



Shellfish

## The Seashell Trade.



### Rare Sea Shells In Sri Lanka Likely To Be Wiped Out Through Illegal Export Trade

Seashells though protected under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO), face the threat of being wiped out due to this ongoing illegal export trade.

Rare Sri Lankan seashells are openly advertised on websites irrespective of the illegality of selling them. According to reliable sources, the kingpins behind this illegal operation are Sri Lankans who are professionals in identifying seashells right down to their sub species.

But despite the ongoing racket of illegally exporting seashells from Sri Lanka, the Bio Diversity and Protection Unit (BPU) of the Sri Lanka Customs was able to apprehend a large consignment of seashells some years ago when an attempt was made to smuggle them out of the country.

Kalika Perera who is believed to be a seashell trader was caught, when he attempted to smuggle out a large consignment of seashells concealed in his luggage by the Sri Lanka Customs.

According to reliable sources, He failed to produce a permit which is required by the Department of Wildlife and Conservation (DWLC) when a large consignment of rare varieties of seashells is to be taken out of the country. Customs officials after having held an inquiry into the incident seized the seashells.

<http://dbsjeyaraj.com/dbsj/archives/10262>

### Call To Ban Trade In Iconic Nautilus Seashell

An internationally renowned palaeontologist, who has recently joined the University of Adelaide, is calling for a global ban on the trade of the highly sought-after Nautilus seashell – including from Western Australian reefs.

Peter Ward, new Professor in the University's Sprigg Geobiology Centre, has just returned from the Philippines where he discovered the Nautilus was close to extinction at sites known for Nautilus fishing.

Professor Ward is taking his findings from the Philippines and other expeditions to a meeting in Washington DC next week of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This meeting will determine US policy on Nautilus trade before the next round of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

<https://phys.org/news/2014-05-iconic-nautilus-seashell.html#jCp>

**The sale of exotic seashells and corals to tourists is highly damaging with the exploitation of already rare lifeforms is pushing some species towards extinction. Many of them have specific roles to play in the keeping of reefs healthy by directly predated on the species that eat coral. A far more thrilling way, if you're in the tropics that is, is to go beach-combing and look for discarded specimens from dead animals. That way there is positively no damage being caused by collecting them.**

### **Scallop Dredging.**



**One of the most destructive forms of fishing, dragging steel dredges along the sea floor, causing traumatic and long lasting devastation to the seabed. Hand-picked or properly ranched specimens is far less damaging but the cruelty aspect of course remains the same.**

### **Further reading.**

<http://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/scallop-dredging-in-cardigan-bay/>

<http://www.seafish.org/geardb/gear/scallop-dredge/>

**For details of other campaigns please visit <http://cates1980.wixsite.com/cateswebsite> and go through the various Projects pages.**