

**ILLEGAL FISHING AND ITS IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY: STUDY
BASED ON NORTHERN AND EASTERN COASTAL AREAS OF SRI LANKA**

DECLARATION

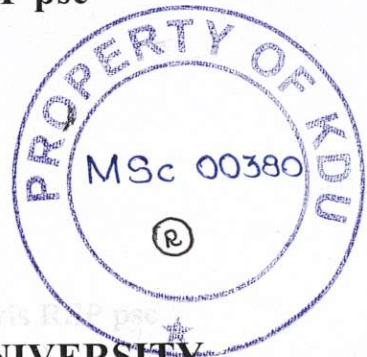
I hereby declare that the work described in this report/ dissertation/ thesis was
by
entirely carried out by me under the guidance of supervisor given below and I

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University or institution for another degree or diploma.

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The thesis submitted to



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In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree

that the above statements made by the candidate is true.

of

Master of Security and Strategic Studies

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ABSTRACT

The fishery industry, of Sri Lanka, is a major economic resource of the country, and the illegal fishing taking place in the waters of Sri Lanka adversely affects the sustainability of its marine resources. Though there are many studies covering various aspects of legal fishing and its impact, there are hardly any studies that address the impact of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing on the fishing community and national security. This exploratory case study was conducted in the northern and eastern coastal areas of Sri Lanka to assess the existing status of IUU fishing, its impact on the economic and social well-being of the fishing community, international repercussions of IUU fishing, and its overall impact on national security. The case study was carried out among 70 fishermen and 25 intellectuals encompassing academic, administrative, security, authority as well as social activists.

The study revealed that despite maritime patrols carried out, IUU fishing is continuing in the northern and eastern waters of Sri Lanka including poaching by up to 2000 Indian trawlers operating in clusters on three days a week. The study also found that IUU fishing adversely affects the economy and social well-being of the fishing community in terms of harvest, monetary, family health and welfare, and education of children. Similarly, IUU fishing results in international repercussions, including the possibility of facing economic sanctions concerning fish exports and strained diplomatic relationships.

The findings also revealed that the overall impact of IUU fishing on national security could be traced along four perspectives, namely transnational crimes, human security, environmental security and economic security. The transnational crimes include drug trafficking, weapons and explosive smuggling, human trafficking/smuggling, and the possibility of forming a mafia due to IUU fishing. The human security perspective includes