

NERDC gets together with other major stake holders to develop refrigeration and storage facility for multi day fishing boats



Multiday fishing boats play a major role in the continuous protein supply to the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources have identified from many researches and assessments that, there are nearly five thousand (4885) of Inboard Multiday (IMUL) fishing boats in Sri Lanka including high seas IMUL fishing boat (1215) and other IMUL fishing boat (3670) as per fisheries statistics 2019, without having adequate refrigeration and storage facilities. This results the post-harvest loss of unacceptable quality of the total harvest not less

than 30%, even before delivering to harbors. Minimum annual post-harvest loss around 43,085 Metric Ton of fish resource, is more than twenty-two billion Sri Lankan Rupees (22.4 billion LKR) worth considering six (06) fishing trips per annum per boat, the average harvest in each trip is 4,900 Kg. At present, majority of boats use ice for preserving their harvest for a period of thirty to forty-five (30-45) days, without controlling and considering the desired temperatures. In addition to that, storing in a very dense fish pile of roughly about two-metre (2m) height with nonstandard and unacceptable method, the harvest becomes worst.



To overcome this obstacle a project has been initiated by NARA and DFAR to conduct a research with collaboration of National Engineering Research and Development Centre of Sri Lanka to develop IMUL fishing boat with improved refrigeration and storage facilities as one of the best possible solutions for reducing the post-harvest losses and retain the freshness of fish.

An agreement was signed among National Engineering Research and Development Centre of Sri Lanka(NERDC), National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency(NARA), and Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, on 15th July 2020, for developing refrigeration and storage facility for multi day fishing boats. The agreement was signed by Prof. Leelananda Rajapaksha, Chairman of NERDC, Prof. A. Navaratnerajah, Chairman of NARA, Mr. Ginige Prasanna Janaka Kumara, Director General of DFAR, representing each party in the presence of Dr. Bandula Gunawardana, Honorable Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation and Mr. Douglas Devananda, Honorable Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.