



# **National Inspection Plan 2016**

**Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources**

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**THE NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN (NIP)  
2016**

**SRI LANKA**

**Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources**

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## **Abbreviations**

AD	Assistant Director of DFAR
CFHC	Ceylon Fishery Harbour Corporation
DCG	Department of Coast Guard
DFAR	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
DG	Director General of DFAR
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FARA	Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996
FMD	Fisheries Management Division of DFAR
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
NIP	National Inspection Plan 2015
QCD	Fishery Products Quality Control Division of DFAR
SLN	Sri Lanka Navy
SLNPOA-IUU	Sri Lanka National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing
VMS	Vessel monitoring system

## **NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN 2015 (NIP)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1. Around 4,500 Sri Lankan flagged multi-day fishing boats are currently operating in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and high seas in the convention area of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) targeting mainly tuna and billfish. About 1,600 boats of this multi-day fishing fleet operate in the high seas and these boats are in the range of 10 – 18 m in length. The fish caught by these fishing boats are landed in Sri Lankan ports and used for local consumption and export. Under the fleet development plan, it is planned to expand current marine fishing fleet over the next five years by adding about 150 boats comprising about 125 long-liners mostly below 24 m in length and about 25 ring-net purse-seiners again below 24 m.

2. As a Party to a number of international agreements concerning conservation and management of fisheries, Sri Lanka is obligated to ensure that Sri Lanka flagged fishing boats fishing in EEZ and high seas follow the internationally adopted conservation and management measures in respect of the straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks found in Sri Lanka's EEZ and high seas. Sri Lanka's national fisheries control strategy includes two major components. One is raising awareness among fishers, and owners and skippers of fishing boats on the importance and need of adhering to adopted conservation and management measures while engaging in fishing operations with a view to encouraging them to comply with such conservation and management measures. The other component is to implement an effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) programme to ensure that fishers, and owners and skippers of fishing boats follow the conservation and management measures specified by laws and regulations.

3. This National Inspection Plan 2015 (NIP) has been prepared by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) elaborating the inspection activities to be conducted in 2015 by DFAR in respect of the fishing activities of local fishing boats in EEZ and high seas, and fish landings at Sri Lankan ports by third country fishing vessels to ensure their compliance with legally adopted conservation and management measures.

#### **1.1. Objective**

5. Objective of NIP is to ensure the implementation of the fisheries laws and regulations effectively to prevent Sri Lanka flagged fishing boats from engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) in Sri Lanka's EEZ, high seas and waters of other coastal States, and third country fishing vessels from landing fish originating from IUU fishing at Sri Lankan ports, and thereby promote the compliance with applicable conservation and management measures and international obligations in fisheries.

#### **1.2. Scope**

6. The NIP 2015 covers the official inspection systems in place for compliance verification with fisheries laws by the Sri Lankan boats operating in the EEZ and in the high seas and for compliance verification with port state measures by the third country fishing boats on landing at designated ports in Sri Lanka.

### 1.3. Authority

7. The Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 (FARA) as amended by Acts No. 4 of 2000, 4 of 2004, 22 of 2006, 35 of 2013 and 2 of 2015 is the main Act that governs fisheries in Sri Lanka. FARA contains provisions required to deal with IUU fishing conducted by Sri Lankan flagged fishing boats in Sri Lankan waters, and in high-seas or waters under the national jurisdictions of other coastal States. FARA also contains provisions regarding the functions, rights and responsibilities of authorized officers and sanctions to be imposed in violations. Regulations have been made to give effect to these provisions.

8. DFAR is the competent authority responsible for administration of the provisions of FARA and regulations made under it.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION

9. DFAR is in charge of coordination and implementation of NIP 2015. The Fisheries Management Division of DFAR (FMD) is the lead division in charge of coordination and implementation. FMD is assisted by two other Divisions of DFAR, i.e., Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Division and Fishery Products Quality Control Division (QCD) of DFAR at the national level.

10. District Fisheries Offices, Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (CFHC) and Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) and Department of Coast Guard (DCG) implement the NIP 2015 at the provincial and district level in respect of Sri Lankan fishing boats. Memoranda of Understanding with SLN, DCG and CFHC with regard to their roles and responsibilities, reporting requirements, etc. have been established in this regard.

11. Fisheries inspectors attached to different district fisheries offices have been detailed to conduct the necessary inspections at the fishery harbours in the respective areas. DFAR conducts training programmes to train the fisheries inspectors in different activities pertaining to inspection and enforcement of laws and regulations, such as inspection procedures, maintenance of on board logbooks, identification of different fish species, handling of navigational equipment and court procedures to ensure the consistency and effectiveness of enforcement.

12. DFAR has also developed an inspection manual for compliance verification in respect of Sri Lankan fishing boats for the purpose of providing fisheries inspectors, and officers of SLN, DCG and CFHC with information on legislation, inspection procedures to be followed, inspection methodology and guidance to conduct inspections courteously and professionally.

13. A special team of fisheries inspectors attached to FMD **conduct inspection of third country fishing vessels, which report to the designated ports for landing of fish in accordance with IOTC Resolution 10/11 on port state measures and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement of 2009**. A training programme with the support of IOTC was conducted to provide them with the necessary skills and procedures to conduct inspections in a consistent and effective manner. "Procedures for the implementation of the IOTC Port state measures" prepared by IOTC is used by them as a guide during the inspection of landings by third country vessels.

## **2.1. Organizations responsible for implementation at the provincial and district level**

### **2.1.1. District fisheries offices**

14. The district fisheries offices perform fisheries control in their respective districts. There are nine (9) District Fisheries Offices located at different fisheries districts: Puttalam (northwest coast), Negombo, Colombo and Kalutara (west coast), Galle, Matara and Tangalle (south coast), and Trincomalee and Batticaloa (east coast). The district fisheries offices organize and conduct inspections in respect of fishing boats operating from harbours located in their districts.

### **2.1.2. Sri Lanka Navy and Department of Coast Guard**

15. SLN and DCG function under the Ministry of Defence. They conduct boat inspections as part of their general control functions. SLN and DCG conduct inspection of boats at ports both on departure and arrival independently. However, they co-operate with fisheries inspectors in conducting boat inspections whenever their cooperation is requested.

### **2.1.3. Ceylon Fisheries Harbours Corporation**

16. CFHC conducts verification inspection of boats before leaving the harbour for fishing based on information provided in the Departure Form submitted by the skipper of the boat.

## **3. INSPECTION METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1. Methodology for Sri Lankan fishing boats**

17. Inspections are carried out in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Inspection Manual developed by DFAR. Inspection includes checks on:

- Documentation: Boat registration certificate, operating license, logbook, and skipper license
- Fish catches: assessment, comparison with logbook entries, prohibited species, etc.
- Fishing gear and related accessories: mesh sizes, length of gillnets, tori lines, de-hookers and line cutters, etc.
- VMS transceiver unit on board for evidence of tampering.

18. Inspection report prepared by the inspector after each inspection is submitted to Assistant Director (AD) of the respective district office with copy to the owner or skipper of the fishing boat. When an infringement is detected if necessary further investigations are conducted and administrative or judicial actions are taken regarding the respective boat without delay.

19. ADs are required to submit, within prescribed time periods, reports to the DG concerning actions taken in regard to infringements fisheries laws and regulations by fishing boats.

20. Officers of SLN and DCG submit the inspection reports directly to FMD for necessary action.

### 3.2. Methodology for Landings by third country vessels

21. As mentioned in Para 13, the third country fishing vessels on landing are inspected in accordance with the procedures laid down in the “**Procedures for the implementation of the IOTC Port state measures**” prepared by IOTC.

22. The inspection report prepared by the inspection team is submitted to FMD with copy to the master of the third country vessel. FMD submits copies of inspection report to IOTC and the flag State of the vessel concerned.

23. If reasons are found during the inspection to believe that the particular foreign fishing vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, DFAR may not allow landing of its fish catch, and inform IOTC and the flag State on the findings of the inspection for necessary action against the vessel.

### 4. TARGET INSPECTION BENCHMARKS FOR 2015

24. The inspection coverage decided for 2015 is as follows.

- *10% of landings of all Sri Lankan fishing boats operating in high seas*
- *5% of landings of all Sri Lankan fishing boats operating exclusively in EEZ; and*
- *25% of landings of third country vessels.*

25. **Annex- 1** and **Annex- 2** gives the targets for port inspections of Sri Lankan fishing boats and third country vessels based on ports.

26. Selection of the fishing boats for inspection is made based on a risk analysis of the past fishing activities of such boats, and not on a complete random basis. Fishing boats in higher risk categories are given priority in selection for inspection within the targeted number of vessels given for each port.

27. The local fishing boats engaged in fishing could be grouped into three risk categories, i.e., high risk, medium risk and low risk, depending on the number of non-compliances in relation to the prescribed conservation and management measures as given in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Risk Categories of Local Fishing Boats**

<b>Risk Category</b>	<b>Non-Compliance Criteria</b>
<b>High Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fishing boats not authorized to engage in fishing</li><li>• Fishing boats not marked as prescribed.</li><li>• Fishing boats detected during the previous inspections with serious non-compliances</li><li>• Fishing boats alerted by VMS/FMC</li></ul>
<b>Medium Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fishing boats detected during the previous inspections with non-compliances, but not of serious nature</li></ul>
<b>Low Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fishing boats detected during the previous inspections with no non-compliances</li></ul>



## 5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

28. Implementation of the NIP 2015 is coordinated by FMD. FMD compiles in a database all the inspection reports it receives on a monthly basis from district fisheries offices, MCS Division, QCD, SLN, DCG, and CFHC and analyses thoroughly in order to measure the effectiveness of implementation of the NIP and its impact on the level of compliance of the operators.

29. Progress of the implementation is reviewed at the national level at the following meetings.

- Monthly meetings with ADs at DFAR
- Quarterly meetings with representatives from the agencies involved in implementation of NIP
- SLNPOA-IUU Coordinating Committee meetings

30. At these meetings constraints for implementation of NIP are identified and adjustments are made to remove such constraints and improve the effectiveness of NIP. *Specific actions to be taken on regular violators are also discussed at these meetings.*

31. At the district level, progress of implementation is reviewed at the meetings with Fisheries Inspectors held once in two weeks in the district fisheries offices. This provides a forum to discuss the constraints identified by the field inspectors and findings from the inspections reports and effectiveness of actions taken in respect of infringements detected in the course of inspections.

## Target inspection benchmarks for Sri Lankan boats – 2016

Province	District	Fishery Harbour	No of active boats		No of boats targeted for inspections on landing		Resources From DFAR	
			EEZ*	High seas #	Operating in EEZ	Operating in high seas	No of Inspectors	No of inspection days
Western	Gampaha	Negombo	215	249	108	199	8	153
		Dikowita	78	65	39	52	5	46
	Colombo	Colombo	0	1	0	1		0
		Panadura	11	0	6	0	2	3
	Kalutara	Beruwala	183	296	92	237	10	164
Southern	Galle	Ambalangoda	70	59	35	47	4	41
		Hikkaduwa	81	32	41	26	3	33
		Galle	227	125	114	100	6	107
	Matara	Mirissa	164	146	82	117	7	99
		Puranawella	248	119	124	95	10	110
		Nilwella	75	16	38	13	4	25
		Suduwella	23	13	12	10		11
	Hambantota	Kudawella	431	183	216	146	11	181
		Tangalle	236	99	118	79	7	99
		Hambantota	31	0	16	0	2	8
Kirinda		22	3	11	2	2	7	
Eastern	Batticaloa	Valaichchenai	40	2	20	2	4	11
	Trincomalee	Cod bay	132	176	66	141	8	103
North Western	Puttalam	Chilaw	20	0	10	0	3	5
		Kalpitiya	12	9	6	7		7
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,299</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1,212</b>
Target Per Month					96	106	NA	101

\* = Based on the number of active vessels in year 2015

# = Based on the number of Applications Received for Year 2015 (Including rejected and cancelled applications)

### Inspection benchmarks

- 10% for boats operating in High Seas
- 5% for boats operating in EEZ

### Assumptions

- No of fishing trips /year for a boat operating in EEZ is 10
- No of trips/year for a boat operating in High Seas is 8

### Target inspection benchmarks for third country vessels- 2016

Month	No. of Port Calls permits issue			No. of on board inspections to be conducted *
	Landing	Transshipments	Services	
January	NA	NA	5	2
February			3	1
March			4	2
April			4	2
May			4	2
June			7	3
July			5	2
August			5	2
September			4	2
October			4	2
November			5	2
December			3	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>53</b>	<b>23</b>

NA = Not Applicable as no port calls were made under landing and transshipment categories by DFAR in year 2015.

\* Inspections on port calls related to maintenance were carried out only in Colombo and Galle Commercial harbors for year 2015.

