

Changes in Fish and Shellfish in Thondamanaru Lagoon, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

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Abstract : Current study was conducted for one year from June 2014 to May 2015, with an objective of identification of fish and shellfish diversity in the Thondamanaru lagoon ecosystem. In this study, 11 species were identified from Thondamanaru lagoon, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. There are four fishes, *Chanos chanos*, *Hemirhamphus* sp., *Nematalosa* sp. and *Mugil cephalus* and seven shell fishes, *Penaeus indicus*, *Penaeus monodon*, *Penaeus latisulcatus*, *Penaeus semisulcatus*, *Metapenaeus monoceros*, *Portunus pelagicus* and *Scylla serrata*. Species composition of *Mugil cephalus*, *Penaeus indicus* and *Metapenaeus monoceros* was high during rainy seasons. However, lagoon is being subjected to adverse environmental conditions that threaten its fish and shellfish biodiversity due to lack of saline water availability and changes in rainfall pattern.

Keywords : diversity, shell fish, shrimp, Thondamanaru lagoon

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