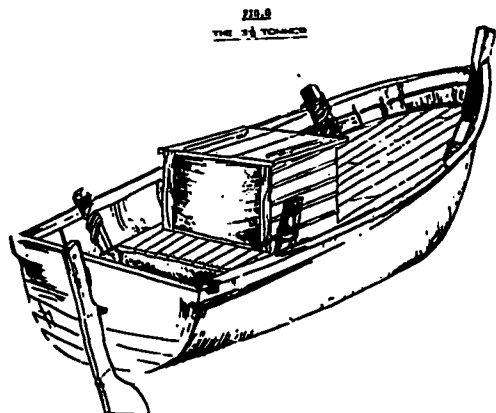
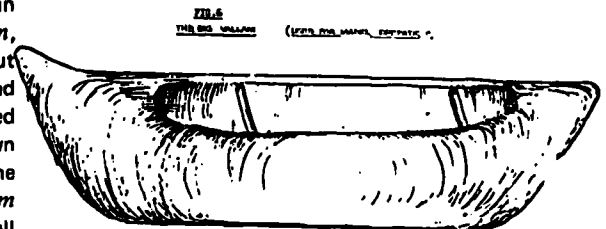
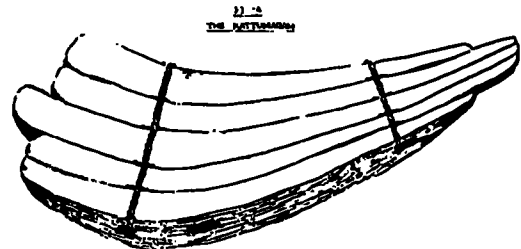
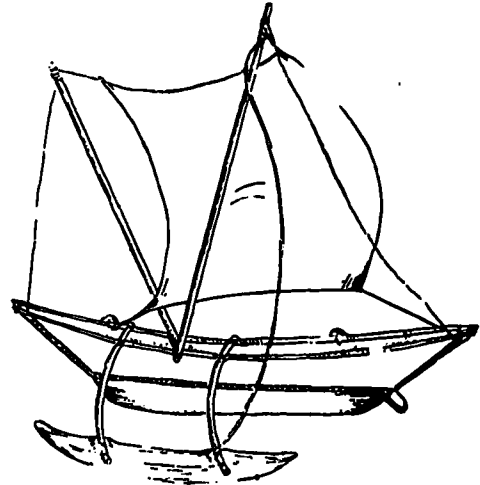
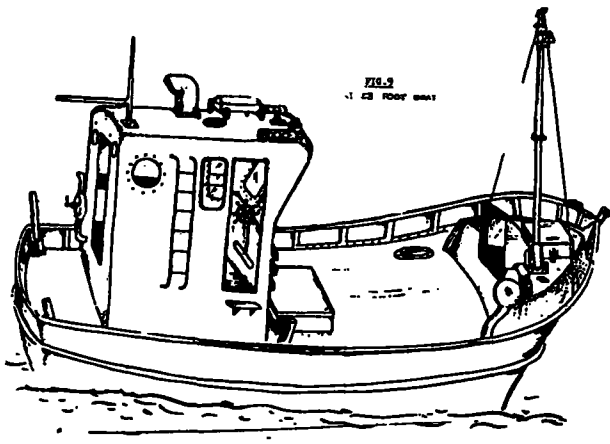
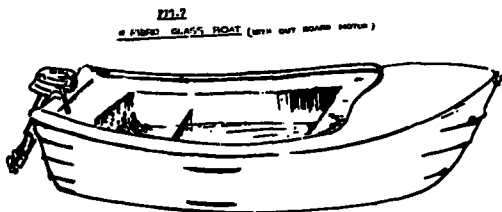
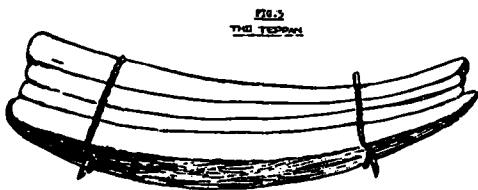
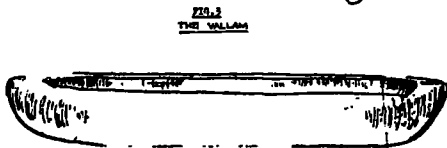
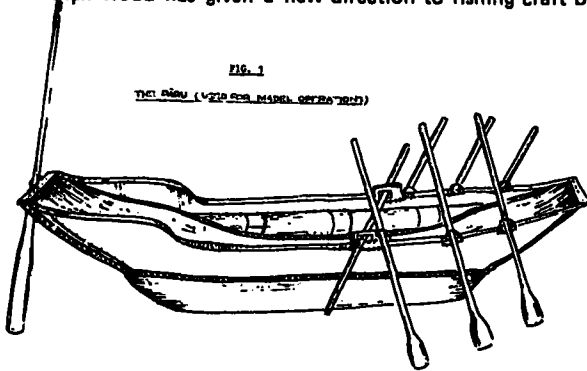


TECHNOLOGY CHANGES IN SRI LANKA'S FISHING CRAFT

Primitive fishing craft are still in use today in many parts of the world and provide an insight into how man made a living on the water from earliest times. In Sri Lanka too the traditional craft have continued to be in use, particularly in the small scale fisheries sector, despite the introduction of modern techniques and mechanized boats. The introduction of power propelled craft and use of steel and materials other than wood has given a new direction to fishing craft both in design and character, enabling the building of larger and faster boats. Fishing



gear in use in Sri Lanka generally falls into two categories: that used for catching *pelagic* (surface feeding) fish, and that used for catching *demersal* (bottom feeding) fish. The different type of crafts (illustrated here) were introduced to serve various types of fishing as demand for fish kept increasing.

Figures 1-6 are the traditional crafts, beginning with the *Paru* or plank flat bottomed boat used for carrying beach-seine nets out to sea. The *Oru* or craft with a narrow dug-out hull, raised with side stakes attached to the base, and an outrigger is illustrated in Fig 2; while the *Vallam*, also a dug-out, without an out-trigger or raised side stakes, and propelled by a oar or sail is shown in Fig. 3. Two rafts, the *Kettumaram* and *Teppam* used mainly for small-mesh gill netting, are illustrated in Figs 4 and 5. The *Big Vallam* in Fig. 6 is used in the Northern and Eastern Provinces for carrying beach-seines out to sea. The crafts shown in Figs. 7, 8 and 9 are the modern mechanized craft which have enabled fishermen to move out to deeper waters and stay out upto three days in a 38 ft. craft. The craft illustrated here are those used by Sri Lanka's small scale fisheries.

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