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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
EXTRAORDINARY

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(Published by Authority)

**PART I: SECTION (I) – GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

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

FISHERIES Development and Management Plan of the Koggala Lagoon Management Area made under Sub Section (4) of Section 31B of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996.

DOUGLAS DEVANANDA,  
Minister of Fisheries.

Colombo,  
31st March, 2023.

**Fisheries Development and Management Plan of the Koggala Lagoon**

The document containing these rules, regulations, principles and the operating procedure has been compiled aiming at maintaining the environmental conditions of the Koggala Lagoon located in Galle District out of the 116 lagoons in Sri Lanka, in a sustainable manner thereby securing and upgrading the livelihoods carried out in and around the lagoon.

After the plan is approved and forwarded to the Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources by the Coordinating Committee of the Koggala Lagoon, the Director General, having examined the compliance with the points mentioned in the



Act, shall forward the same to the Minister of Fisheries for approval.(Section 31B)

After the Minister approves this plan and publishes it in the *Gazette*, the matters mentioned herein will come into effect. (Sub Section 4 of Section 31B).

The Minister shall give effect to the provisions in the plan by making appropriate regulations under Section 61 and by publishing appropriate notifications under Section 34. (Sub Section 5 of Section 31B).

## 01. Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon

The committee appointed by the Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under the Section 31A of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996 as amended No.35 of 2013 designated as the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon hereinafter. Its composition is shown under Annexure 01.

## 02. The area in which the Fisheries Management Coordinating Plan of Koggala Lagoon is implemented

The Koggala Lagoon waters belonging to the Habaraduwa and Imaduwa Divisional Secretariats in Galle District in Southern Province of Sri Lanka and the land area belonging to 14 Grama Niladhari Divisions identified adjacent thereto is designated as Fisheries Management Area of Koggala Lagoon is designated as the Fisheries Management Area of Koggala Lagoon (Koggala lagoon Fisheries Management area published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1997/18 and dated 15.12.2016 Provisions in Section 31 (1) of the Fisheries Management Areas of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No.2 of 1996 as amended No.35 of 2013 is designated as the Fisheries Management area of Koggala Lagoon.)

- Geographical Area: The lagoon area identified within the Koggala Lagoon will be explained by the map containing G.P.S.data. (Annexure No.2)
- Grama Niladhari Divisions of Habaraduwa Divisional Secretariat Divisions bordering the identified land area of Koggala Lagoon:
  1. Godawatta-149C
  2. Harumalgoda East-149A
  3. Katukurunda -144C
  4. Koggala Additional 2 - 144E
  5. Koggala Additional 1 - 144D
  6. Koggala - 144A
  7. Atadahewathugoda - 162A
  8. Kathaluwa West - 162
  9. Alawathukisgoda - 164G
  10. Pelassa - 166C
- Grama Niladhari Divisions of Imaduwa Divisional Secretariat Divisions bordering the identified land area of Koggala Lagoon:
  1. Thiththagalla-166A
  2. Kahanda-167
  3. Kahanda Additional-167A
  4. Polhena-154B

**03. Major activities to be implemented with the involvement of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon**

- To formulate the plan including the activities/development proposals that can or should be implemented in the Koggala Lagoon and the area around it and to implement the same based on the principles indicated in the plan.
- All the members and partner institutions should operate their services and provide relevant permissions based on the plan.

**04. Principles:**

The Management Coordinating Committee should act according to the following principles and values in making decisions on harvesting, use and consumption of the resources in the lagoon ecosystem in such a way as to preserve biodiversity of the lagoon ecosystem, wildlife and meet intergenerational justice.

- Equitable distribution of resources
- Lawfulness
- Co-ordination/Representation
- Transparency
- Environmental Friendliness
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Accountability
- Common Consensus (Irrespective of races/religions/castes/political/professional powers)
- Effective response
- Collectivity

**05. Institutional Structure**

**05.01. Methodology of Implementation**

1. There are 04 lagoon fisheries management committees that include lagoon fishermen engaged in the fisheries industry in the Koggala Lagoon. (Fisheries Management Committees had been established and registered for Koggala Lagoon Management area Published *Gazette Extraordinary* No.2027/33 and dated 13.07.2017 by Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources provisions in Sub section 3 of Section 32 of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996)

Name of the Fisheries Committee	Registration No.
1.1 Koggala-Gurukanda Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L./01
1.2 Koggala-Duwamalagama Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L./02
1.3 Koggala- 144A Modaragoda (Singhadewaragama) Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L./03
1.4 Koggala-Pelassa Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L./04
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gurukanda Lagoon Fisheries Management Committee Members - 52</li><li>• Duwamalagama Lagoon Fisheries Management Committee (Magaltota/Duwamalagama/Harumalgoda) Members-110</li><li>• Pelassa Fisheries Organization <i>alias</i> Pelassa Lagoon Fisheries Management Committee (Boraluketiya/Pelassa/Thiththagalla) Members-52</li><li>• Singhadheerwaragama Lagoon Management Committee (Koggala) Members -38</li></ul>	

2. The Four Fisheries Management Committees shall meet separately once every month.
3. 12 members shall represent the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon with 03 members from each Lagoon Fisheries Management Committee, who are elected at the said 04 Lagoon Fisheries Management Committees.
4. The Annual General Meeting of the 12 Lagoon Fisheries Management Committees is held in December every year.
5. The Coordinating Committee will be established for Koggala Lagoon with the representation of 04 Fisheries Management Committees in accordance with Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No.2 of 1996 and the provisions of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment) Act, No. 35 of 2013. Its composition is shown in Annexure 01. (Representatives of Farmers' Organizations around the lagoon are included in this committee.)
6. Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon is held once every three months and the Assistant Director of Fisheries of the District is acting as its Convener while the District Secretary will chair the same.
7. In case of an exigency, the said committee can meet even before the prescribed time.

#### 05.02. Decision making methodology in the Institutional Structure

1. The decision making process in respect of harvesting, use and consumption of the aquatic resources of the lagoon shall be carried out by the Lagoon Management Committee and the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon in accordance with the principles and agreements identified in this plan.
2. The District Secretary of Galle will act as the Chairman of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon.
3. Fishing operations in the lagoon shall be monitored by the Lagoon Fisheries Management Committee and Fisheries Officers. In case of any unsolvable disputes the same should be referred to the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon.
4. When submitting proposals of the Fisheries Management Committees of Koggala Lagoon to the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon, the proposals to be submitted shall be adopted with majority votes by each fisheries Management Committee. Then the same shall be caused to be taken up and decided on at the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon.
5. The proposals submitted by the Lagoon Fisheries Management Committees and the other stakeholders for the decision of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon shall be discussed in the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee Subject to No. (05.02.1).
6. When submitting a development proposal that may affect the lagoon ecosystem to the Koggala Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee. The member institutions or stakeholders of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala for the necessary permissions and discussions or when implementing such a development proposal, the necessary approval for the same shall initially be taken, from the Koggala Fisheries Management and Participation Committee. It should be taken from the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon.

- 6.1. In giving the approval, the approval of the Central Environment Authority/Provincial Environment Authority (Environmental Impact Assessment/Environmental Recommendation) should be obtained and after that the recommendations of the relevant report should be submitted to the recommendation of the Technical Committee.
- 6.2. If there is an instance where it is not possible to make a decision on the proposals submitted to the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon and the Technical Committee, the Co-Coordinating Committee may take the necessary decision by asking the opinion of the institutions dealing with the related subject at the national level so as to make it easy in taking decisions.
7. The Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon by implementing the development plan as stated under main number 03 in relation to the lagoon shall take action to monitor, regulate and follow up the same.

#### **05.03. The method of opening the Koggala Lagoon Estuary**

1. Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon or the Technical Committee established under it should make the necessary coordination for the method of opening the Koggala Estuary. Accordingly, the Department of Irrigation, which is a member of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon, should implement the following tasks in collaboration with the following institutions.
2. The Department of Irrigation shall have identified the flood limit (1 foot and 9 inches) of the lagoon. When the said limit is exceeded, the Department of Irrigation shall proceed as follows to open the lagoon estuary on the basis of flood disaster.
3. The Department of Irrigation should install a measuring device near the lagoon estuary, which indicates the lagoon water level and the river water level.
4. In the event of a flood, there should be supervision of the Department of Coastal Conservation to remove the sand barrier around the lagoon estuary. The Department of Irrigation should have the ability to open the lagoon estuary in such a way that the Department of Coastal Conservation has opened the lagoon estuary on several previous occasions. However, the Intervention of the Department of Coastal Conservation is mandatory for monitoring on every such occasion.
5. When there is a flood, the Department of Irrigation should cut the sandbank in the estuary and send the water from the lagoon to the sea.
6. During the removal of the lagoon sandbank, the Department of Coastal Conservation should be informed of the same and then having removed the required amount of the sandbank under the supervision or knowledge of an officer of that institution, the risk of flooding should be controlled.
7. In addition to the severe flood level of 1.9 identified by the Department of Irrigation, when there is a hazardous situation of inundation of paddy lands near the lagoon, efforts should be made by the Department of Irrigation to cut the mouth of the lagoon minimize the damage caused to the paddy lands which are inundated, *via* the institutions identified by the Technical Committee through the farmers' organizations of Tittagalla East or West through the field level agricultural officers. In this case too, the supervision of the Department of Coastal Conservation should be obtained.

8. Outside the above matters, no party shall remove the sandbank around the estuary.

#### 06. Protected Natural Resources of the Lagoon

- All plant communities in the mangrove ecosystem including the land belt/ lagoon water/ fish, birds and other aquatic life and identified islands within the lagoon management area will be designated as natural resources belonging to the Koggala lagoon.
- The area of mangrove, the lagoon catchment area has been identified in the GPS mapping and the area will be designated as an ecologically sensitive area.
- Specific areas where aquatic organisms breed will be identified and those areas and limits will be designated as no-harvesting zones. (The boundary which is separated are used by means of buoys by the Koggala Air Force Base)
- The matters such as researching/acquiring/destroying/filling all living or non-living resources other than edible fish without the permission or consent of the Co-coordinating Management Committee of the Koggala Lagoon are considered as those matters which violate the Fisheries Management Plan of the Koggala Lagoon and no such action should be done within the lagoon and protected areas.
- The reserve of canals where the water flows to the lagoon should be at least 1.5 meters to each side from the bank of the canal.
  - Puwakgahakissa Canal
  - Kahanda Canal
  - Pambanam Canal
  - Mattegoda Canal
  - Atanakita Canal
  - Keenath Canal
  - Sand Point Canal
  - Pelassa Canal
  - Pelassa Podiela
  - Horakandeniya Canal
  - Idankissa Canal
  - Welamada/Polhene Canal

#### 07. Activities that can and cannot be done, and restrictions in Koggala Lagoon

##### 07.01 For Koggala Lagoon fishermen,

1. Only a maximum of 700 fishermen registered in the 04 Lagoon Fisheries Management Committees established with the membership of Koggala Lagoon fishermen are allowed to engage in fishing in the lagoon.
2. Every fisherman engaged in fishing in the Koggala lagoon, if he owns a boat, shall get the boat registered in the Department of Fisheries and the relevant registration number be marked on the boat to be clearly visible.
3. Every fisherman engaged in the fishing activities in the Koggala Lagoon shall obtain an operations license from the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for their fishing method.
4. Fishing operations should be done only once a day. Limitations may be imposed in case of necessity.

5. The fishing methods that can be done in the lagoon;
  - Netting,
  - Throwing cast nets,
  - Pole and line only.
6. When using setting nets in the lagoon, proper buoys should be attached to the nets-identification marks should be applied.
7. The maximum volume of setting nets that a registered fisherman can use in the lagoon is only 06 pieces each in the length of 28 fathom (56 meters). When the fish harvest in the lagoon decreases, the amount of net pieces can be reduced based on the decision of the Lagoon Fisheries Management Committee.
8. Scoop netting can be used for crabs and its mesh size should be minimum of 4 inches and can be used only between 8.00 a.m and 4.00 p.m.
9. Casting nets can be used for catching fish and shrimp only between 5.00 p.m and 8.00 a.m.
10. Netting for shrimps can be used only from the beginning of December of the year to the end of April of the following year.
11. The mesh size of the net that can be used for fish should be minimum of 5/8 inches.
12. The mesh size of the net that can be used for Hadella fish should be minimum of between 2½ inches and 3 inches minimum.
13. It is possible for registered fishermen to use cast nets in the lagoon throughout the year.

**07.02 Restrictions imposed on mechanized boats plying in the lagoon,**

1. Mechanized (engine) boats Plying in the lagoon shall be registered in the Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha. Before the registration is issued by the Pradeshiya Sabha to the boat owners, it should be considered as to whether the conditions and criteria given by the Marine Environmental Protection Authority to the relevant Pradeshiya Sabha regarding the boat operation on the lagoon water surface have been fulfilled by the respective boat owner. Mechanized boats that do not meet those conditions should not be allowed to run in the lagoon.
2. The number of mechanical boats carrying tourists should be limited to 30. For that, those boats should have been registered by the Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha. The registration number should be painted and displayed on the hull of the boat so as to be clearly visible. Methodologies and terms required for this purpose shall be formulated by the Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha.
3. Engine capacity of mechanized boats plying in the lagoon shall be subject to a maximum of 15 horse power.
4. Mechanized boats are allowed to run in the lagoon only from 8.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m.
5. In the event of a disaster, if it is necessary to run boats in the lagoon for disaster management activities, the above mentioned times do not apply to the parties conducting disaster management activities.
6. Where any damage is caused to the nets of the registered lagoon fishermen by the mechanized boats operating in the lagoon other than the specified period, value of the damaged nets shall be paid to the owner of the said boat by the relevant mechanized boat.

**07.03 Restrictions on aircraft landing on water**

1. The Ministry of State Defense has given the necessary permissions for a water landing aircraft to land on the water of the Koggala Lagoon and the permission required for any other aircraft to land on the Koggala Lagoon in the future shall be indicated in this plan and then the same may be given to the Coordinating Committee. Hence no any permission shall be given without those procedures.

**07.04 Prohibited activities in Koggala Lagoon**

1. The use of any fishing gear in the area from the Koggala Lagoon estuary to the Koggala Bridge on the Galle - Matara road is strictly prohibited.
2. The supports embedded for shrimp fishing in the lagoon should not be fixed permanently.
3. Any one who is not a member of the Lagoon Management Committee and does not have an operations license is not allowed to fish in the lagoon.
4. The use of nylon thread for fishing is strictly prohibited.
5. The following activities in the lagoon and any inappropriate fishing method as determined by the Lagoon Fisheries Management Committee if any are also prohibited to use for fishing.
  - Beating the water by setting nets into the water and spooking the fish
  - Hand plucking
  - Catching prawns by squeezing the mud
  - Stinging fish (with wire rods and pointed hooks)
  - Fishing basket cane trap and prohibited fishing methods identified under the Fisheries Act are also included.
6. No temporary or permanent construction/disposal of waste to the lagoon shall be made within the water surface and land reserve of the lagoon.
7. The lagoon fish resource is considered as a common resource of all the registered fishermen so that there is no right to divide and use the lagoon.
8. Setting up of fish traps / shrimp traps in the lagoon is strictly prohibited.
9. Fisheries Development and Management Plan of the Koggala Lagoon and submission of amendments.
10. The Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of the Koggala Lagoon shall follow-up this Fisheries development and management plan annually, revise and include it in the annual activity plan.
11. When the contents introduced in the Fisheries Development and Management Plan of Koggala Lagoon are violated,
  - In case of violation of the contents specified in this plan related to the fishing activities of the lagoon, every stakeholder of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of the Koggala Lagoon shall identify the persons so violating the laws and agreements and take action according to the regulations of the Department of Fisheries issued according to this plan and according to the precepts received by the relevant stakeholders.



- Any person and organization can complain to the Habaraduwa Police and the Habaraduwa / Imaduwa Divisional Secretaries against the persons and institutions who violate the conditions in connection with mechanized boats running in the lagoon, cutting mangroves, reclamation of the lagoon, construction carried out in the lagoon. At the same time, such complaints should be forwarded in writing to the Secretary and the Chairman of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of the Koggala Lagoon.
12. The member institutions should identify the resources required to implement the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of the Koggala Lagoon.

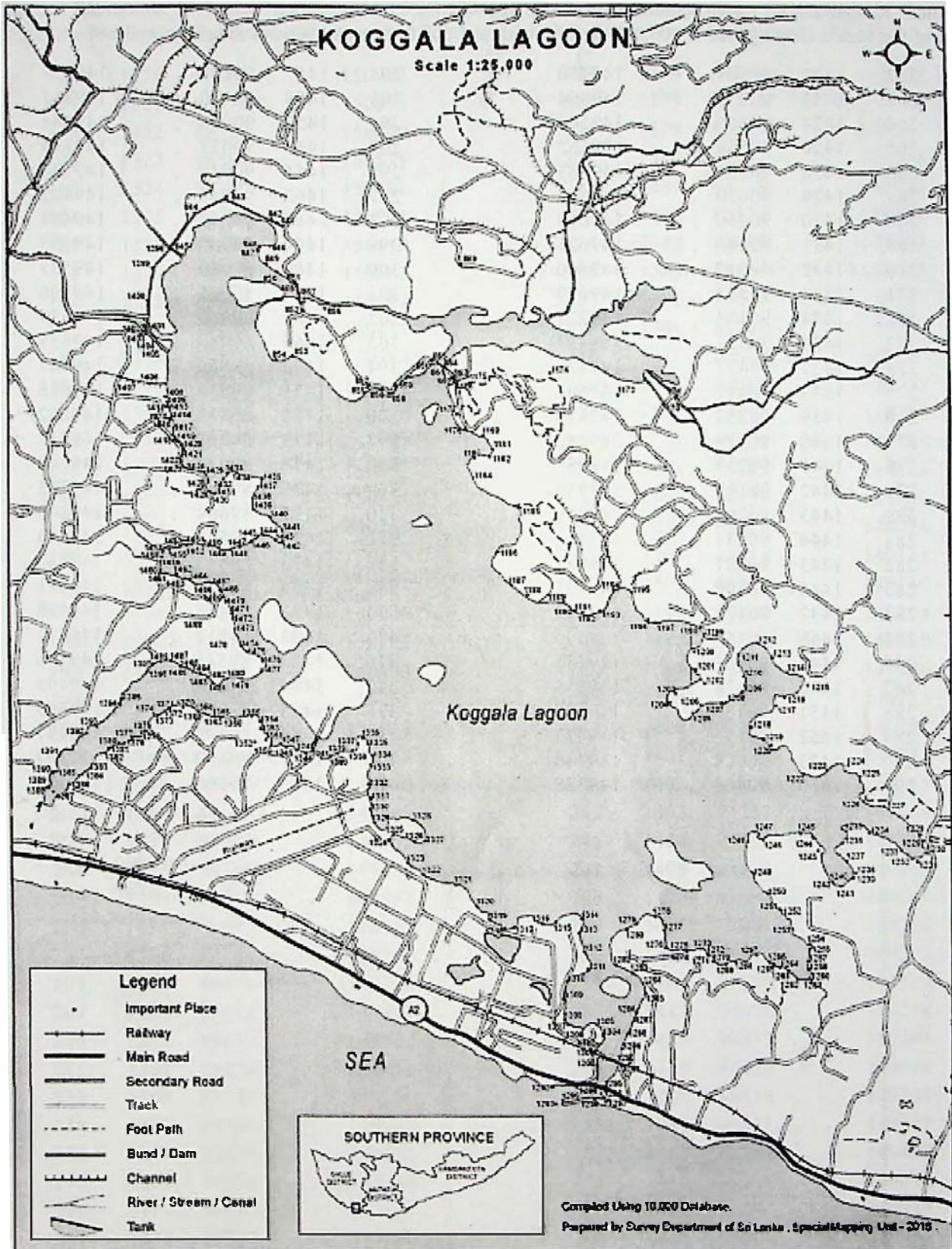
#### ANNEXURE-01

Upon the nomination of Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Koggala Lagoon established for the Fisheries Management Area of Koggala Lagoon according to the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment) Act No. 35 of 2013, the list of officers and institutions, community organizations to be included in the said Committee is as follows:

1. District Secretary - Galle
2. Director of District Planning and Programming
3. District Assistant Director of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
4. Divisional Secretary - Habaraduwa
5. Divisional Secretary - Imaduwa
6. Chairman - Pradeshiya Sabha - Habaraduwa
7. Chairman - Pradeshiya Sabha - Imaduwa
8. Two (2) officers of the District Office of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
9. An officer of the Urban Development Authority
10. Provincial Director of Fisheries
11. An officer of the Department of Coastal Resources Management Department
12. An officer of NARA
13. An officer of the Aquaculture Development Authority
14. An officer of the Central Environment Authority
15. An officer of the Department of Wildlife Conservation
16. An officer of the Department of Forest
17. An officer of the Marine Environment Protection Authority

18. An officer of the Ministry of Lands
19. An officer of the Department of Police - Habaraduwa
20. An officer of the Department of Coast Guard
21. An officer of the Sri Lanka Navy
22. Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force - Koggala
23. An officer of the Department of Disaster Management
24. Assistant Commissioner of District Agricultural Services
25. 12 members, 03 each from one committee for 04 the Fisheries Management Committees of Koggala Lagoon
26. An officer of the Department of Irrigation
27. An officer of the Department of Surveys
28. A District Agricultural Officer
29. An officer of Koggala Board of Investment
30. An officer of the Tourism Board
31. Department of Agricultural Services Three Divisional Officers Koggala/Panchalia/Paragoda
32. Two representatives of farmer organizations each Tittagalla East/Tittagalla West/Pelassa/Harumalgoda/Dorape/Ampavila/Welikonda/Kahanda/Palawatta/Elapala
33. Two (2) members for the stilt Fisheries Committee

ANNEXTURE - 02



## ANNEXTURE - 03

## FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT, No. 02 OF 1996

NOTIFICATIONS made by the Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under Section (3) of Section 32 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 02 of 1996.

## Notice

It is hereby notified that a Fisheries Management Committee *had* been established and registered for Koggala Lagoon Fisheries Management Area published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1997/18, 15th December 2016.

Name of the Fisheries Committee	Registered No.
1. Koggala - Gurukanda Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L/01
2. Koggala - Duwamalakagama Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L/02
3. Koggala - 144A Modaragoda (Singhadeewaragama) Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L/03
4. Koggala - Palassa Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee	DFAR/F.Com/KO.L/04

M. C. L. FERNANDO  
Director General

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

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Maligawatta, Colombo 10.  
10th July, 2017.

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