

### ABSTRACT

*During a study that lasted for two years, 62 juvenile fish species and 20 crustacean species were identified from the seagrasses and mangroves of the Negombo Lagoon making the number of fish species for the lagoon to be 103. A number of fish and crustacean species have high aquaculture potential. Among the fish, 16 species occurred only in the mangroves, 6 species only in the seagrasses and 40 common to both habitats.*

*Seagrasses yielded higher biomass of fish and crustaceans than mangroves. The fish biomass increased during the N.E. Monsoon, and crustacean biomass increased during the S.W. Monsoon. During the N.E. Monsoon the number of individuals and species also increased.*

*Destruction of mangroves in some stations, initially attracted fish and crustaceans due to the accumulation of detritus, but thereafter the fish and shellfish catch dropped drastically.*