishing boat uses a battery with a voltage of not more than 12V for generating electricity to light bulbs used for boats with outboard motors ;
- (5) Any person using artificial bulbs for the purpose of lighting of any fishing vessel uses a voltage not exceeding the maximum voltage mentioned below :-

Type of artificial bulbs	No . Of bulbs	No . Of maximum watt
1. Filamentous bulbs	2	60w
2. Fluorescent bulbs	2	60w
3. LED bulbs	2	10w
4. CFL bulbs	2	12w

- (6) No person uses artificial light to attract fish in Sri Lanka Waters :
 Provided however, special permission may be granted by the Director General to use artificial light in consultation with the National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency for persons engaging in small scale fishing of rod and line fishing, scoop nets, hand lines and fish traps ;
- (7) No person uses surrounding nets for fishing operation within Sri Lanka Waters within the sea limit of seven (07) miles, namely within eleven decimal two six kilo meters (11.26 km) from the coast.

10. The Director General or any officer authorized by him in that behalf shall indicate in the licence if any GPS devices and Echo sounders are carried on board of any fishing boat.

PART II

11. Any person engages in diving fishing operations within Sri Lanka Waters shall carry out such fishing operation during the day time between 6.00 am to 6.00 pm.

12. The Director General shall issue a separate licence for each type of fish in respect of which diving fishing operations are carried out.

13. Any such licence granted under these regulations shall be utilized only for catching the permitted type of fish.

14. Any person engages in catching chank and beach-de-mer by scuba diving in the Administrative Districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ampara, Batticaloa, Puttalam, Mannar, Jaffna, Mullativu and Kilinochchi shall carry out such fishing operation beyond four (4) nautical miles (7.4 km) from the coast :

15. Any Skipper or Master engages in scuba diving fishing operations within Sri Lanka Waters shall taken on board of such boat only two divers with the Skipper who shall not be a scuba operation licensee.

16. Any Skipper or Master engages in scuba diving fishing operations within Sri Lanka Waters shall carry on board of such boat such number of cylinders not exceeding eight.

17. No scuba diving fishing operations licence holder shall use such licence to engage in purse seine fishing.

18. No scuba diving fishing operations licence holder to catch chank, beach de-mer, lobsters and ornamental fish shall carry on board of such boat any harpoon, pointed tools or spear gun.

19. The licence of any diving fishing operations licence holder who contravenes the above conditions shall be cancelled with immediate effect by the Director General on having proof of such contravention.

PART II

20. The Director General shall determine the materials to be used for making stake net (Ja Kottu) and the position of constructing such stake net (Ja Kottu) within Sri Lanka Waters on the recommendation given as per GPS readings by the National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency or any research institute recognized by the Director-General.

21. Every stake net (Ja Kottu) licence holder shall take steps to maintain a signal light system on guide net to identify the location of the stake net (Ja Kottu) at night.

22. No stake net (Ja Kottu) licence holder shall construct a stake net (Ja Kottu) in the vicinity of coral reefs, in sea weed or sea grass area, habitats of other maine mammals or within the beach seine operation area or Madel Waraya.

23. The Director General shall determine the number of stake nets (Ja Kottu) to be constructed in any Administrative District on the recommendation of the National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency or any other research institute recognized by the Director General.

24. The maximum length of the guide net fence to gather fish in stake net (Ja Kottu) and the mesh size of the net shall not exceed 75 meters and shall not be less than 1 ¼ inches respectively.

25. The distance between two stake nets (Ja Kottu) shall not be less 300 meters.

26. If any stake net licence holder acts in contravention of the above regulations, the licence of such stake net licence holder shall be cancelled by the Director General on having proof such contravention”.

SCHEDULE

Part I

FISHING OPERATIONS REQUIRING LICENCE

Prescribed fishing operation	Interpretation
1. Fishing operations carried out by Seine Nets including fishing operations carried out using beach seine “Madel” or Danish seine nets	“ Seine Net” means a net with or without a cod end (madiya) at the centre which covers a certain water mass and has two ropes tied at the two ends of the net which is pulled towards the land or into a vessel with the help of the ropes
2. Fishing operations carried out by Trawl Nets including those using nets without two wings but using vertical poles at the two free ends of the net	“ Trawl Net” means towing nets having a cone shaped body and a bag or cod end (madiya) connected to the other end. (These nets are towed in sea, lagoon or in other water bodies or in reservoirs by one or two craft for harvesting of fish.)
3. Fishing operations carried out by surrounding net	“Surrounding Net” means a net set in water covering all sides except the surface of the water
4. Fishing operations carried out by Trammel	“ Trammel Net” means a net which is made out of three nets

Nets	placed one over the other the middle one having the smallest mesh net and the other two nets having relatively larger sized mesh
5. Fishing operations carried out by Gill Nets	“Gill Net” means a net set at any depth, surface, midwater or at the bottom layers of water
6. Fishing operations carried out by Drift Gill Nets	“Drift Gill Net” means a net set at the surface layers of water”
7. Fishing operations carried out by Long Line	“Long Line” means a fishing gear having a main line and number of branch lines fixed at regular intervals, with each branch line having a hook with or without a bait. When a long line is allowed to float freely at the surface, mid-water or close to the bottom, it is know as a Floating Long Line and when the line is anchored close to the bottom or at the bottom it is called the Bottom Long Line
8. Fishing operations carried out by Cast Nets	“Cast net” means a cone shaped net, one end of which is kept free and the other end cast on to surface of water
9. Fishing operations carried out by Fish Traps	“Fish Trap” means device of various shapes made out of various materials into which fish enters through an opening and gets trapped
10. Fishing operations carried out by Stake Net (Kattu Del)	“Stake Net” (Kattu Del) means a net consisting of a conical or cylindrical trap with or without a frame and with a device which draws the fish into the net
11. Bivalve Mussel Fishing Operation	“Bivalve Mussel Fishing Operation” means catching of bivalve mussels with or without using instruments
12. Beche-de-mer Fishing Operations	“Beche-de-mer Fishing Operation” means catching of Beche-de-mer without instruments
13. Chank Fishing Operation	“Chank Fishing Operation” means catching of chank with or without using any equipment
14. Fishing operations carried out by “Pila Atu” (Tephrosia species)	“Pila Atu Fishing Operation” means the process in which bundles of Pila plants (Tephrosia species) are made to float on water and the fish that aggregate around it are caught using other fishing equipment or gear
15. Fishing operations carried out by Fish	“Fish Aggregating Devices” means structures which float

Aggregating

on water or are set in or under water to enable the taking of fish that take shelter under the structures by using other types of equipment or gear

16. Fishing operations carried out by Lift Net

“Lift Net” or “Atoli” means a net with or without a frame kept underwater, over which fish assemble and are caught by lifting the net

17. Fishing operations carried out by diving (including free diving, SCUBA diving, and diving with HOOKAH)

“Diving” means to enter the water and to collect by hand, or with the assistance of a net or other device, fish, crustace, molluscs, other shellfish, or any other form of living aquatic creature, for commercial purposes

PART II

Form “A”

Application for issue of a License/Renewal of License to Conduct a Fishing Operation (To be submitted in duplicate)

1. Full name of Applicant :

.....

2. Applicant’s NIC Number :

.....

3. Permanent address of the Applicant :

.....

4. If the Application is for a Renewal, please provide the following information

4.1 Existing Fishing Operation License No :

4.2 Date of Issue :

4.3 Date of Expiry :

5. Fishing area and landing site/s

Fishing area			Landing site		
			District	Code	Landing site/Anchorage/Harbour
5.1 Offshore waters					
5.2 Costal sea	CS				
5.3 Lagoon/Estuary	BW				
5.4 Inland waters	FW				

6. Information on Fishing boat if a boat is used for fishing

Registration Number	Boat type	Code	Length		Horse Power of Engine/s	No. of Crew
			Feet	Metres		

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(Please see Page A4 for details on Boat type and Code)

7.Details of Fishing gear/methods to be used in fishing Operation/s and target catch

7(a) Gillnets and Surrounding nets (GNLM,GNSM,GNBS,GNTR,GNKD,GNHD,SNBS,SNPS,SNRN,SNWD)

	Gear Code	Total Length (meters)	Mesh size (Inches)	Target catch (Species or species order of importance)										
				1			2			3				
P-Main gear type														
S-Second main gear type														
T-Third main gear type														

7(b) Long lines and Handlines (HLTR, HLPL, HLHL, HLST,HLTL,HLBL,HLRL,HLST,HLSJ)

	Gear Code	Total number Of Hooks	Target catch (Species or species order of importance)											
			1			2			3					
P-Main gear type														
S-Second main gear type														
T-Third main gear type														

7(c) Others : Trawls and Drag nets (DNST,DNBT,DNLT,DNKD,DNGD,DNGR) ; Pots (LNCR) ; Cast/LiftScoop nets (FGCN, LNBT, LNSH, MSSC, MSMX) ; Traps (TRFS, TRKD, TRBP, TRCP, TRKR) and Miscellaneous (MSHP, MSDV, MSSF)

	Gear Code	Total number Of Hooks	Target catch (Species or species order of importance)											
			1			2			3					
P-Main gear type														
S-Second main gear type														
T-Third main gear type														

(Please see page 5A and 6A details – Fishing Gear 8 Fish Species Code)

8. Details regarding Fishing season and Fishing time of the day

Fishing Season					Fishing time
					Whole Day (Day and Night)
Jan		Feb		Mar	Moring (4 AM – 10 AM)
Apl		May		June	Mid-day (10 AM – 4 PM)
July		Aug		Sept	Evening (4 PM – 8 PM)
Oct		Nov		Dec	Night (8 PM – 4 AM)

I confirm that the information provided in the above declaration are, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

In the event I am issued with a License, I undertake to comply with the conditions specified therein.

.....
Applicant Signature

Date :

(a) Observations/Recommendations of the Fisheries Inspector/Field Officer

Amount Paid Rs. Date of Payment: Receipt No:

Issue of a License recommended/not recommended

.....
.....

.....
Signature Name F.I. Division Date

(b) Order of the director General/Asst. Director/Licensing Officer

I approve/do not approve the issue of a License

Conditions applicable in the event a License is issued :

1. Fishing to be conducted using Boat : Name :
Registration No :

2. Approved/License Fishing gear :

Type of gear	Code	Length of nets/mesh sizes	Number of Hooks

3. Target species codes/s : 4. Fishing area :

5. Fishing season : 6. Fishing time :

7. Other conditions :

.....

.....

 If Application for License is not approved, reasons are :

.....
 Signature of Director General/Asst. Director/ Licensing Officer

Name:

Designation :

District :

Date :

Code for Fishing Boat :

Boat type	Code
Traditional non-motorized craft	NTRC
Traditional motorized craft	MTRC
Beach seine craft (Non-motorized)	NBSC
FRP boat with Out Board Motor	OFRP
Day boats with inboard engine	IDAY
Ofshore multi-day boat	IMUL

Codes for Fishing gear/methods :

Gillnets and Surrounding nets

Drift Gillnet – Large mesh	GNLM	Beach seine	SNBS
Draft Gillnet – Small mesh	GNSW	Ring net	SNRN
Bottom – set Gillnet	GNBS	Purse seine	SNPS
Trammel net	GNTR	Wachhhal dela	SNWD
Kuda dela	GNKD		
Haras Dela	GNHD	Maya valai	SNMV

Longlines and Handline

Troll line	HLTR	Bottom long line	HLBL
Pole and line	HLPL	Head Line/Rod and line	HLRL
Hand Line	HLHL	Stilt Fishing	HLST
Shark long line	HLSL	Squid jigs	HLSJ
Tune long line	HLTL		

Trawls and Drag Nets

Lift nets, Pots and Traps

Shrimp trawl net	DNST	Life net from boat	LNBT
Fish trawl	DNBT	Life net from shore	LNSH

Lagoon seine (Gawana dela)	DNGD	Crab pot	LNCR
Drag net (Kadippuwa)	DNKD	Fish trap	TRFS
Drivein nets (Gok randela/Vidu Valai)	DNGR	Cast net	FGCN
Drag net (Kalapu trawl)	DNLT	Fish kraals/Ja kottu	TRKR
		Cover pot/Karakgediya	TRCP
		Bursh pile- Mas Athu	TRBP
		Stake net/Kattu dela	TRDK

Miscellaneous Gear

Scoop net	MSSC	Harpoon	MSHP
		Spear fishing	MSSF
Diving	MSDV	Pila Athu	MSFF

Codes for Target catch (species and Species group) :

Species and Species groups		Code
Small and Medium Pelagics	Anchovy	SP1
	Sardines	SP2
	Herring (Hurulla)	SP3
	Flying fish	SP4
	Indian mackerel, Scads	SP5
Large pleagics	Frigate tuna, Trevaly, Half beaks, Barracuda	SP6
	Lagoon/Estuarine fish (Grey Mullet, Milk fish, catfish) Etroplus, etc.	SP7
Small/medium Demersals Large Demersals	Skipjack tuna, Yellowfin tuna, seer, sharks, marlin, sail fish, swordfish, dolphin fish, rainbow runner	LPL
	Pony fish, cat fish Hair tails, Silver biddies, Trigger fish	DM1
		DM2

Ornamental fish		ONM
Shrimp		SHP
Lobster		SLV
Crabs		CRS
Chank		CHN
Sea cucumber		CUX
Squid/cuttlefish		SQC
Bivalves/Gastropods		CLX
Fresh water fish	Tilapia, Common carp, Catla, Rohu, etc.	FXF

(Regulations 4 and 8)

License No : -----

Form "B"

Fishing Operations License

License for engaging in fishing operations is hereby granted to Mr./Msof.....
from to in terms of the provisions of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No .2 of 1996
and regulations made or kept in force under the Act, and the conditions of this license.

Specific Conditions :

1. Registration number of boat for which License is issued :
2. Fishing method/s permitted under the License :
Type : Amount : Specifications :
3. Fishing area/s :
4. Landing site/s :
5. Fishing season :
6. Fishing time :
7. Fishing species/groups permitted to be taken under the License :

.....
Date Director General/Licensing Officer.

Approval of Amendments (if any) :

.....
Amendment Date Endorsement

Annual Renewals :

.....
Year Amount Paid Receipt No. Date Endorsement

Remarks (Cancellations, Fines, remarks form banks/Financial institutions, etc) :

.....
Remark Date Endorsement

No. 2115/8 Monday, March 18,2019

L.D.B 1/2012(III)

THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT, No 2 of 1996

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development under Section 61 read with Sections 6,7,8,9 and 10 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, 2 of 1996.

P. HARRISON

Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs,
Livestock Development, Irrigation and
Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development.

Colombo,
14 th March, 2019

Regulations

The Fishing Operations Regulations of 1996 published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 948/25 of November 07, 1996 are hereby amended as follows :-

- (1) by the insertion immediately before regulation 2 of regulation, of the following word and figure :-
“PART I”
- (2) by the insertion immediately after regulation 8 of that regulation of the following regulations :-

9. The holder of licence granted for fishing operations under these regulations shall take steps to ensure that –

- (4) the Skipper or Master of the fishing boat keeps the licence for fishing operations within Sri Lanka Waters together with the registration certificate of the boat or a certified copy thereof on board at all times and produces such licence and the registration certificate of the boat upon the request of an authorized officer ;
- (5) No fishing is carried out in any part of Sri Lanka Waters except under the authority of a license issued under these regulations;
- (6) No generators are carried on board of any fishing boat belonging to the following categories :-
 - (a) traditional non-motorized boat (NTRB) ;
 - (b) traditional motorized boat (MTRB) ;
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- (5) Any person using artificial bulbs for the purpose of lighting of any fishing vessel uses a voltage not exceeding the maximum voltage mentioned below :-

Type of artificial bulbs	No . Of bulbs	No . Of maximum watt
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(6) No person uses artificial light to attract fish in Sri Lanka Waters :

Provided however, special permission may be granted by the Director General to use artificial light in consultation with the National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency for persons engaging in small scale fishing of rod and line fishing, scoop nets, hand lines and fish traps ;

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10. The Director General or any officer authorized by him in that behalf shall indicate in the licence if any GPS devices and Echo sounders are carried on board of any fishing boat.

PART II

11. Any person engages in diving fishing operations within Sri Lanka Waters shall carry out such fishing operation during the day time between 6.00 am to 6.00 pm.

12. The Director General shall issue a separate licence for each type of fish in respect of which diving fishing operations are carried out.

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PART II

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26. If any stake net licence holder acts in contravention of the above regulations, the licence of such stake net licence holder shall be cancelled by the Director General on having proof such contravention”.

