

**CERTAIN ADVERSE EFFECTS ENVISAGED ON THE
FISH POPULATION IN MAHAWELI WATERBODIES**

by

L.K.S.W. Balasuriya

Freshwater Fisheries Station, Dambulla

The increased human activities in the Mahaweli river basin has caused many changes in the ecology of the reservoirs and the affiliated waterways. Mortalities of fish and reduction in the fish populations in three waterbodies have been observed to occur in many instances in the recent years.

Four major factors i.e. environmental pollution, sudden and adverse changes in the physical parameters of the water, algal blooms and fish diseases were observed to be responsible for most of the fish mortalities. Further to this pollution and changes in the environment were observed to affect the breeding cycles of some fish species thus causing reduction in the growth of fish populations.

The production in the Mahaweli waterbodies could decrease in future unless proper measures are taken to prevent possible pollution and safeguard the environment in the river basin.