

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 124 of 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

B.Ramkumar Adityan
S/o Mr. R.Balakrishnan Adityan and Mrs.Selvarathi,
No.563,Thoothukudi Road,
Virapandiyan Pattinam, Thiruchendur-628 216,
Thoothukudi District.

...Applicant (s)

Versus

Secretary,
Ministry of Environment,Forest and Climate Changes
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110 003.
and others

...Respondent (s)

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Through
Dr.D.Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel
National Green Tribunal
South Zone.

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ) CHENNAI
MEMORANDUM OF APPLICATION**

(Under Section 18(1) read with sections 14 and 15
of National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)

Original Application No.124 of 2022

IN THE MATTER OF

B. Ramkumar Adityan
S/o Mr. R.Balakrishnan Adityan and Mrs.Selvarathi,
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..... Applicant(s)

Vs

Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003.

..... Respondents

and others

**REPORT IN BRIEF FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FOURTH
RESPONDENT**

Most Respectfully Showeth:

I, A Karthik, son of Arumugam, Hindu, aged about 48 years,
residing at Plot No.22, C.B.Road, Panaiyur, Chennai 600 119, do hereby
solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

I am the Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry,
Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Secretariat,

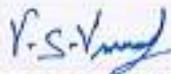
Y.S. Vind
**Joint Secretary to Government
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and
Fishermen Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.**

[Signature]
**Principal Secretary to Government
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and
Fishermen Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600009.**

Chennai-600 009, Tamil Nadu, the 4th respondent herein and as such I am fully conversant with the facts of the present case from the available records and competent to swear this affidavit. I have carefully perused the copy of the Original Application filed by the petitioner herein and I have understood the scope, purport, contents and meaning thereof and deny the same, unless and until specifically admitted herein this affidavit. At the very outset, the answering respondents deny each and every averment except those, which are specially admitted therein.

2. The answering respondents crave leave of this Hon'ble Court for avoiding parawise and Groundwise replies / remarks to the averments of the petitioner raised in the affidavit.
3. It is humbly submitted that this Original Application has been filed, seeking the following prayers:-

A. For a Declaration that the Seashore from Napier Bridge to Thiruvanmiyur Transport Office Backside in Chennai District Coast and Kottivakkam to Kovalam Beach in Chengalpattu District Coast in Bay of Bengal as Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) in the Ennore Mamallapuram Zone in Bay of Bengal in order to protect the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Nesting Grounds in the light of classification of



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Schedule I Part II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, (Central Act 53 of 1972) listing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1975 (CITES), Classification of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2011 and order of the 4th Respondent in G.O.Ms.No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS.3) Department, dated:27.09.2016.

B. For a Permanent Injunction restraining the 3rd, 8th, 9th and 10th Respondents to grant permission to bury and cremate mortal remains of the Deceased person irrespective of status of the Deceased person, including the Chief Ministers within existing Grave and memorial complex of the former Chief Ministers situated between Kamarajar Salai and Bay of Bengal in the Marina Beach, anywhere to the East of Kamarajar Salai in the Marina Beach and anywhere on the seashore (Beach) from Napier Bridge to Thiruvanmiyur Transport Office Backside in Chennai District Coast and Kottivakkam to Kovalam Beach in Chengalpattu District Coast in Bay of Bengal to protect the Nesting Grounds of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle.

V.S. Vimal

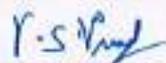
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C. For a Permanent Injunction restraining the 1st, 3rd, 8th, 9th and 10th Respondents to construct any constructions including Statues, Memorials inside the Bay of Bengal, between the Ennore-Mamallapuram Sea Zone of the Chennai, Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu District coast which not fall within definition of Public purposes as per provisions of the Right to Fair compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act 30 of 2013) to save the Marine Ecology and to protect the Nesting Grounds of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle.

D. For a Permanent Injunction restraining the 3rd, 9th and 10th Respondents to light the High Mass Lights between 10.00 PM and 6.00 AM daily during the turtle breeding season i.e., from the 1st November to 30th April every year on the Seashore (Beach) from Napier Bridge to Thiruvanmiyur Transport Office Backside in Chennai District Coast and Kottivakkam to Kovalam Beach in Chengalpattu District Coast in Bay of Bengal to stop the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle babies emerging from the nests laid on the Beaches getting disoriented towards the road instead of the Sea.

E. For a Mandatory Injunction directing the 3rd, 9th and 10th Respondents to remove all the violated constructions constructed



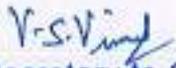
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after 06.01.2011 breaching provisions of the CRZ notification 2011 including Grave and Memorial complexes of the Former Chief Ministers, Concrete Floors, Paver Tiles Floors, Granite Floors and any other type floors which prevents rain water harvesting in the Marina Beach and any other permanent constructions on the Seashore from Napier Bridge to Thiruvanmiyur Transport Office Backside in Chennai District Coast and Kottivakkam to Kovalam Beach in Chengalpattu District Coast in Bay of Bengal based on the report of the Expert Committee to save Marine Ecology, to protect Nesting Grounds of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle, to maintain the Beach atmosphere in the Chennai District coast and Chengalpattu District coast, to minimize the travel demand towards Marina Beach, to minimize the carbon emission which polluting fresh sea air in the Marina Beach, its neighbouring areas in the Chennai District.

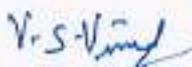
4. It is humbly submitted that the action taken by the Government through Department of Fisheries for the protection and conservation of sea turtles are submitted below for kind perusal of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern zone.
5. It is humbly submitted that five species of sea turtles namely the Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*),


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Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), inhabit the waters of India's coastline. Of these, only the first four turtles nest on Indian beaches, while the Loggerhead turtle swims through the Arabian Sea en-route to the Arabian beach to nest. All the mentioned Sea turtles are protected under the International Conventions such as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES, 1973) and the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS 1979) to which India is a signatory. Sea turtles are listed as 'critically endangered', 'endangered' or 'threatened' on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red list.

6. It is humbly submitted that in India, fishing and trading in turtle products are banned from 1977 as the sea turtles were protected under Schedule-I under the heading, Part-II AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, (Central Act 53 of 1972) as per the amendments made to the schedule in September 1977, thereby giving them the highest degree of protection. With this instrument, the Department of Environment and Forests assumes a high degree of enforcement authority in protecting the Sea turtles.


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7. It is submitted that in Tamil Nadu, as on 19.01.2023, 5,843 numbers of Mechanised fishing boats, 41,345 numbers of Motorised country crafts and 4,019 numbers of Non-motorised country crafts were registered under uniform online registration of fishing crafts. In the past; the turtles which are caught alive are released into sea by fishermen. In certain occasions, fishermen who possessed any part of turtle had been taken into custody by Forest and Coastal Security Group officials.
8. It is submitted that sea turtles have long life spans, but their mortality rates have been increased due to various environmental changes and anthropogenic activities along the coast, they became endangered. Major threats to sea turtles include non-fisheries related causes such as nesting habitat destruction and egg harvesting. Various studies across the globe have indicated a globally declining trend in Sea Turtle populations due to the following major hazards or threats to sea turtles.

Non-fisheries related hazards

- Egg predation by feral animals such as pigs or foxes
- Beach habitat destruction including beach construction and development

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- Foraging habitat destruction
- Direct take or natural hunting, or ship strikes
- Light Pollution affects nesting behavior of turtles and predation risk of nests and hatchling.

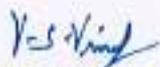
9. It is submitted that the Government have issued notification vide its G.O(Ms) No.186, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-4) Department, dated 30.09.2015 (copy enclosed), amending the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 1983 as follows:

"In the said rules, in rule 6, in sub-rule (ii), after clause (c), the following clause shall be added, namely:-

(d) No trawl net shall be used without fixing Turtle Excluder Device (TED) before the Cod end during the specified period as may be notified by the Authorised Officers"

10. It is humbly submitted that considering the nesting and breeding season of the sea turtles, the following actions have already been initiated by the Department of Fisheries:

- i. The list of potential nesting sites of Olive Ridley along the coast of Tamil Nadu obtained from the Forest Department and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Chennai (copy


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- enclosed) and communicated to the coastal Assistant Directors of Fisheries and Fishermen welfare.
- ii. The list of potential nesting sites of Olive Ridley along the coast of Tamil Nadu was sent to M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai with the request to disseminate the information through SMS/ Voice message to fishermen
 - iii. Initiated management measures through active participation of fishers and fishing communities in nesting sites viz., reducing fishing and allied fishing activities and human interference in the area.
 - iv. Conducted series of awareness campaigns in fishing villages by involving officials from Forest Department, Mechanised Fishing Boat (MFB) owners associations, Fishermen Co-Operative Society (FCS) presidents, Village presidents and Village Panchayats.
 - v. Issued necessary instruction to the fishers to avoid fishing by using gill nets during breeding and nesting season of sea turtles.
 - vi. Notified the area upto 5 nautical miles into the sea corresponding to the potential nesting sites as 'No fishing zone'

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under Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983) during the breeding seasons.

- vii. The coastal District Collectors have been requested to initiate action in association with the District Administration, awareness campaigns on protection and conservation of sea turtles in the schools of the coastal villages through the District Education Officers.
- viii. Necessary hoardings / flex boards/ posters/ pamphlets for creating awareness on Sea turtle protection and conservation has been erected in the main centres and turtle nesting sites where normally people gathering in large number.
- ix. Awareness campaign and District level stakeholders have been conducted along with Forest Department, Education Department and Non-Government Organization for the protection and conservation of sea turtles during nesting and breeding season of the sea turtles.
- x. Patrolling has been conducted by this Department along with Village Vigilance Committee to prevent the operation of trawlers near the turtle breeding site.

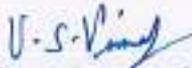
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J. H.

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11. It is humbly submitted that on direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P.No.1499 of 2015 dated 14.10.2015 (copy enclosed), the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for protection and conservation of sea turtles has been approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the approved SOP was submitted to Hon'ble High Court of Madras for perusal. It is humbly submitted that, the breeding and nesting period for Sea turtles normally occurs during the months of January to April of every year.
12. It is humbly submitted that the breeding season of sea turtles starts from January onwards, based on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) approved by Government has taken the following initiatives for protection and conservation of sea turtles before the commencement of breeding season:-
- i. As per clause 5 of sub-rule 1 of rule 17 of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulations Rules, installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED) is a mandatory instrument in the trawl nets.
 - ii. The Authorised Officers under Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983) were also instructed to strictly monitor and prevent fishing of sea turtles by mechanized fishing vessels and motorized country crafts in

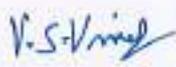

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the sea within five nautical miles from coast line during breeding season of sea turtles i.e. January to April every year. Also, the Joint Directors / Deputy Directors of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare who are also the Adjudicating officers under the said Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983 were requested to sensitize conservation of sea turtles among the fishermen by involving officials from Forest Department, Mechanised Fishing Boat owners associations, Fishermen Cooperative Society Presidents, Village Presidents and Village Panchayats.

- iii. Posters in Tamil have been designed and published by the Department of Fisheries at strategic points for creating awareness among the fishers for protection and conservation of sea turtles.

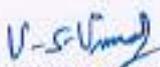
13. It is submitted that the Government have issued notifications (Notification No.II(1)/AHDF/11(b)/ 2016 published at pages 1-4 of Part-II Section-1 of the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, Extraordinary dated 27th September 2016) vide G.O.Ms.No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Department, dated 27.09.2016 prohibiting the fishing by Mechanised fishing vessels, motorized country crafts and those using mechanised fishing


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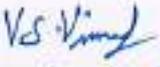
techniques in a radius of 5 nautical miles around the potential nesting and breeding sites of sea turtles identified by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Department of Forests in the coastal areas of Chennai, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu during the turtle breeding season i.e. for a period of four months from the 1st January to 30th April of every year (both days inclusive)

14. It is submitted that the amendment to the above notification, (Notification No.II(1)/AHDF/7(c)/2017 published at 1-2 of Part-II Section-1 of the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, Extraordinary dated 10th March 2017) vide G.O.Ms.No.62, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Department, dated 10.03.2017.
15. It is submitted that as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) the following measures is being taken by the Department of Fisheries.
 - i. Monitoring and enforcement of the use of Turtle Excluding Device was jointly carried out by Fisheries, Forest, Coastal Security Group and Indian Coast Guard in their respective


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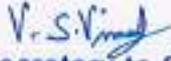
- jurisdiction. Regular patrolling is undertaken by the officials of Department of Fisheries.
- ii. Prominent hoardings in Tamil with clear, unambiguous images and text about the protected status of turtles and penalties for violation of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 were erected in prominent places in the fishing villages during sea turtle nesting/ breeding period. Penal action was initiated under the said Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983 for violations by the Authorised officers/ Adjudicating officers of Fisheries Department.
 - iii. Penal action on the offender was dealt under Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983) and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972) by the Authorised officers concerned, Department of Forests as the case may be.
 - iv. All the stakeholders including fishermen were sensitized with adequate training and awareness in hauling, handling and release of turtles to minimize incidental mortality of turtles.
 - v. An exclusive Marine Enforcement Wing in the Fisheries Department for the enforcement of the said Tamil Nadu Act 8 of


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1983 along the coastline of 14 district in the state have been established and functioning in the Coastal Districts. The officials of Marine Enforcement Wing and departmental officials are being regularly undertake patrolling in the sea.

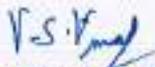
- vi. The Government of Tamil Nadu issued notification prohibiting the fishing by mechanized fishing vessels, motorized country crafts with engine capacity more than 10 horse power and usage of 'ray fish nets' by motorized country crafts and those using mechanized fishing techniques in a radius of 5 (five) nautical miles around the potential nesting and breeding sites of sea turtles identified by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Department of Forests in the coastal areas of Chennai, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari District of Tamil Nadu during the turtle breeding season i.e. for a period of four months from the 1st January to 30th April of every year (both days inclusive)
- vii. It is submitted that as per sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, no owner or master of a mechanized fishing vessel shall use or cause or


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allow to be used such fishing vessel for fishing operation in the sea within five nautical miles from the coast line in the State and the owner or master of a mechanized fishing vessel shall use or cause or allow to be used such mechanized fishing vessel only beyond five nautical miles from the coast line in the State and such operation beyond five nautical miles shall be subject to such conditions as may be specified in the Schedule to the Act.

16. It is submitted that the precautionary measures taken by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare in association with District Administration, Forest Department has created more awareness among the fishermen community. The Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu has taken extensive steps for the protection and conservation of sea turtles during the nesting and breeding season of the sea turtles which positively responded with a decrease in mortality rate. Every year the mortality of sea turtles is coming down when compared to previous years.
17. It is humbly submitted that in India, fishing and trading in turtle products are banned from 1977 as the sea turtles were protected under Schedule-I Part-II of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 as per the amendments made to the schedule in September

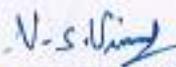

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1977, thereby giving them the highest degree of protection. With this instrument, the Department of Environment and Forests assumes a high degree of enforcement authority in protecting the Sea turtles. Any structure proposed to be created in Coastal Regulation Zone-I, II & III have to be approved by the National Coastal Zone Management Authority functioning under the control of Department of Environment and Forest and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Forest. The issues regarding conservation and protection of sea turtles are being monitored by Department of Environment and Forests.

18. It is submitted that the Department of Fisheries has no role in according approval to construct permanent structure both in seawaters as well as seashore areas which falls under Coastal Regulation Zone categories. The Department of Fisheries has no powers to enforce the act, which are beyond its jurisdiction. Hence, remarks of the Department of Fisheries with regards to the prayers of this application is not maintainable.

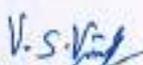
19. It is humbly submitted that, Municipal Administration and Water


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Supply (MC1) Department dated:31.01.2011 has issued orders directing the Commissioner, Chennai Corporation to switch off the lights erected on the mast all along the coast from Adyar Estuary to Neelankarai between 11.00 PM to 5.00 AM every day during the breeding season i.e. January to April of every year in order to save the Olive Ridley turtles.

20. The Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu has taken extensive measures for the protection and conservation of sea turtles during the nesting and breeding season of the sea turtles which has a positive effect by the decrease in mortality rate. Every year the mortality of sea turtles is coming down when compared to previous years.
21. Based on the above facts, it is humbly prayed that this National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) Chennai may be pleased to accept the above report of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare taken steps for the protection and


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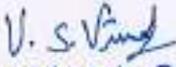
conservation of sea turtles and pass suitable orders in Original Application No. 124 of 2022 and thus render justice.



Principal Secretary to Government
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and
Fishermen Welfare Department,
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DEPONENT

Solemnly affirmed and signed his name in my presence at Chennai, this 28th day of February 2023



Joint Secretary to Government
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and
Fishermen Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

VERIFICATION

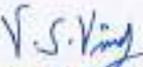
I, the Deponent above named do hereby verify that the facts stated in the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and the information derived from the records. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at on this 28th day of February 2023



Principal Secretary to Government
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and
Fishermen Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600009.

DEPONENT



Joint Secretary to Government
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and
Fishermen Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

Draft Revised**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)
FOR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES****Introduction**

Sea Turtles are some of the oldest known reptile groups on Earth, having lived for over 200 million years. There are five species of sea turtles reported in the waters of India's coastline, viz., (1) Back Logger Head Turtle, Olive (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), (2) green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), (3) Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), (4) Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and (5) Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*). Of these, only the first four turtles nest on Indian beaches, while the Loggerhead turtle swims through the Arabian Sea en-route to the Arabian beach to nest.

All the above mentioned Sea turtles are protected under the International Conventions such as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES, 1973) and the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS 1979) to which India is a signatory. Sea turtles are listed as 'critically endangered', 'endangered' or 'threatened' on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red list.

In India, fishing and trading in sea turtle products are banned from 1977 as the sea turtles were protected under Schedule-I Part-II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act No.53 of 1972) as per the amendments made to the schedule in September 1977, thereby giving them the highest degree of protection.

Mortality of Sea Turtles

Even though sea turtles have long life spans, their mortality rates have been increased due to various environmental changes and anthropogenic activities along the coast, they became endangered. Major threats to sea turtles include non-fisheries related causes such as nesting habitat destruction and egg harvesting. Various studies across the globe have indicated a globally declining trend in Sea Turtle populations due to the following major hazards or threats to sea turtles.

- Non-fisheries related hazards
 - Egg predation by feral animals such as pigs or foxes
 - Beach habitat destruction including beach construction and development

- Foraging habitat destruction
- Direct take or hunting, or boat strikes
- Coastal fisheries related hazards
 - Trawl net
 - Gillnet

Capture and mortality of most of the Sea turtles during trawling/gill netting is only due to incidental and not intentional. The Sea turtles which are on migration for breeding and nesting incidentally get caught in the fishing gears of the fishermen. Furthermore, many fishing activities do not individually have much impact, but collectively with all other impacts contribute to a significant overall challenge to the recovery of sea turtle stock.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Sea turtles, world over face several anthropogenic threats such as dumping of debris into coastal waters, habitat loss, pollution, unsustainable development in the coastal areas, fishing activities and climate change. Reliable estimation of sea turtle abundance that would be suitable for stock assessment and conservation management planning depends on sampling the entire demographic structure of a population resident in the foraging grounds. Yet such foraging ground abundance estimates are available only for a few species of Sea Turtles.

In the absence of such vital data, Management measures that may be appropriate for reduction or even elimination of fishery-related mortality will only be effective if coupled with protection of nesting population. A piecemeal approach, concentrating on a single component, such as nesting site protection or fisheries bycatch reduction, simply is not enough.

Sea turtle conservation and management programmes should recognize the important contributions of fisheries to employment, income and food security and should be effectively integrated into fisheries management programmes. The development, design and implementation of turtle conservation and management measures should take into account the socio-economic aspects of fishers and fishing communities. These are dependent on marine fishery resources for their life and livelihood and balance should be sought between conservation and management of turtles on the one hand, and sustainable livelihood and poverty alleviation, on the other.

With all the above being taken into consideration, an all inclusive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for protection and conservation of Sea Turtles is detailed below.

1. Management Measures for protection and conservation of Sea Turtle

The following aspects shall be taken into account during the design and implementation of any management measures for protection and conservation of Sea Turtle:

- Sea turtle conservation programmes should recognize the rights and responsibilities of fishers under international, national and local legal instruments, especially under the 1982 United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1995 United Nation Fish Stocks Agreement, and the 1995 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- Sea turtle conservation and management programmes should encourage active participation of fishers, fishing communities and other stakeholders in sea turtle conservation programmes, including nesting beach cleaning and protection, fisheries programmes, and should also build upon the traditional ecological knowledge of local communities.
- Efforts should be made to promote sustainable fishing gear and practices, compatible with turtle conservation and management objectives, and to minimize dislocation of fishing communities and disruption of their fishing activities.
- There should be training and awareness-building programmes for fishers to better tackle the problems of sea turtle mortality arising from fishing activities, especially through better training in effective use of fishing gear that reduces marine turtle mortality. Sea Turtle conservation awareness campaign will be conducted at all Schools at the coastal districts.

Management measures for protection and conservation of Sea Turtle principally involves:-

- a) Coastal Fisheries Management Measures to be implemented by the State Fisheries Department.

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- b) Nest Monitoring and Stock Protection Program to be implemented by the State Forest Department
- c) Beachfront Lighting regulation and Beachfront Obstruction removal programme to be implemented by the local administration
- d) Research and Development Programme to be suggested and implemented by Central Marine fisheries Research Institute, Chennai.**
- a) Coastal Fisheries Management Measures during Sea Turtle Nesting/ Breeding Period
- Turtle Excluding Device (TED) shall be fixed in all trawl nets to help escape of sea turtles from trawl nets during the specified period as may be prescribed by the authorized officers.
 - On the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, an expert Committee to be formed to suggest the suitable design of TED. Upon finalizing the suitable design, a road map and time line for installing the TEDs in trawl nets will be drawn.
 - Monitoring and enforcement of the use of Turtle Excluding Device will be jointly carried out by Fisheries, Forest, Coastal Security Group and Indian coast Guard in their respective jurisdiction. A detailed daily joint patrolling plan to be drawn by Coastal Security Group involving Fisheries, Forest and Indian Coast Guard. The Concerned regional officers shall depute officers for joint patrolling as per the plan.
 - Penal action will be taken under Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983) for violations by the Authorized officers / Adjudicating Officers of Fisheries Department.
 - Prohibiting the fishing by mechanized fishing vessels, motorized country crafts and those using mechanized fishing techniques in a radius of 5 nautical miles around the potential nesting and breeding sites of sea turtles (i.e. January to April of every year) identified by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Department of Forest in the coastal areas of Chennai, Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Villupuram,

Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu” except motorized country crafts having engine capacity 10 horse power and below subject to the condition that ray fish nets shall not be used for fishing during the turtle breeding and nesting season.

- **Prominent hoardings in Tamil with clear, unambiguous images and text about the protected status of turtles and penalties for violation of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act should be erected in prominent places in the fishing villages during Sea Turtle nesting/ breeding period.**
- **The designated agencies viz., Indian Coast Guard, Costal Security Group, Forest Department and Fisheries Department shall patrol in their respective jurisdiction. However if any need arises for a joint patrolling, Coastal Security Group shall be the nodal agency for coordinating and ensuring the joint patrolling. The patrolling shall be undertaken with a well planned schedule of patrolling. Each agency shall have a written documentation on patrolling.**
- **Penal action on the offender shall be dealt under Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983 / Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act No.53 of 1972) by the Authorized officers concerned, as the case may be.**
- **During 'periodic 'Village Vigilance Committee' meeting with local fishers, awareness shall be created on conservation of sea turtles and to use Turtle Excluding Device in their bottom trawls and the importance of releasing the live Turtles if any found on their net.**
- **All the stake holders including fishermen are to be provided with adequate training and awareness in hauling, handling and release of turtles to minimize incidental mortality of turtles.**

This task shall be undertaken by the Fisheries Department in coordination with Indian Coast Guard and Coastal Security Group.

b) Nest Monitoring and Stock Protection Measures during Sea Turtle Nesting/ Breeding Period

- The biological goal of Nest Monitoring and Stock protection Programme is to increase the productivity of our beaches for sea turtle nesting.
- The nesting beaches all along the coast shall be identified and communicated to all concerned of this standard operating procedure for effective implementation of the standard operating procedure.
- Identified nesting beaches shall be cleaned involving the local fishers and others in advance of the turtle breeding season.
- Identified nesting beaches shall be protected from jolly rides and other forms of destruction and necessary caution boards shall be displayed to this effect.
- Structures / constructions that are obstruction on the nesting beaches shall be informed to District Coastal Zone Management Authority and to the Chennai Corporation as the case may be for necessary action.
- This requires monitoring of state's shoreline to record detailed nesting data that can be analyzed and used in management decisions.

A detailed procedure to be followed in turtle nest monitoring and stock protection is as follows:-

- **Olive (Back Logger Head Turtle (Lepidochelys Olivacea) is listed under Schedule I part 2 (13) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Under Sub-section (36) of section 2 of the said Central Act "Wild animal" means any animal found Wild in nature and includes any animal specified in Schedules I to IV or Schedule V and found wild in nature. Any person committing an offence in any parts of Tamil Nadu against the Wild Animal shall be prosecuted under section 50 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- **In all the coastal district of the Tamil Nadu, during the nesting season established protection standard protocol shall**

be followed for patrolling by Special Protection team comprising of Range Officer, Forester, Forest Guard and between 15 to 25 Protection watcher / Anti poaching watcher in each coastal districts. In Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park Anti poaching watchers engaged for protection of Marine Life. Joint Patrolling by coastal security Group and Forest Department staff on daily basis during nesting season shall be done.

- The patrolling staff during nesting season shall be engaged in identification and protection of nesting site against any kind of threats, records mortality, create awareness among the local people, collection of eggs for the hatcheries, on the beaches where maximum disturbances are noticed etc. An average 1-2 hatchery shall be established in each coastal district.
- Non-governmental Organizations and their volunteers who are experts in the field of sea turtle conservation and management shall be engaged to assist Forest Department Protection staff in patrolling and protection of sea turtle.
- Tamil Nadu Forest Department will record mortality detected on the beaches with the assistance of Non-governmental Organizations and their volunteers every year during nesting season.

This task shall be undertaken by the Forest Department along with other such activities of Turtle stock enhancement.

c) Beachfront Lighting Regulation Measures During Sea Turtle Nesting/
Breeding Period

Beachfront lighting based on scientific documentation that such lighting disorients turtle hatchlings and consequently causes mortality. These disoriented hatchlings crawl toward artificial lighting instead of the ocean, and are subsequently eaten by predators, such as stray cats, or they die from dehydration. In addition, adult turtles will frequently avoid nesting on lighted beaches. Hence, during the sea turtle breeding season, regulation

of Beachfront lighting shall be regulated by the local administration as follows:-

- Lights illuminating buildings or associated grounds for decorative or recreational purposes shall be shielded or screened such that they are not visible from the beach, or turned off after 9:00pm during the Turtle Breeding period each year.
- Lights illuminating any areas seaward shall be turned off after 9:00pm during the Turtle Breeding period each year.
- Window treatments in windows facing the ocean of single and multistory structures are required so that interior lights do not illuminate the beach.

This task shall be undertaken by the local administration concerned and necessary notice to all concerned shall be issued by the authorities one month in advance of the commencement the Turtle breeding season.

d) Research and Development Measures During Sea Turtle Nesting/ Breeding Period

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in collaboration with other fisheries research institutes to take up studies to ascertain cause of death, measures to reduce mortality, enhance breeding and nesting, etc.

2. Implementation and Coordination of Management Measures

The respective Heads of the Departments concerned with this standard operating procedure shall coordinate and monitor sea turtle conservation measures to be implemented by the respective department in the state, with a clear mandate to reduce turtle mortalities. For effective implementation of conservation measures, the Commissioner of Fisheries and the Chief Conservator of Forest shall jointly convene coordination meeting of all concerned before the commencement of the turtle breeding and nesting season for formulating policy frame work, legal frame work and institutional frame work for the entire state.

The coordination meeting shall be conducted preferably in the month of August every year of the commencement of the Turtle breeding season.

The progress shall be reviewed by the District Collectors every month and the State level committees every two months till the end of the Turtle breeding season".

The District Collector of coastal districts shall implement the sea turtle conservation measures at field level. The District Collector shall convene the meeting of all the stakeholders (i.e) Superintendent of Police, District Forest Officer/ Wild Life Warden (Convener), Assistant Director of Fisheries, District Environmental Engineer, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Group, Representative, Indian Coast Guard, One member from NGO to be nominated by the Regional Joint Director of Fisheries / Deputy Director of Fisheries, One member from Mechanized Fishing boat sector to be nominated by the Regional Joint Director of Fisheries / Deputy Director of Fisheries, One member from Motorized and Traditional fishing craft sector to be nominated by the Regional Joint Director of Fisheries / Deputy Director of Fisheries from one month in advance of the commencement of the Turtle breeding season and continue the review every month till the end of the Turtle breeding season.

The Nodal Task force is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai. The Nodal task force coordination committee will consist of the representative from the following agencies:-

- (i) Department of Fisheries;
- (ii) Department of Environment;
- (iii) Department of Forest;
- (iv) Indian Coast Guard;
- (v) Coastal Security Group;
- (vi) Representative from mechanized fishing boat owners association;
- (vii) Representative from motorized country boat owners association;
(To be nominated by the Joint Director of Fisheries
(Regional) Chennai)
- (viii) Non-governmental Organization representative; and
- (ix) Representative from another NGO dealing in turtle conservation.

The Nodal task force will conduct review meetings on regular interval basis for a period of five years and monitor the progress of implementation of Standard Operating Procedure. The Nodal Task force

shall recommend to Government for changes or alterations if any to be made in the Standard Operating Procedure for effective implementation of conservation measures. An independent Auditor duly appointed by the Government shall conduct an independent audit on the steps taken and effectiveness of the Standard Operating Procedure on the conservation and protection of sea turtles

GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI
Principal Secretary to Government

//True Copy//

21/08/17
21/8/17
Section Officer

21/8/17



केंद्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान का मद्रास अनुसंधान केंद्र
MADRAS RESEARCH CENTRE OF CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद)
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)



७५, सांथोम हाई रोड, राजा अन्नामलैपुरम, चेन्नै - ६०० ०२८

75, Santhome High Road, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028

Ph: 044-24617264 (O), 24617310 (SIC), 24617317 (Scientists), 27472093 (KFL) / FAX: 044-24617290

No. 16-5/2015-2

Dated: 12.11.2015

032251

To,
Dr Beela Rajesh, IAS
Commissioner of Fisheries
Administrative Buildings, Teynampet
Chennai - 600 006

Sub: Marine Fisheries - Conservation and protection of Sea Turtles - W.P.No.1499 of 2015 - *Suo motu*
Public Interest Litigation filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras - List of Potential
nesting sites of Olive Ridley along the coast of Tamil Nadu - reg.
Ref: Rc.No: 40337/15/2014, dated 14.10.2015

Madam,

With reference to the above, please find herewith details on turtle nesting sites along Tamil Nadu coast. The list provided by the Department of Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu is exhaustive. However, there were errors in the lat-long coordinates. We have updated the list as far as possible with corrected coordinates and have also provided maps showing the distribution of the nesting sites. It is clear that the nesting sites (past, present and potential) are all more or less clustered evenly along the coast. In such a case demarcation of closed grounds may not be a viable approach and the decision of the Government to close fishing operations within 5 km distance along the coast should hold good as a better operation to safeguard migrating turtles during the peak nesting season.

Yours faithfully,

Laxmilatha
12/11/15

(P. Laxmilatha)
Scientist-in-charge

Copy to: Director, CMFRI, Kochi (for information)

Cuddalore district

S. No.	Name of the site	Position	
		Lat	Long
1	Pillimedu	11° 24 50	79° 48 45
2	Chinnaivaikal	11° 27 20	79° 47 56
3	Mudasalodai	11° 30 5	79° 46 38
4	Chinoori	11° 30 27	79° 46 31
5	Samiyarpettai	11° 33 8	79° 45 32
6	Aiyampettai	11° 35 12	79° 45 26
7	Thamanampettai	11° 37 2	79° 45 35
8	Thamanampettai	11° 38 18	79° 45 47
9	Sothikuppam	11° 41 58	79° 46 39
10	Gori	11° 42 28	79° 46 49
11	Devanampattinam Beach	11° 44 8	79° 47 10
12	Devanampattinam Beach	11° 44 21	79° 47 10
13	Devanapattinam village	11° 45 18	79° 47 24
14	Suba uppalavaadi	11° 47 46	79° 47 46
15	Samiyar pettai	11° 32 59	79° 45 34
16	Aiyampettai	11° 35 23	79° 45 26



List of turtle nesting sites along Tamil Nadu coast

Chennai district

S. No.	Name of the site	Position	
		Lat	Long
1	Anna square police station	13°4 8	80° 17 22
2	MGR memorial	13°3 37	80° 17 7
3	Thanthai Periyar Maligai (PWD)	13° 3 5	80°17 1
4	Queen Marry's college	13° 2 37	80° 16 54
5	Light House	13° 2 21	80° 16 51
6	Pattinapakkam	13° 1 39	80° 16 45
7	Adyar	13° 0 59	80° 16 40
8	Thiruvanmiyur	12° 59 58	80° 16 21
9	Kottivakkam	12° 58 54	80° 16 6
10	Palavakkam	12° 58 17	80° 15 58
11	Neelankarai	12° 57 50	80° 15 51
12	Vetuvankani	12° 56 59	80° 15 42
13	Chinnandikuppam	12° 56 10	80° 15 33
14	Prarthana theatre beach zone	12° 55 55	80° 15 31
15	Injambakkam	12° 55 8	80° 15 25

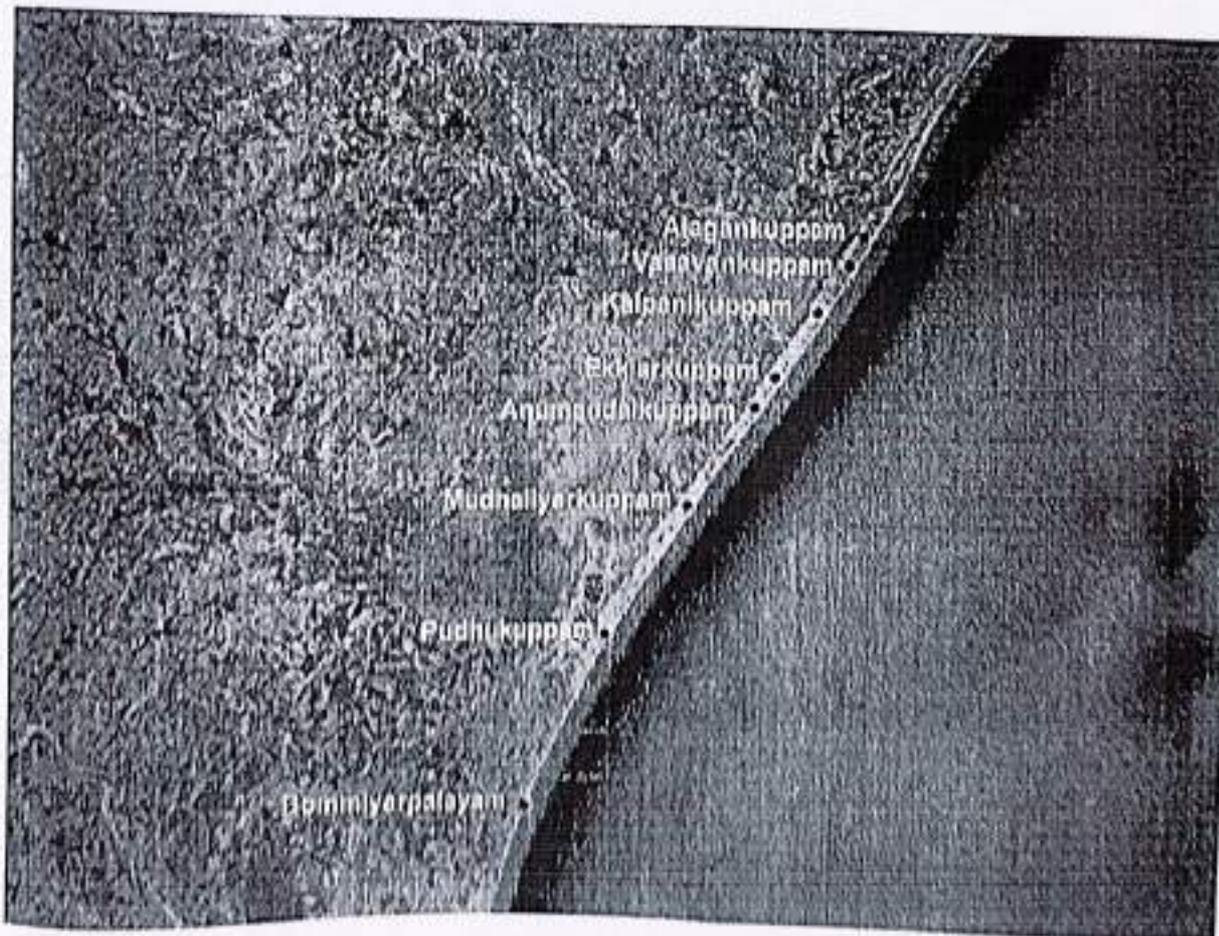


Nagapattinam district

S. No.	Name of the site	Position	
		Lat	Long
1	Kodiyam palayam	11°23'0	79°49 18
2	Madavamedu	11° 19 59	79° 50 11
3	Kottaimedu	11°19 32	79° 50 10
4	Chinna kottaimedu	11° 18 32	79° 50 12
5	Koolaiyar	11° 17 42	79° 50 15
6	Thoduvai	11° 16 28	79° 50 24
7	Thirumullaivasal	11° 14 46	79° 50 45
8	Keelamoovarkarai	11° 12 59	79° 51 2
9	Naickerkuppam	11°11 16	79° 51 15
10	Pudhukuppam	11° 10 29	79° 51 18
11	Vanagiri	11° 7 31	79° 51 27
12	Chinnamedu	11° 6 26	79° 51 26
13	Chinnankudai	11° 5 28	79° 51 26
14	Pudhupettai	11° 3 31	79° 51 21
15	Vellakoil	11° 3 10	79° 51 19
16	Kuttiyandiyur	11° 2 45	79°51 19
17	Chandrapadi	10° 59 59	79° 51 16
18	Chinnoorpettai	10° 59 7	79° 51 15
19	Nagoorputtinacheri	10° 49 19	79° 51 3
20	Samanthanpettai	10° 47 18	79° 51 2
21	Velankanni	10° 40 56	79° 51 12
22	Kameswaram	10°37 27	79° 51 16
23	Vilunthamavadi	10°35 2	79° 51 26
24	Vanavanmahadevi	10° 31 10	79° 51 36
25	Vellapallam	10° 31 10	79° 51 41
26	Pushpavanam	10° 27 6	79° 51 49
27	Arcathurai	10° 23 2	79° 52 16
28	Kodiakadu	10°17 56	79° 52 44
29	Kodiakarai	10° 16 32	79° 49 51

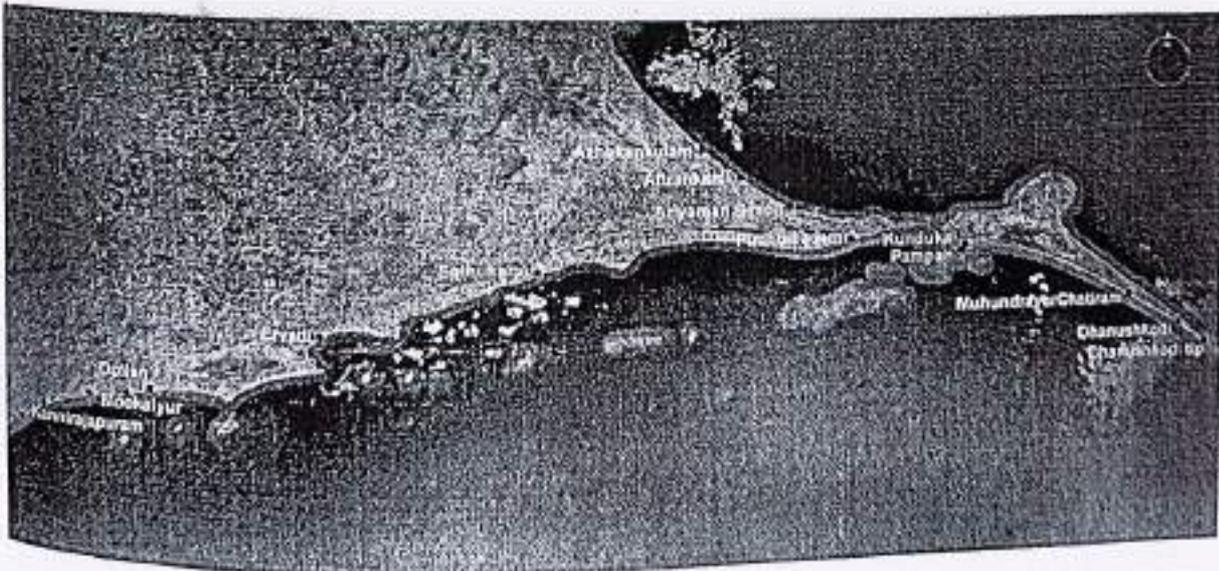
Villupuram district

S. No.	Name of the site	Position	
		Lat	Long
1	Ekkiyar kuppam	12° 10 19	80° 09 21
2	Kaipanikuppam	12° 12 33	79° 58 20
3	Alagan kuppam	12° 14 23	79° 59 42
4	Vasavankuppam	12° 13 39	79° 59 17
5	Pudhukuppam	12° 9 56	79° 56 53
6	Anumadalkuppam	12° 7 20	79° 55 13
7	Mudhallyarkuppam	12° 3 58	79° 53 7
8	Bommiyarpalayam	11° 59 34	79° 51 7



Ramanathapuram district

S. No.	Name of the site	Position	
		Lat	Long
1	Kanni rajapuram	9° 5 46	78° 23 21
2	Kanni rajapuram	9° 6 40	78° 24 40
3	Mookaiyur	9° 7 31	78° 27 20
4	Mookaiyur	9° 7 44	78° 29 23
5	Oppilan	9° 8 4	78° 30 36
6	Ervadi	9° 11 16	78° 39 9
7	Sethukarai	9° 14 42	78° 50 3
8	Ariyaman Beach	9° 18 5	78° 3 40
9	Atrankarai	9° 19 5	79° 0 59
10	Atrankarai	9° 20 37	79° 0 8
11	Azhakankulam	9° 21 39	78° 58 53
12	Pampan	9° 15 12	79° 13 6
13	Kundukal	9° 15 32	79° 13 22
14	Muhundrayar Chatriam	9° 12 11	79° 22 30
15	Dhanushkodi	9° 10 29	79° 25 12
16	Dhanushkodi tip	9° 9 18	79° 26 36
17	Pudhumadam	9° 16 6	79° 7 2



Kodiyampalayam
 Madavamodu
 Kottalmedu & Chinna Kottalmedu
 Koolaiyar
 Thoduval
 Thirumullaivasal
 Keelamoovalkaral
 Naickerkuppam & Pudhukuppam
 Vanagiri
 Chinnamedu & Chinnankudi
 Pudhupetta, Vellakoli & Kuttlyandiyur
 Chandrapadi & Chinnoorpetai
 Nagoorpattacheri
 Samanthanpetai
 Velankanni
 Kameswaram
 Vilunthamavadi
 Vanavanmahadevi & Vallapallam
 Pushpavanam
 Arcattuthurai
 Kodiakadu
 Kodiakaral

10	Erayammanthurai		They also attribute the decrease in turtle nesting to the blocking of entire shore with wave breakers and also to the construction of fishing harbours along the coast.
11	Kallancolony		
12	Midalam		
13	Keelemidalam		
14	Kurumbana		
15	Vaniya		
16	Kodimanai		
17	Colachal	Potential	
18	Mandakkad		
19	Periyavila		
20	Puthoor		
21	Manavalakurichi		
22	kadiyapatnam		
23	Muttom		
24	Vellamodi	Potential	
25	Rajakkamangalam		
26	Periyakad		
27	Pozhikkara		
28	Kesavanputhenthurai		
29	Puthenthurai		
30	Pallamthurai		
31	Sankhuthurai	Potential	
32	Chothuvila		
33	Melemanakkudy		
34	Keelemanakkudy		
35	Pallam		
36	Kovalam		

Thoothukudi district

Nesting ground of sea turtles exist from Kulesekarapatinam to Periyathalai with dense congregations between Manapadu and Periyathalai. In the north of Tuticorin i.e., between Periyasampuram to Keelavipar nesting grounds used to exist earlier.

SL. No.	Name of the site	Position		Status
		Lat	Long	
1	Periyasampuram	N 09 02 311"	E 078 19 020"	Nesting used to be observed 10-15 years back.
2	Kombuthurai	N 08 35 375"	E 077 08 307"	Nesting used to be observed 15-20 years back.
3	Amalinagar	N 08 29 160"	E 078 07 287"	Before 15 to 20 year nesting used to be observed. Now it is occasional.
4	Alanthalai	N 08 28 006"	E 078 06 167"	Nesting used to exist; not observed in the recent past
5	Kulasearapattinam	N 08 23 662"	E 078 03 480"	Nesting used to exist; not observed in the recent past. In 2015 single incidence of nesting was observed
6	Manapadu	N 08 21 514"	E 078 01 410"	Nesting of ST exists
7	Periyathalai	N 08 20 046"	E 077 58 260"	Nesting of ST used to take place but is now not observed to that extent exists due to human interference. No nesting of ST has been observed in the south of Periyathalai

Kanyakumari district

The area between Colachal beach and Manavalakurichy (1 km) under IRE. The entire Puthoor stretch, from Vellamodi upto MelePozhikkara (2km) and from Sankhuthurai to Melemanakkudy (3 km) - in all these areas human interference is less, the beaches are very wide and long and wave breakers are not put up, thus increasing the potential for turtle.

Sl.no	Village	No.of incidence	Past details
1	Neerodi		In all these centres fishermen opined that nesting was common in the past years, ie almost 10-15 years ago. They were of the opinion that due to sea erosion the beach was lost in most of the places and most of the beaches are now inhabited and thickly populated. Earlier it was not like that. Usually turtles nests in areas where human activities are less.
2	Marthandanthurai		
3	Vallavila		
4	Edappad	1(One in 2014)	
5	Eraviputhenthurai	1 (one in 2013)	
6	Puthanthurai		
7	Chinnathurai		
8	Thoothoor		
9	Poothura		

10	Erayammanthurai		They also attribute the decrease in turtle nesting to the blocking of entire shore with wave breakers and also to the construction of fishing harbours along the coast.
11	Kallanacolony		
12	Midalam		
13	Keelemidalam		
14	Kurumbana		
15	Vaniya		
16	Kodimanai	Potential	
17	Colachal		
18	Mandakkad		
19	Periyavila		
20	Puthoor		
21	Manavalakurichi		
22	kadiyapatnam		
23	Muttom		
24	Vellamodi	Potential	
25	Rajakkamangalam		
26	Periyakad		
27	Pozhikkara		
28	Kesavanputhenthurai		
29	Puthenthurai		
30	Pallamthurai		
31	Sankhuthutai	Potential	
32	Chothuvila		
33	Melemanakkudy		
34	Keelemanakkudy		
35	Pallam		
36	Kovalam		

Dr. V.K. Melkani, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Chief Wildlife
Warden



O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai-600 015.
Phone: 044 - 24321738
E-mail: cwlv_wildlife3@yahoo.in

D.O. Letter No. WL5/3805/2015 dated: 12-10-2015

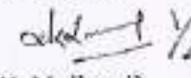
Madam,

Sub: Fisheries - Conservation and protection of Sea Turtles - WP No. 1499 of 2015 (Sum Motto) PIL - Compliance report to be filed - Meeting convened by the Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department on 12-10-2015 - Regarding.

- Ref: 1) Your office Ref. No. 40337/J5/2014 dated 23-7-2015
2) Secretary to Government, AHD&F Department D.O. letter No. 11087/FS-3/2015 dated 23-09-2015 and 06-10-2015
3) Government letter No. 2379/fr.5/2015-6 dated 09-10-2015.

Kindly recall your attention to the references cited. In light of the decision taken up after detailed deliberation held on 12-10-2015 under the chairmanship of Secretary to Government Environment and Forests Department. I enclose herewith the details of existing / potential sites of Olive Ridley of remaining coastal districts for kind perusal and proceeding further action at your end. It is informed that the details of Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur District has already been sent to you by Wildlife Warden, Chennai. The follow action taken up in this regard may also be communicated to this office for proceeding simultaneously action in this regard.

Faithfully,


(V.K. Melkani)

To
Dr. Tmt. Beela Rajesh, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Fisheries,
DMS Campus, Chennai - 600 006.

Copy to the Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department,
Chennai - 9.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry Dairy and Fisheries
Department, Chennai - 9.

Copy to the Wildlife Warden, Chennai - 22.

I) Cuddalore District:-

Name of the nesting site	GPS Coordinates
Pillu Medu - Chinna vaikkal	11° 24' 50"N, 79° 48' 43"E to 11° 27' 11"N, 79° 48' 9"E
ChinnaVaikkal - Mudasalodai	11° 27' 20.4"N, 79° 47' 56.2"E to 11° 30' 03"N, 74° 46' 36"E
Chinnoor - Saamiyar pettai	11° 30' 26"N, 79° 46' 39"E to 11° 33' 08"N, 79° 45' 32"E
Saamiyar pettai - Aiyampettai	11° 32' 59"N, 79° 45' 25"E to 11° 35' 12.8"N, 79° 45' 25"E
Aiyampettai - Thamanampettai	11° 35' 23.3"N, 79° 45' 27"E to 11° 37' 28"N, 79° 45' 36"E
Thamanampettai - Sothikkuppam	11° 38' 18.9"N, 79° 45' 47.5"E to 11° 41' 89.9"N, 79° 46' 27.1"E
Gori - Devanampattinam Beach	11° 42' 28"N, 79° 46' 49.7"E to 11° 44' 08"N, 79° 47' 10.6"E
Devanampattinam Beach	11° 44' 21.7"N, 79° 47' 10.6"E
Devanampattinam village - Suba uppalavaadi	11° 45' 18.9"N, 79° 47' 24.9"E to 11° 47' 16.1"N, 79° 47' 46"E

II) Villupuram District

Name of the nesting site	GPS Coordinates
Alagankuppam	N12°23970' - E079°99859'
Vasavankuppam	N12°22742' - E080°99095'
Kaipanikuppam	N12°20991' - E079°97932'
Ekkuyarkuppam	N12°17923' - E079°95939'
Anumandaikuppam	N12°07.270' - E079°55.296'
Mudhaliyarkuppam	N12°03.855' - E079°53.039'
Pudhukuppam	N12°16587' - E079°95044'
Bommiyarpalayam	N11°99286 - E079°85218'

III) Potential Nesting site Sea turtle in Nagapattinam District.

Sl. No	Name of the nesting site	GPS Location			
		N	11'	23	E 079' 49 .025
1	Kodiyampalayam	N	11'	19 .968	E 079' 49 .918
2	Madavamedu	N	11'	19 .326	E 079' 50 .137
3	Kottaimedu	N	11'	18 .324	E 079' 50 .159
4	Chinna Kottaimedu	N	11'	17 .426	E 079' 49 .786
5	Koolaiyar	N	11'	16 .288	E 079' 50 .035
6	Thoduvai	N	11'	14 .855	E 079' 50 .510
7	Thirumullaivasal	N	11'	12 .803	E 079' 50 .746
8	Keelamoovarkarai	N	11'	12 .508	E 079' 50 .971
9	Chavadikuppam	N	11'	11 .114	E 079' 50 .954
10	Naickerkuppam	N	11'	11 .126	E 079' 51 .032
11	Madhthukuppam	N	11'	10 .277	E 079' 50 .867
12	Pudhukuppam	N	11'	07 .266	E 079' 51 .441
13	Vanagiri	N	11'	06 .271	E 079' 51 .432
14	Chinnamedu	N	11'	06 .271	E 079' 51 .432

Sl. No	Name of the nesting site	GPS Location							
		N	11'	05	.594	E	079'	51	.391
15	Chinnankudi	N	11'	06	.280	E	079'	51	.330
16	Thazhampemttai	N	11'	03	.528	E	079'	51	.230
17	Pudhupettai	N	11'	03	.529	E	079'	51	.229
18	Perumalpettai	N	11'	03	.166	E	079'	51	.158
19	Vellakoil	N	11'	02	.751	E	079'	51	.265
20	Kuttiyandiyur	N	11'	59	.991	E	079'	51	.251
21	Chandrapadi	N	11'	59	.132	E	079'	51	.167
22	Chinnoorpettai	N	11'	49	.320	E	079'	50	.851
23	Nagoorpattinacheri	N	11'	47	.307	E	079'	50	.707
24	Samanthanpettai	N	11'	40	.933	E	079'	51	.177
25	Velankanni	N	11'	37	.456	E	079'	51	.244
26	Kameswaram	N	11'	35	.042	E	079'	51	.295
27	Vilunthamavadi (Vettaikaraniruppu)	N	11'	31	.812	E	079'	51	.621
28	Vanavanmahadevi	N	11'	31	.178	E	079'	51	.409
29	Vellapallam	N	11'	27	.110	E	079'	51	.712
30	Pushpavanam	N	11'	22	.038	E	079'	51	.062
31	Arcattuthurai	N	11'	17	.925	E	079'	49	.733
32	Kodiakadu	N	11'	16	.582	E	079'	49	.595
33	Kodiakarai	N	11'	16	.582	E	079'	49	.595

IV) RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

a) Existing sites:

S. No	Zone	Village	Lat	Long	
1	Vembar- Mandapam (Gulf of Mannar)	Kannirajapuram	9.09628	78.39041	
			9.11113	78.41241	
2		Mookaiyur	9.12554	78.48121	
			9.12907	78.49495	
3		Oppilan	9.12908	78.49495	
			9.13440	78.52234	
4		Ervadi	9.18802	78.71625	
			9.19401	78.71921	
5		Sethukarai	9.24057	78.82757	
			9.24515	78.83817	
6	Mandapam- SP.Pattinam (Palk Bay)	Ariyaman Beach	9.2908	79.0766	
			9.3014	79.0556	
7		Atrangarai	9.3315	79.0150	
			9.3436	79.0006	
8		Rameshwara m Island	Kundukal	9.25346	79.21967
				9.25851	79.22089
9.25781	79.23571				
9.20331	79.36751				
9	Danushkodi		9.17480	79.42146	
			9.15427	79.4407	

b) Potential sites:

S. No	Zone	Village	Lat	Long
1	Vembar-Mandapam (Gulf of Mannar)	Kannirajapuram	9.09628	78.39041
2			9.11113	78.41241
3		Mookaiyur	9.12554	78.48121
			9.12907	78.49495
4		Oppilan	9.12908	78.49495
			9.13440	78.52234
5		S.Mariyur	9.13440	78.52234
			9.13444	78.56310
6		Ervadi	9.18802	78.71625
			9.19401	78.71921
7		Sethukarai	9.24057	78.82757
			9.24515	78.83817
8		Pudumadam	9.26830	79.01247
	9.26525		79.03160	
9	Mandapam-SP.Pattinam (Palk Bay)	Ariyaman Beach	9.2908	79.0766
		Atrangarai	9.3014	79.0556
10	Mandapam-SP.Pattinam (Palk Bay)	Azhangankulam	9.3315	79.0150
			9.3436	79.0006
11	Mandapam-SP.Pattinam (Palk Bay)	Puduvalasai	9.3463	78.9976
			9.3608	78.9798
12	Rameshwar am island	Pamban	9.39195	78.95027
			9.39680	78.94600
13	Rameshwar am island	Pamban	9.39753	78.94498
			9.40062	78.94347
13	Rameshwar am island	Danushkodi	9.25346	79.21967
			9.25851	79.22089
13	Rameshwar am island	Danushkodi	9.25781	79.23571
			9.20331	79.36751
13	Rameshwar am island	Danushkodi	9.17480	79.42146
			9.15427	79.4407

IV) THOOTHUKUDI Division

SL. No	Name of the nesting site	GPS coordinates	
		Lat	Long
1	Periyasampuram	N 09° 02' 966"	E 078° 19' 434"
2.	Kombuthurai	N 08° 38' 224"	E 078° 07' 209"
3.	Amalinagar	N 08° 29' 342"	E 078° 07' 457"
4.	Alanthalai	N 08° 27' 919"	E 078° 06' 083"
5.	Kulasekarapattinam	N 08° 26' 672"	E 078° 05' 020"
6.	Manapadu	N 08° 22' 524"	E 078° 03' 440"
7.	Periyathalai	N 08° 20' 199"	E 077° 58' 619"

V) Kanniyakumari District

SL. No	Name of the nesting site	GPS coordinates	
		Lat	Long
1.	Kellamanakudi	N 08° 05 405"	E 077° 29 413"
2.	Pallam	N 08° 05 904"	E 077° 26 963"
3.	Puthanthurai	N 08° 06 223"	E 077° 24 881"
4.	Kesavan puthanthurai	N 08° 06 320"	E 077° 24 160"
5.	Pozhikarai	N 08° 06 715"	E 077° 23 296"
6.	Periakadu	N 08° 05 715"	E 077° 23 296"
7.	Rajakkamangalam	N 08° 06 666"	E 077° 23 267"
8.	Azhikkal	N 08° 07 484"	E 077° 20 404"
9.	Kottipadu	N 08° 10 135"	E 077° 15 774"
10.	Kodimunai	N 08° 10 746"	E 077° 14 265"
11.	Keezhmidalam	N 08° 12 070"	E 077° 13 009"
12.	Melmidalam	N 08° 12 071"	E 077° 13 009"
13.	Enaiyam	N 08° 12 856"	E 077° 11 710"
14.	Enaiyamchinnathurai	N 08° 13 032"	E 077° 11 289"
15.	Eraviputhanthurai	N 08° 15 929"	E 077° 08 219"
16.	Vallavilai	N 08° 16 745"	E 077° 06 962"
17.	Maruthanthurai	N 08° 17 101"	E 077° 06 481"
18.	Neerodi	N 08° 17 354"	E 077° 06 152"

[Signature]
for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Chief Wildlife Warden

[Signature]
M. S. S.

POTENTIAL NESTING SITES OF OLIVE RIDLEY ALONG THE COASTAL TRACK OF CHENNAI AND KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICTS

Marina Beach

- 1) Anna Square Police Station = N = 13° 04, 012'
E = 080° 17, 230'
Elevation = 4 Mtrs
- 2) MGR Memorials = N = 13° 03, 893'
E = 080° 17, 024'
Elevation = 5 Mtrs
- 3) Ezhilagam = N = 13° 03, 789'
E = 080° 17, 031'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs
- 4) Swimming Pool = N = 13° 03, 519'
E = 080° 16, 995'
Elevation = 7 Mtrs
- 5) Kannagi Silai = N = 13° 03, 273'
E = 080° 16, 922'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs
- 6) Thanthai Periyar Maligai (PWD) = N = 13° 03, 106'
E = 080° 16, 896'
Elevation = 7 Mtrs
- 7) Vivekanandar Illam = N = 13° 02, 968'
E = 080° 16, 874'
Elevation = 8 Mtrs
- 8) Queen Marys Collage = N = 13° 02, 968'
E = 080° 16, 874'
Elevation = 8 Mtrs
- 9) Light Houses = N = 13° 02, 412'
E = 080° 16, 789'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs
- 10) Pattinampakkam Centre Point = N = 13° 01, 867'
E = 080° 16, 770'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs

Kancheepuram District (Besant Nagar to VGP)

- 1) Broken Bridge = N = 13° 00, 694'
E = 080° 16, 544'
Elevation = 7 Mtrs
- 2) Thalapakattu Briyani = N = 13° 00, 153'
E = 080° 16, 389'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs
- 3) KFC Chicken = N = 13° 00, 008'
E = 080° 16, 263'
Elevation = 5 Mtrs
- 4) Scatting Ground = N = 12° 59, 867'
E = 080° 16, 247'
Elevation = 2 Mtrs
- 5) Astalakhsmi Temple = N = 12° 59, 494'
E = 080° 16, 242'
Elevation = 8 Mtrs
- 6) Here Krishna Temple Thiruvanmiyur = N = 12° 58, 781'
E = 080° 16, 076'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs
- 7) RTO Office Back Side = N = 12° 58, 603'
E = 080° 16, 039'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs
- 8) Kottivakkam = N = 12° 58, 088'
E = 080° 15, 910'
Elevation = 10 Mtrs
- 9) Pallavakkam Volley Ball Ground = N = 12° 57, 683'
E = 080° 15, 826'
Elevation = 8 Mtrs
- 10) Aquatic Quarantine Company Nellankarai = N = 12° 56, 947'
E = 080° 15, 674'
Elevation = 11 Mtrs

- 11) Vettuvankani Bay Watch Form Road = N = 12° 56, 222'
E = 080° 15, 546'
Elevation = 7 Mtrs
- 12) Chinnadikuppam = N = 12° 55, 950'
E = 080° 15, 511'
Elevation = 11 Mtrs
- 13) Spring Gate Road = N = 12° 55, 823'
E = 080° 15, 494'
Elevation = 6 Mtrs
- 14) Prathana Theatre Back Side = N = 12° 55, 633'
E = 080° 15, 477'
Elevation = 5 Mtrs
- 15) Injambakkam Bus Stand Back Side = N = 12° 55, 238'
E = 080° 15, 091'
Elevation = 8 Mtrs

Hatchery Details

- 1) 1st Hatchery Besant Nagar = N = 13° 00, 463'
E = 080° 16, 510'
Elevation = 7 Mtrs
- 2) 2nd Hatchery Besant Nagar = N = 13° 00, 601'
E = 080° 16, 510'
Elevation = 11 Mtrs
- 3) 3rd Hatchery VGP = N = 12° 54, 601'
E = 080° 15, 386'
Elevation = 9 Mtrs


Forest Range Officer 10/10/2015
Head Quarters Range (Wildlife)
Chennai - 600 032



(1)

J5

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006651

ABSTRACT

Fisheries – Suo-Motu Public Interest Litigation - to take action against erring fishermen and ensure safety living of the sea animal including turtles – Notification issued - Amendment – Orders - Issued.

Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Département

G.O.(Ms)No.62

Dated.10.3.2017

Thiruvalluvar Aandu-2048
Maasi-26

Read:

1. G.O(Ms)No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Department, dated.27.9.2016
2. From the Commissioner of Fisheries, letter Rc.No.40337/J5/2014, dated 1.12.2016 and 17.2.2016.

ORDER:

The following Notification shall be published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette:-

NOTIFICATION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983), the Governor of Tamil Nadu hereby makes the following amendments to the Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department Notification No.II(1)/AHDF/ 11(b)/2016, published at pages 1-4 of Part-II Section 1 of the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, Extraordinary dated the 27th September 2016.

(P.T.O)

AMENDMENT

In the said Notification,-

(1) in the preamble,-

(i) For the expression "motorized country crafts", the following expression shall be substituted, namely:-

"motorized country crafts with engine capacity of more than 10hp and usage of 'ray fish nets' by motorized country crafts".

(ii) after the expression "coastal areas of Chennai, the expression "Tiruvallur," shall be inserted.,

(2) In the table, under the heading "Potential nesting sites of Sea Turtle along the coast of Tamil Nadu",-

(i) After Sl.No.1, in column (1) and the corresponding entries in columns (2) and (3), the following shall be inserted, namely:-

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| *1A Tiruvallur | (1) The stretch between North of L&T Kattupalli port starting from Kalanji village in the south to Vairavan Kuppam village in north along the coastline. |
| | (2) Lighthouse Kuppam near Pulicat within Pulicat Birds Sanctuary". |

(iii) for the entry "Kottivakkam to Kovalam Beach", in column (3) against the entries '2' in column (1) and "Kanchipuram' in column (2) thereof, the entry 'Kottivakkam to Alambarakuppam' shall be substituted.

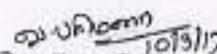
(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI
Principal Secretary to Government

To
The Works Manager, Government Central Press, Chennai-79.
(for publication and Notification and to send 50 copies to Government).
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Chennai-6.
The Director General, Coast Guard, New Delhi.

Copy to:
The Public Department, Chennai-9.
The Home Department, Chennai-9.
The Law Department, Chennai - 9.
The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister(Fisheries)Chennai - 9.
The Private Secretary to Secretary to Government,
Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Chennai-9
Stock file / Spare Copies.

//Forwarded By Order//


Section Officer



**TAMIL NADU
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE**

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 60]

CHENNAI, FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017
Maasi 26, Thunmugi, Thiruvalluvar Aandu-2048

Part II—Section 1

**Notifications or Orders of specific character or of particular interest to the public
issued by Secretariat Departments.**

—————
NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT
—————

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

PROHIBITION OF FISHING BY ANY KIND OF FISHING VESSELS IN A RADIUS OF
5 NAUTICAL MILES AROUND THE POTENTIAL NESTING AND BREADING SITES OF SEA
TURTLES IN THE COASTAL AREAS UNDER THE TAMIL NADU MARINE FISHING
REGULATION ACT, 1983.

Amendment to Notification

[G.O. Ms. No. 62, *Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3)*, 10th March 2017
Maasi 26, Thunmugi, Thiruvalluvar Aandu-2048.]

No.II(1)/AHDF/7(c)/2017.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 5 of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983), the Governor of Tamil Nadu hereby makes the following amendments to the Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department Notification No.II(1)/AHDF/ 11(b)/2016, published at pages 1-4 of Part-II Section 1 of the *Tamil Nadu Government Gazette*, Extraordinary dated the 27th September 2016.

AMENDMENT

In the said Notification,-

(1) in the preamble,-

(i) For the expression "motorized country crafts", the following expression shall be substituted, namely:-

"motorized country crafts with engine capacity of more than 10 HP and usage of 'ray fish nets' by motorized country crafts".

(ii) after the expression "coastal areas of Chennai; the expression "Tiruvallur," shall be inserted.

(2) in the table, under the heading "Potential nesting sites of Sea Turtle along the coast of Tamil Nadu",-

(i) After Sl.No.1, in column (1) and the corresponding entries in columns (2) and (3), the following shall be inserted, namely:-

*1A Tiruvallur (1) The stretch between North of L&T Kattupalli port starting from Kalanji Village in the south to Vairavan Kuppam Village in north along the coastline.

(2) Lighthouse Kuppam near Pulicat within Pulicat Birds Sanctuary".

(iii) for the entry "Kottivakkam to Kovalam Beach", in column (3) against the entries '2' in column (1) and "Kanchipuram" in column (2) thereof, the entry 'Kottivakkam to Alambaraikuppam' shall be substituted.

GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI
Principal Secretary to Government

WP No.1499 of 2015

The Hon'ble The CHIEF JUSTICE
and
The Hon'ble Mr Justice T. S. SIVAGNANAM

..
..

Vs

The Principal Secretary to
Government, Government of Tamilnadu,
Animal Husbandry, Dairying and
Fisheries Department, Secretariat, Fort
St. George, Chennai 9 and 7 others.

The affidavit filed shows that a draft SOP has been prepared. Thereafter, there have been suggestions from the learned Amicus Curiae. It is stated that the final SOP may take about six (6) weeks to finalise and be published. At request, we grant the said period of time.

2. Our concern is that the Turtles season begins in November. Thus, some interim arrangement would become necessary till the final SOP is formulated and placed before Court for us to scrutinise the same.

3. We are of the view that in the meantime, the draft SOP coupled with the suggestions made by the learned Amicus to operate as an interim arrangement.

4. Learned Advocate General, on instructions, states that there are only two difficulties which he envisages qua the suggestions made by the learned Amicus. The first is relating to prohibiting the use of Gill nets and Ray fish nets and other nets found harmful to turtles during the migration and nesting period from November to April every year and secondly, the stipulation proposed of inspecting of fishing villages in each District to enumerate the number of such nets and maintain a register and seize these nets in the last week of September every year and return them to the owner in the end of March.

5. In so far as the aforesaid two aspects are concerned, it is suggested that in so far as the temporary measure is concerned, these suggestions may be kept in abeyance, but it shall be ensured that there will be proper patrolling

to ensure that the areas of turtles are not entered into by the fishermen with gill nets and ray fish nets. We agree to the said suggestion.

6.The final SOP be placed before the Court at least three days prior to the next date of hearing.

7.List on 03.12.2015.

[CJ] [T S S J]

14/10/2015

SRA



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21/09/2015

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027894

ABSTRACT

Marine Fisheries – Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983) – Mandatory use of Turtle Excluder device in Trawl nets – Notification – Orders – Issued.

Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-4) Department

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2046, புரட்டாசி 13

G.O.(Ms)No.186

Dated: 30.09.2015

Read:

From the Commissioner of Fisheries letter No. 26286/J5/2015, dated 19.09.2015.

ORDER:

The Commissioner of Fisheries has stated that a draft amendment proposal on the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1983) and Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 1983 has under consideration of the Government. In the meantime, a Suo-moto Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice of High Court of Madras praying for issuance of Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents (i.e) the Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department and the Commissioner of Fisheries to take action against erring fishermen and ensure safety living of the Sea animals including sea turtles. As per the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Madras two stakeholders Consultations on the protection and conservation of Sea Turtles were held on 04.03.2015 and 18.6.2015 and a Counter affidavit filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras that the conservation measures for turtle has been incorporated in the draft amendment proposals for amendment of the aforesaid Act and its Rules which is under consideration of the Government.

2. The Commissioner of Fisheries has also stated that the Government pleader has informed that the Suo-Moto Public Interest Litigation (PIL) writ petition came for reporting compliance before the High Court on 17.8.2015 and the Hon'ble High Court has directed to finalize the amendment of the said Act and to file a report.

3. The Commissioner of Fisheries has requested the Government to issue Notification under the said Act, making Turtle Excluder Device (TED) as mandatory instrument in Trawl nets during specified period, so that the compliance report could be submitted in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. She has also sent a Draft notification both in English and Tamil to issue amendment to the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 1983.
4. The Government after careful examination have decided to accept the proposal of Commissioner of Fisheries at para 3 above and the Government hereby Issue Notification which is appended to this Order for making Turtle Excluder Device (TED) as mandatory instrument in Trawl nets during the specified period.
5. The Director of Stationary and printing, Chennai is requested to publish the appended Notification in Tamil Nadu Extra-ordinary Government Gazette.
6. The Director of Stationary and Printing, Chennai is requested to send 100 copies of Published notification to the Government in Animal Husbandry, Dalrying and Fisheries Department without fail.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

S.VIJAYAKUMAR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director of Stationary and Printing, Chennai-2.
The Works Manager, Government Central press, Chennai-79.
(for publication in Extraordinary Government Gazette)
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Chennai-6

Copy to:

The Law Department, Chennai-9.
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Fisheries), Chennai - 9.
The Private Secretary to Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry,
Dalrying and Fisheries Department, Chennai - 9.
Animal Husbandry, Dalrying and Fisheries (FS3) Department, Chennai - 9.
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S. Thirupavan
Section Officer

30/9/15