

# The Taxonomy and Conservation Status of the Freshwater Fishes in Sri Lanka

Sampath de Alwis Goonatilake  
IUCN Sri Lanka, 53, Horton Place, Colombo 7.

## Introduction

Sri Lanka supports a rich freshwater fish assemblage that comprises of 91 species including 50 endemics (Bailey and Gans, 1998; Goonatilake, 2007; Silva *et al.*, 2008; Meegaskumbura, *et al.*, 2008; Pethiyagoda, 1991; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008a; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008b; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008c; Silva *et al.*, 2011; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2012; Watson, 1998). Other than these indigenous species, 24 exotic species have been introduced to the island, mainly to boost the inland fishery (Goonatilake, 2007). Senanayake and Moyle (1982) have identified four major Ichthyological zones (Southwestern, Mahaweli, Dry and Transition) according to the distribution patterns of freshwater fish in Sri Lanka. Out of these four zones, Southwestern and Mahaweli zones bear the highest freshwater fish diversity in the island.

## Taxonomy

The island's freshwater fish fauna has received significant attention from early European ichthyologists that dates back to early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Georges Cuvier and Achille Valenciennes described several species of fish (Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1828–49) from Sri Lanka based on a single collection made in 1827 near the Kinniyar hot springs by the French explorer A. Reynaud. However, the first local exploration of the fish fauna by an expert took place in the early 1860s, when the Dutch ichthyologist P. Bleeker described several new species of freshwater fish based on a collection from the Gin River basin. In the early 1900's Bleeker's work has been followed by a German ichthyologist, George Duncker, who explored several localities including Gin river basin that led to the compilation of first checklist of Sri Lankan freshwater fishes (Duncker, 1912). These early efforts on fish exploration by European ichthyologists were followed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century by local naturalists of whom the most notable being P.E.P. Deraniyagala who has described several new species and produced the first illustrated book on Sri Lankan freshwater fish (Deraniyagala, 1952). His work has been followed by Mendis (1954) and Munro (1955).

The first systematic exploration of the island's freshwater fish fauna was carried out during the late 1970s by Ranil Senanayake for his doctoral dissertation that has led to a comprehensive review of the conservation status of freshwater fishes for the first time in Sri Lanka (Senanayake, 1980; Senanayake and Moyle, 1982). This work was followed by a more extensive survey on freshwater fish by the Wildlife Heritage Trust that has led to the discovery of many new species of freshwater fish (Kottelat & Pethiyagoda, 1991; Meegaskumbura, *et al.*, 2008; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008a; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008b; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008c; Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2012; Silva *et al.*, 2008; Silva *et al.*, 2011).

Taxonomic nomenclature of freshwater fish has also been extensively revised during the past two decades, the most recent being the taxonomic revision of the genus *Puntius* by Pethiyagoda *et al.* (2012) that has resulted in the splitting of this genus into four genera, namely *Puntius*,

*Pethia*, *Systemus* and, *Dawkinsia*. Likewise, revision of the Genera *Rasbora* (Silva *et al.*, 2011) and *Danio* (Kevin *et al.*, 2010) resulted in some species of genus *Rasbora* being placed under the genus *Rasboroides* and all species of genus *Danio* being placed under the genus *Devario*. Further, what was listed as *Chela ceylonensis* was split in to three species and placed under the genus *Labuca* (Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008a). Also, species names of several species have also been revised over the past decade. For instance, *Puntius filamentous*, *Puntius amphibious*, *Macroganthus aral*, *Labeo porcellus* and *Channa marulius* have been renamed as *Puntius singhala*, *Puntius kamalika*, *Macroganthus pentophthalmos*, *Labeo lankae* and *Channa ara* respectively (Pethiyagoda & Kottelat, 1991; Silva *et al.*, 2008 and Pethiyagoda *et al.*, 2008c; Pethiyagoda, 1994).

## Distribution

Senanayake and Moyle (1982) have proposed four major Ichthyological zones (Southwestern, Mahaweli, Dry and Transition) based the on distribution pattern of freshwater fishes. Of these the South Western and Mahaweli zones support the highest diversity in freshwater fish while the Dry Zone species have a higher affinity with the freshwater fish in the Indian peninsula. Number of species such as *Pethia bandula* (Minipura at Kegalle District) and *Stiphodon martenstyni* (Atweltota near Matugama) and *Rasboroides nigromarginata* are only known from a single location (point endemics). Further, some species such as *Dawkinsia srilankensis*, *Laubuca insularis*, *Systemus martenstyni*, *Labeo fisheri* and *Labeo lankae* are only known from a single river basin. However, species such as *Lepidocephalichthys jonklaasi*, *Devario pathirana*, *Rasbora wilpita* which were also thought to be restricted to a single river basin, namely the Nilwala basin, have been shown to occur also in the Kelani river basin.

## Threats

Arguably, the freshwater fish are the most vulnerable taxonomic group as most of the threatened or endemic freshwater species are found in streams that are lying outside the Protected Area Network of Sri Lanka. Therefore these habitats are highly susceptible to various threats such as forest clearance, gem mining, expanding agriculture, large and small scale hydro projects, exposure to chemical pollutants including agrochemicals and sedimentation due to soil erosion.

Several species such as *Ophisternon bengalense*, *Systemus martenstyni*, *Labeo fisheri* and *Labeo lankae* have become threatened during the past few decades due to loss of their habitat, land reclamation or habitat conversion as a result of reservoir projects. Further, natural processes such as spread of alien invasive plant species such as like *Annona gabra*, *Eichornia crassipes* bring about rapid habitat changes that make these marsh habitats less suitable for freshwater fish. The water quality of many of the suburban water bodies have also undergone drastic changes due to accumulation of toxic compounds discharged by industries. A case in point is the Attidiya-Bellanwila Sanctuary where the number of freshwater species recorded has changed from 54 to a mere 8 species (Goonatilake unpublished data, 2012) within a span of about 20 years due to pollution and spread of invasive alien plant species. On the other hand, in rural areas heavy use of agrochemicals such as pesticides and fertilizer has contributed to the population decline of at least two endemic fish species, *Pethiya bandula* and *Aplocheilus dayi* and several species of indigenous fish. Intentional and accidental introduction of invasive alien

fish species such as *Chitala chitala* (Clown knife fish) and *Hypostomus plecostomus* (Sucker-mouth catfish) is posing a major threat to native fresh water fishes (Gunawardane, 2002).

Number of endemic species have a high demand in the aquarium trade and hence over-exploitation of naturally occurring populations for export has resulted in marked reduction in their populations and in some instances to local extinctions. Further, destructive fishing techniques such as the use of *Kala wel* (a plant that is toxic to fish), Dynamite and other chemicals such as anti-lice compounds by local communities to capture fish lead to complete wipe-out of all the fish in a water hole. Therefore, such fishing methods should be banned and discouraged through awareness-raising among local communities.

## **Conservation**

As mentioned earlier, most of the threatened and endemic freshwater fish are found in habitats located outside the Protected Area Network. These habitats are under high human pressure. Therefore, they need to be protected; especially their catchment areas that will decide the water yield as well as the quality of water. Any type of development affecting these habitats needs to be clearly assessed before granting approval. Further, species oriented conservation programmes and habitat oriented conservation programmes should be developed for at least the critically endangered species. As most of the species occur outside the protected areas the local communities have to be involved in conservation of these species. Such a programme has been successfully implemented for *Pethia bundula* that has resulted in curtailing of illegal collection of the fish and the recovery of the population. Likewise conservation action plans should be drawn up for all identified threatened species.

*Ex-situ* breeding programmes should also be established with the aim of boosting dwindling wild population. However, translocation or reintroduction programmes should be planned with utmost care to prevent hybridisation and introduction of diseases to the population. Thus far, a number of translocations have been attempted in Sri Lanka with the aim of conserving threatened species. Some of these translocation programmes have been highly successful while some have failed to achieve the desired objectives. Therefore, these programmes should be carefully reviewed to document the lessons learnt before attempting further translocations.

## **Research gaps and research needs**

The recent field surveys in both the dry and wet zone, and phylogenetic studies have demonstrated that there still are new species to be discovered. Therefore, island-wide systematic surveys should be carried out to document the distribution and ecological conditions necessary for freshwater fishes of Sri Lanka. The baseline data generated from such a survey can be used to make proper assessments of the conservation status of species as well as to draw up species conservation plans. Lack of financial support is the main obstacle for such a systematic island-wide survey. A model already exists in the neighbouring India, where they have a dedicated zoological survey to gather baseline data not only for fishes but for other taxonomic groups as well. The National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka had such a programme in the 1980's which needs to be resurrected.

## Conclusions and recommendations

Sri Lanka has a rich freshwater fish fauna of which more than 50% are endemic species. However, nearly 50% freshwater fish are also listed as threatened species due to a number of threats. Therefore, it is important to develop a conservation action plan for the endemic and threatened freshwater fish of Sri Lanka. Such an action plan should first identify priority list of species as well as critical habitats of freshwater fish that require immediate conservation action. This should be followed with preparation and implementation of species specific recovery plans. The implementation of such plans requires large investments and therefore, possibility of private sector involvement in financing such recovery plans should be pursued. Also, a national programme to protect catchments as well as enforce river and stream reservations is another identified need which will benefit not only fish but other terrestrial species as well. As most of the species occur in human dominated landscapes a conservation model involving local communities in conservation of freshwater fish should be developed, at least for the restricted range species. At the same time, the *ex situ* breeding programmes should obtain the expertise available in the ornamental fish industry, especially to develop breeding techniques for threatened species that are difficult to breed in captivity. All pesticides approved for release in Sri Lanka should be assessed for impact on non-target organisms and the environment in general, and the labelling of such products should include information on environmental safeguards. Further, all future intentional release of exotic fishes should be preceded by an environmental impact assessment involving specific safeguards against invasiveness, and at the same time a ban should be imposed on importation of exotic fish species that are known to be invasive in other countries. Also, international agencies that fund development projects must be appraised of the negative consequences that can arise due to fisheries development projects in Sri Lanka

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**Table 08: List of Freshwater Fish in Sri Lanka**

Scientific Name	Common Name	NCS	Criteria	GCS	Criteria
<b>Family: Cyprinidae</b>					
<b><i>Amblypharyngodon grandisquamis</i></b> Jordan & Starks, 1917	E:Sri Lanka Large Silver Carplet; S:Gangiliya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<i>Amblypharyngodon melettinus</i> (Valenciennes,1844)	E: Silver Carplet; S: Soraya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Dawkinsia singhala</i></b> (Dunker, 1912) syn. <b><i>Puntius singhala</i></b>	E: Sri Lanka Filamented Barb; S:Dankola pethiya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Dawkinsia srilankensis</i></b> (Senanayake,1985) syn. <b><i>Puntius srilankensis</i></b>	E:Sri Lanka Blotched Filamented Barb ; S:Dankuda pethiya	CR	B2ab(iii)	CR	
<b><i>Devario aequipinnatus</i></b> (McClelland, 1839)	E:Sri Lanka Knuckles Danio; S:Dumbara saalaya, Dankola saalaya	CR	B2ab(iii)	LC	
<i>Devario malabaricus</i> (Jerdon, 1849)	E:Giant Danio; S:Rath kailaya, Dankola saalaya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Devario pathirana</i></b> (Kottelat & Pethiyagoda, 1990)	E:Sri Lanka Barred Danio; S: Pathirana saalaya	CR	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	EN	B1ab(iii)
<b><i>Esomus thermoicos</i></b> (Valenciennes,1842)	E:Sri Lanka Flying Barb; S:Ravul dandiya, Thatu dandiya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Garra ceylonensis</i></b> Bleeker, 1863	E:Sri Lanka Stone Sucker; S:Gal paanduruva, Gal paandiya	VU	B2ab(iii)	EN	
<b><i>Garra phillipsi</i></b> Deraniyagala, 1933	E:Sri Lanka Phillips' Garra; S:Gal paanduruva, Gal paandiya	DD		DD	
<i>Labeo dussumieri</i> (Valenciennes,1842)	E:Common Labeo; S:Hiri kanaya, Gan kanaya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Labeo fisheri</i></b> Jordan & Starks,1917	E:Sri Lanka Mountain Labeo; S:Loku gadaya, Kalu gadaya, Weli gadaya, Gadaya	CR	B2ab(iii)	EN	B1ab(iii)
<b><i>Labeo lankae</i></b> Deraniyagala, 1952	E:Sri Lanka Orange-Fin Labeo; S:Thambalaya, Thambalaya vanna, Hiri kanaya	CR	B2ab(iii)	CR	A1c+2c, C1
<b><i>Laubuca insularis</i></b> Pethiyagoda, Kottelat, Silva, Maduwage & Meegaskumbura, 2008	E: Sri Lanka Knuckles Laubuca; S: Dumbara kara- adaya	CR	B2ab(iii)		
<b><i>Laubuca lankensis</i></b> (Deraniyagala, 1960)	E: Sri Lanka Blue Laubuca; S: Nilkara kara- adaya	VU	B1ab(iii)		
<b><i>Laubuca ruhuna</i></b> Pethiyagoda, Kottelat, Silva, Maduwage & Meegaskumbura, 2008	E:Sri Lanka Ruhunu Laubuca; S: Ruhunu kara- adaya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		

Scientific Name	Common Name	NCS	Criteria	GCS	Criteria
<b><i>Laubuca varuna</i></b> Pethiyagoda, Kottelat, Silva, Maduwage & Meegaskumbura, 2008	E:Sri Lanka Varuna Laubuca; Varuna karadaya	CR	B2ab(iii)		
<b><i>Pethia bandula</i></b> (Kottelat & Pethiyagoda, 1991) syn. <b><i>Puntius bandula</i></b>	E:Sri Lanka Bandula Barb; S: Bandula pethiya, Jayanthiya	CR	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	CR	B1+2c, C1
<b><i>Pethia cumingii</i></b> (Gunther, 1868) syn. <b><i>Puntius cumingii</i></b>	E: Sri Lanka Cuming's Barb; S:Depulliya, Pothya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	LR/cd	
<b><i>Pethia melanomaculata</i></b> (Deraniyagala, 1956) syn. <b><i>Puntius melanomaculatus</i></b>	E: Sri Lanka tic tac Barb; S: Pothaya	VU	B1ab(iii)		
<b><i>Pethia nigrofasciata</i></b> (Gunther, 1868) syn. <b><i>Puntius nigrofasciatus</i></b>	E:Sri Lanka Black Ruby Barb; S:Bulath hapaya, Manamaalaya	EN	B2ab(iii)	LR/cd	
<b><i>Pethia reval</i></b> (Meegaskumbura, Silva, Maduwage & Pethiyagoda, 2008) syn. <b><i>Puntius reval</i></b>	E: Sri Lanka Redfined Barb; S: Ratuwaral pothaya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<b><i>Puntius bimaculatus</i></b> (Bleeker, 1863)	E:Redside Barb; S: Ipili kadaya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Puntius dorsalis</i></b> (Jerdon, 1849)	E:Long-Snouted Barb; S:Katu pethiya, Katu kuriya, Rathu varal pethiya	LC			
<b><i>Puntius kamalika</i></b> Silva, Maduwage & Pethiyagoda, 2008	E: Sri Lanka Kamalika's Barb; S: Mada pethiya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<b><i>Puntius kelumi</i></b> Pethiyagoda, Silva, Maduwage & Meegaskumbura, 2008	E: Sri Lanka Redeye Barb; S: Rathu-es katupethiya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<b><i>Puntius layardi</i></b> (Günther, 1868)	E: Sri Lanka Layards bard; S: Leyardge katupethiya	DD			
<b><i>Puntius tetraspilus</i></b> (Günther, 1868)	E: Sri Lanka four spot Long snouted bard; S: Siu tit katupethiya	DD			
<b><i>Puntius thermalis</i></b> (Valenciennes, in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1844)	E:Swamp Barb; S:Kota pethiya; S: Kota pethiya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Puntius titteya</i></b> Deraniyagala 1929	E:Sri Lanka Cherry Barb; S: Le thiththaya	EN	B2ab(iii)	LR/cd	
<b><i>Puntius vittatus</i></b> (Day, 1865)	E:Silver Barb; S: Bandi thiththaya, Podi pethiya, Ipili kadaya	LC		LC	
<b><i>Rasbora armitagei</i></b> Silva, Maduwage & Pethiyagoda, 2010	E: Sri Lanka Armitagi Rasbora; S: Rakvana dandiya	CR	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<b><i>Rasbora dandiya</i></b> (Valenciennes, in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1844)	E:Broad line Strip Rasbora; S: Dandiya, Kudamassa	LC			
<b><i>Rasbora microcephalus</i></b> (Jerdon, 1849)	E:Narrow line Rasbora S: Kiri dandiya, Kudamassa	LC		LC	

Scientific Name	Common Name	NCS	Criteria	GCS	Criteria
<i>Rasbora naggasi</i> Silva, Maduwage & Pethiyagoda, 2010	Sri Lanka Naggasi Rasbora; S: Belihuloya dandiya	CR	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<i>Rasbora wilpita</i> Kottelat & Pethiyagoda, 1991	E:Sri Lanka Wilpita Rasbora; S: Wilpita dandiya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	EN	B1+2c
<i>Rasboroides atukorali</i> (Deraniyagala, 1943)	E: Horadandia athukorale; S: Horadandia	VU	B1ab(iii)		
<i>Rasboroides nigromarginata</i> Meinken, 1957	E: Sri Lanka blackline golden Rasbora; S: Kaluiri halmaldandiya	CR	B2ab(iii)		
<i>Rasboroides vaterifloris</i> (Deraniyagala, 1930)	E: Sri Lanka Golden Rasbora; S:Halmal dandiya, Halmal thiththaya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	LR/cd	
<i>Systemus pleurotaenia</i> (Bleeker, 1863) syn. <i>Puntius pleurotaenia</i>	E: Sri Lanka Black-Lined Barb; S:Heetha mathsaya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	LR/cd	
<i>Systemus asoka</i> (Kottelat & Pethiyagoda, 1989) syn. <i>Puntius asoka</i>	E:Sri Lanka Asoka Barb; S: Ran manissa, Asoka pethiya	CR	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	EN	A1c, B1+2c
<i>Systemus martenstyni</i> (Kottelat & Pethiyagoda, 1991) syn. <i>Puntius martenstyni</i>	E:Sri Lanka Martenstyn's Barb; S: Dumbara pethiya	CR	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	EN	B1+2c
<i>Systemus spilurus</i> (Günther, 1868) syn. <i>Puntius spilurus</i>	E: Sri Lanka Olive Barb; S: Sri Lanka mas pethiya	DD			
<i>Systemus timbiri</i> (Deraniyagala, 1963) syn. <i>Puntius timbiri</i>	E: Sri Lanka thibiri Barb; S: Sri Lanka pethiya	DD			
<i>Tor khudree</i> Sykes, 1841	E:Mahseer; S: Lehella, Horapolaya	NT		EN	A2acde
<b>Family: Balitoridae</b>					
<i>Acanthocobitis urophthalmus</i> (Gunther, 1868)	E:Sri Lanka Tiger Loach; S: Wairan ahirava, Pol ahirava	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	LR/cd	
<i>Schistura notostigma</i> (Bleeker, 1863)	E:Sri Lanka Banded Mountain Loach; S:Kandu ahirava, Pol ahirava, Gomara ahirava	NT			
<b>Family: Cobitidae</b>					
<i>Lepidocephalichthys jonklaasi</i> (Deraniyagala, 1956)	E:Sri Lanka Jonklaas's Loach; S:Ahirava, Wairan ahirava	CR	B2ab(iii)	EN	B1+2c, C1
<i>Lepidocephalichthys thermalis</i> (Valenciennes, 1846)	E:Common Spiny Loach; S:Ahirava, Wairan ahirava	LC		LC	
<b>Family - Bagridae</b>					
<i>Mystus gulio</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	E:Long-Whiskered Catfish; Anguluwa, Maana ankutta	LC		LC	



Scientific Name	Common Name	NCS	Criteria	GCS	Criteria
<i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch,1794)	E: Striped Dwarf Catfish; S: Iri ankutta, Hiri ankutta	LC		LC	
<b><i>Mystus ankutta</i></b> Pethiyagoda, Silva & Maduwage, 2008	E: Sri Lanka Dwarf Catfish; S: Sri Lanka ankutta	EN	B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)		
<i>Mystus seengtee</i> (Sykes, 1839)	E: Yellow Catfish; S: Path ankutta	LC			
<b>Family: Claridae</b>					
<b><i>Clarias brachysoma</i></b> Gunther 1864	E:Sri Lanka Walking Catfish; S:Magura, Vel magura, Kaha magura	NT			
<b>Family: Siluridae</b>					
<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Bloch,1794)	E: Butter Catfish; S: Walapoththa, Penavalaya, Kokassa	LC		NT	
<i>Wallago attu</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)	E:Shark Catfish; S:Walaya, Maha Walaya	EN	B2ab(iii)	NT	
<b>Family: Heteropneustidae</b>					
<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch,1797)	E:Stinging Catfish; S:Hunga, Kaha hunga, Le hunga	LC		LC	
<b>Family: Gobiidae</b>					
<i>Awaous melanocephalus</i> (Bleeker, 1849)	E: Scribbled Goby; S:Bali Weligowwa	LC			
<i>Glossogobius giuris</i> Hamilton, 1822	E:Bar-Eyed Goby; S:Maha weligowwa, Bali weligemba	LC			
<i>Oligolepis acutipennis</i> (Valenciennes, 1837)	E: Sharptail goby; S: Weligowwa	DD			
<i>Schismatogobius deraniyagalai</i> Kottelat & Pethiyagoda, 1989	E:Redneck Goby; S:Kata rathu weligowwa	EN	B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)		
<i>Sicyopterus griseus</i> Day,1878	E:Stone Goby; S:Maha gal weligowwa	CR	B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)	LC	
<i>Sicyopterus halei</i> (Day,1888)	E:Red-Tailed Goby; S:Gal weligowwa	CR	B2ab(iii)	DD	
<b><i>Sicyopus jonklaasi</i></b> (Klausewitz & Henrich,1986)	E:Sri Lanka Lipstick Goby; S:Thol rathu weligowwa	EN	B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)	DD	
<i>Stenogobius malabaricus</i> (Day,1865)	E:Malabar Goby; S:Weligowwa	DD			
<b><i>Stiphodon martenstyni</i></b> Watson,1998	E:Sri Lanka Martenstyn's Goby; S: Weligowwa	CR(PE)	B2ab(iii)		
<b>Family: Anguillidae</b>					
<i>Anguilla bicolor</i> Mc Clelland, 1844	E:Level Finned Eel; S:Mada aandha, kakkutu aandha, kalapu aandha	LC		LC	
<i>Anguilla nebulosa</i> Mc Clelland, 1844	E:Long Finned Eel; S: Vairan aandha, polmal aandha, kabaraaandha, kaha aandha, pulli aandha	LC		LC	

Scientific Name	Common Name	NCS	Criteria	GCS	Criteria
<b>Family: Mastacembelidae</b>					
<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i> (Lacepede, 1803)	E:Marbled Spiny Eel; S:Gan theliya, Oya theliya	LC		LC	
<i>Macrogathus pentophthalmos</i> Gronow	Sri Lanka spiny eel	CR(PE)	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<b>Family: Synbranchidae</b>					
<i>Monopterus desilvai</i> Bailey & Gans, 1998	E:Sri Lanka Lesser Swamp Eel; S:Dumburu potta aandha, potta aandha	CR	B2ab(iii)		
<i>Ophisternon bengalense</i> Mc Clelland, 1844	E:Asian Swamp Eel; S:Potta aandha	CR	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)	LC	
<b>Family: Channidae</b>					
<i>Channa ara</i> (Deraniyagala, 1945)	E:Sri Lanka Giant Snakehead; S:Aara, Kalumaha, Gangara	EN	B2ab(iii)		
<i>Channa gachua</i> (Bleeker, 1877)	E: Brown Snakehead; S:Paradal kanaya, kanaya	LC		LC	
<i>Channa orientalis</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)	E:Smooth-Breasted Snakehead; S:Kola kanaya, Gas kanaya	VU	B1ab(iii)		
<i>Channa punctata</i> (Bloch, 1794)	E:Spotted Snakehead; S:Mada kanaya, mada ara, madakariya	LC		LC	
<i>Channa striata</i> (Bloch, 1793)	E:Murrel; S:Loola, Halpath maha	LC		LC	
<b>Family: Aplocheilidae</b>					
<i>Aplocheilus dayi</i> (Steindachner, 1892)	E:Sri Lanka Day's Killifish; S:Uda handaya	EN	B2ab(iii)		
<i>Aplocheilus parvus</i> (Raj, 1919)	E:Dwarf Panchax; S:Kalapu handaya, Uda handaya	LC			
<i>Aplocheilus werneri</i> Meinken, 1966	E:Sri Lanka Werner's Killifish; S: Iri handaya	EN	B1ab(iii)+ 2ab(iii)		
<b>Family: Belonidae</b>					
<i>Xenentodon cancila</i> Hamilton, 1822	E:Freshwater Gar Fish; S:Yonna	NT		LC	
<b>Family: Cichlidae</b>					
<i>Etroplus suratensis</i> (Bloch, 1785)	E:Green Chromide; S:Koraliya, Mal koraliya	LC		LC	
<i>Etroplus maculatus</i> (Bloch, 1785)	E:Orange Chromide; S:Kaha koraliya, Ralliya, Ran koraliya	LC		LC	
<b>Family: Belontiidae</b>					
<i>Belontia signata</i> (Gunther 1861)	E:Sri Lanka Combtail; S: Thalkossa, Pulutta, Kola moda	NT		LR/cd	
<i>Malpulutta kretseri</i> Deraniyagala, 1937	E:Sri Lanka Ornate Paradise Fish; S: Malpulutta	CR	B2ab(iii)	LR/cd	

Scientific Name	Common Name	NCS	Criteria	GCS	Criteria
<i>Pseudosphromenus cupanus</i> (Cuvier, 1831)	E:Spike Tailed Paradise Fish; S: Pulutta, Thalkossa, Thal kaday	LC		LC	
<b>Family: Anabantidae</b>					
<i>Anabas testudineus</i> (Bloch,1795)	E:Climbing Perch; S:Kaavaiya, Pol kaavaiya	LC		DD	
<b>Family: Eleotridae</b>					
<i>Butis butis</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	E: Upside-down Sleeper; S: Uduppuva, Vaniya	LC		LC	
<i>Eleotris fusca</i> (Forster, 1801)	E:Brown Gudgeon, Dusky Sleeper; S: Puwakbadilla	LC		LC	
<b>Family: Adrianichthyidae</b>					
<i>Oryzias dancena</i> (Hamilton 1822)	E: Common Blue Eye; Indian ricefish; S: Handi hadaya	DD		LC	
<i>Oryzias carnaticus</i> (Jerdon, 1849)	E: Spotted Ricefish S: Handi hadaya	DD		LC	