



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRI LANKA**

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**FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES  
(AMENDMENT)**

**A**

**BILL**

**to amend the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996**

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*Presented by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development  
on 23rd of May, 2017*

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*Ordered by Parliament to be printed*

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**[Bill No. 179]**

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*STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT*

*Clause 2:* This clause amends section 28 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) by the introduction of new section 28A and the legal effect of the new section is to prohibit, fishing operations utilizing Trawl Nets towed by motorized or mechanized fishing boats and the sale, import and transport of such nets and the issuance of license relating to utilization of such nets.

*Clause 3:* This clause amends section 49 of the principal enactment by the addition of a new subsection which makes it an offence to contravene the provisions of section 28A.

*Clause 4:* This clause amends section 66 of the principal enactment by the introduction of a definition for the expression “Trawl Net”.

*Clause 5:* This clause amends all the laws which are contrary to the content of the provisions of section 28A, making section 28A to prevail over such laws.

*Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment)*

L.D.—O. 21/2016.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES  
ACT, NO. 2 OF 1996

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist  
Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment) Act, No. of 2017. Short title.

5 2. The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 28 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) and shall have effect as section 28A of that enactment:— Insertion of new section 28A in the principal enactment.

10 “Prohibition of fishing operations utilizing Trawl Nets. 28A. (1) (a) No person shall engage in or cause any other person to be engaged in fishing operations utilizing Trawl Nets, including nets without two wings or using vertical poles at the two free ends of the net, to be towed by motorized or mechanized fishing boats.

15 (b) No person shall use, possess, import, transport, purchase or sell any Trawl Net, to be towed by a motorized or mechanized fishing boat for the purpose of carrying out fishing operations in Sri Lanka Waters.

20 (2) No license shall be issued by the Director-General under Part II of this Act for fishing operations carried out by Trawl Nets to be towed by a motorized or mechanized fishing boat in Sri Lanka Waters.

2 *Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment)*

5 (3) Any license, issued under this Act for fishing operations carried out utilizing Trawl Nets towed by motorized or mechanized fishing boats in Sri Lanka Waters, shall not be renewed:

10 Provided that, a license already issued for the use of Trawl Nets and which is still in force on the day preceding the date of commencement of this Act, shall notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, continue to be valid for the purpose and in respect of which the license has been issued, for the period specified therein.”.

15 **3.** Section 49 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the insertion immediately after subsection (2A) thereof, of the following new subsection:— Amendment of section 49 of the principal enactment.

20 “(2AA) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of section 28A of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate, be liable to an imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine not less than fifty thousand rupees.”.

25 **4.** Section 66 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the insertion, immediately after the definition of the expression “Sri Lanka Waters”, of the following new definition:— Amendment of section 66 of the principal enactment.

30 ““Trawl Net” means a towing net having a cone shaped body and a bag or cod end (madiya) connected to the apex with or without two wings connected to the other end and towed by motorized or mechanized fishing boats.”.

5 **5.** The provisions of section 28A of this Act, shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other written law, and accordingly, in the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of section 28A of this Act and such other law, the provisions of section 28A of this Act shall prevail.

Section 28A of this Act to prevail over other written law.

**6.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

Sinhala text to prevail in case of any inconsistency.

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