



**VIABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY OPTIONS FOR NAVAL
SHIPS: A STUDY ON ECONOMICAL AND
ECOFRIENDLY POWER ALTERNATIVES FOR
NAVAL SHIPS**

BY

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DECLARATION

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Abstract

Currently, global warming and climate change are the most widely discussed environmental issues, with emission of Carbon Dioxide by fossil fuel being the most critical cause for global warming. The shipping industry is responsible for transporting around 90% of total goods worldwide, and its expansion contributes considerably to the amount of Green House Gases emitted annually. Therefore, introducing renewable energy sources for ships can be considered as a way of minimizing the use of fossil fuels for powering ships. It is high time to search possible ways of introducing different renewable sources for powering ships. For this purpose, different methods and techniques are being tested in the world; however, most of which are still in experimental stages. Renewable energy source and method to be used for a particular ship, are to be selected considering the type of the vessel. Specially, for naval ships, power requirements and operational feasibilities must be carefully considered in determining the most viable power alternative.

This study discusses various renewable energy sources and identified solar energy as the most viable option for naval ships. The study was carried out focusing on feasible ships in Sri Lanka Navy. All required ship specific data such as available free space, generator capacity, actual fuel consumption, area of operation, activities/operations and solar irradiance onboard were gathered practically from the naval ships. A comprehensive physical market survey was conducted to obtain a more accurate capital cost of solar system accessories today.

The study was able to develop a comprehensive model to assess the potential of solar energy for the classes of ships considered and the model was extended to enabling the use of this model to any class of ship operating worldwide subjected to defining of certain ship specific data by the user. The model provides the annual power generation, annual fuel saving, financial saving, capital cost, reduction of annual CO₂ emission and the payback period as the results which allows the user to decide introducing of solar energy his ship. Furthermore, the model gives guidance to user about azimuth angle, optimal year-round tilt angle, optimal tilt angle by season and optimal tilt angle by month which supports user to obtain maximum outcome from the system.

Key Words: Renewable energy, Naval ships, Solar, Wind, Wave, Biomass, PV

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	I
ABSTRACT.....	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	III
TABLE OF CONTENTS	IV
LIST OF FIGURES	VII
LIST OF TABLES	VIII
1. INTRODUCTION.....	9
1.1. BACKGROUND.....	9
1.2. MOTIVATION.....	10
1.3. AIM & OBJECTIVES	10
1.4. METHODOLOGY	11
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	12
2.1. WHAT IS RENEWABLE ENERGY?.....	12
2.2. RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.....	12
2.3. TYPES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES	13
2.3.1. Solar Energy.....	13
2.3.2. Wind Energy	14
2.3.3. Hydroelectricity	15
2.3.4. Biomass energy.....	16
2.3.5. Wave Energy.....	17
2.3.6 Geothermal Energy	20
2.4. RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR SHIPS	20
2.4.1. Significance of using renewable energy for ships	20
2.5. BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES	21
2.5.1. Deck Operations.....	21
2.5.2. Marine Environment	21
2.5.3. Vulnerability	22
2.5.4. Ship Motions.....	22
2.5.5. Fire Hazards	23
2.5.6. Ship Resistance	23
2.5.7. Addition of weight	24
2.6. USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR SHIPS IN PRESENT WORLD	25
2.6.1. Wind for ships.....	25
2.6.2. Biofuels for ships	29
2.7. WAVE ENERGY FOR SHIPS	31
2.8. SOLAR FOR SHIPS	33

2.8.1. Experimental studies	33
2.8.2. Conceptual Designs	35
2.9. MOST VIABLE RE OPTION FOR A SHIP.....	36
2.10. SOLAR POTENTIALS IN OPERATING REGION	37
2.11. PEAK SUN HOURS	38
2.12. AZIMUTH ANGLE	40
2.13. TILT ANGLE	41
3. METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION	43
3.1. METHODOLOGY	43
3.1.1 Step 1 – Identify Available types of PV	43
3.1.2 Step 2 – Identify Available sizes of PV	44
3.1.3 Step 3 – Consider the Construction of Solar PV.....	44
3.1.4 Step 4– Determine Efficiencies of PV	45
3.1.5 Step 5- Calculate power output per square meter	45
3.1.6 Step 6 - Calculate Capital Expenditure for Solar PV.....	46
3.2 DATA COLLECTION	47
3.2.1 Types of naval vessels in SLN.....	47
3.2.2 Comparison of AOPVs/OPVs in SLN.....	47
3.2.3 Fuel Consumption by OPV/AOPVs	48
3.2.4 Free Spaces Available onboard SLN Ships	49
3.2.5 Existing Power Generation on board	51
3.2.6 Specifications of Solar PV panels:.....	52
4 DATA ANALYSIS	54
4.1 MODEL DATA INPUTS	54
4.2 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	55
4.3 SHIP DATA	57
4.4 SOLAR PV DATA.....	58
4.5 FINANCIAL INPUTS	59
4.6 LOSSES.....	59
5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	62
5.1 GEOGRAPHICAL RESULTS	62
5.2 SHIP DATA RESULTS	63
5.3 SOLAR PV PANELS RESULTS	64
5.4 FINANCIAL RESULTS	65
5.5 RESULTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	67
5.6 SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR SLN SHIPS.....	67

6	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	69
6.1	KEY FINDINGS	70
6.2	LIMITATIONS.....	71
6.3	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	72
6.4	FUTURE STUDIES	73
	REFERENCES.....	75

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Net renewable capacity additions by technology, 2017-2023, [10]	13
Figure 2: An absorber used to extract wave energy	19
Figure 3: The relationship between ship body and ground reference axis [54]	22
Figure 4: Total resistance vs relative magnitude of the resistance components [56] ..	24
Figure 5: 'Bukayu'- First rotor ship in world built by Flettner in 1924 [58]	26
Figure 6: Magnus Effect [58]	27
Figure 7: Use of 'Skysail' Technology in Ships [61]	28
Figure 8: The Suntory Mermaid II which uses wave energy for propulsion [70]	32
Figure 9: Concept Vessel Orcelle [72]	33
Figure 10: Conceptual design of International Oceanic Station [77]	35
Figure 11: Solar powered Helios yacht (Concept) [78]	36
Figure 12: Area of Operation of SLN Ships	38
Figure 13: Total solar irradiance over the day	39
Figure 15: Azimuth angle	40
Figure 16: Tilt angles of PV as per array type	41
Figure 17: CAPEX for solar photovoltaics worldwide from 2010 to 2020 [92]	47
Figure 18: Possible deck spaces onboard Saryu class AOPV	50
Figure 19: The world regions	56
Figure 20: Fuel consumption by Diesel generators [97]	64

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Sizes of Solar PV Panels.....	44
Table 2: Comparison of AOPVs/OPVs in SLN.....	48
Table 3: Fuel consumption by SLNS Sindurala in year 2020	49
Table 4: Available Free Spaces onboard	51
Table 5: Existing Power Generation onboard AOPV/OPV	52
Table 6: General Specifications for Solar PV Panels [92].....	53
Table 7: Average solar peak hours as per region [96]	63
Table 8: Summary of Results for AOPV/OPV in SLN	68