

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 152 of 2023 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Kumareson Sooluran,

Thiruvallur

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority,

Rep by its Member Secretary,

Chennai and Others

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

BEFORE THE HONBLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTH ZONE AT CHENNAI

Original Application No. 152 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF

Thiru. Kumaresan Sooluran

.....Applicant

Vs

The Executive Engineer PWD WRD

Araniyar Basin Division Chepauk

Chennai -05 And Others

Respondents

Report filed by the Fifth Respondent

I, G.R. Radhakrishna, Son of Thiru.Ramalingam Aged about 50 years and officiating as Executive Engineer, PWD, WRD, Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk, Chennai-05 and having office at Chennai, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

I respectfully submitted that ,Kosasthalaiyar river runs 136-kilometre long and originates near Pallipattu in Thiruvallur district and drains into the Bay of Bengal. Its northern tributary Nagari river originates in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and joins the main river in the backwaters of Poondi reservoir. Its catchment area is spread over Vellore, Chittoor, Ranipet, Thiruvallur and Chennai districts. It has a catchment area in Ranipet District where it branches near Kesavaram Anicut and this tributary flows to the Chennai city as Cooum River, while the main river flows to the Poondi reservoir. From Poondi reservoir, the river flows through Thiruvallur District, enters the Chennai metropolitan area, and joins the sea at Ennore creek.

The river has 9 check dams. There are two check dams across the river at Tamarapakkam and Vallur. The excess discharge in the river is controlled by the Tamarapakkam Anicut located across the river in the downstream of Poondi reservoir. Vallur Anicut is a small check dam constructed near Minjur across the river to control water levels and feed irrigation channels in the area. It flows to a distance of 16 kilometres in the Chennai metropolitan area. and the bed width ranges from 130 to 250 metres. The river drains up to 50,000 cubic feet per second (1,400 m³/s) of flood water into the sea through the Ennore creek during monsoons.

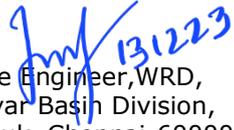
1. I respectfully submitted that the presence of Invasive species "Mytella strigata"(**Charru Mussels**) native to south America ,spread over along the stretch of the Kosasthalaiyar backwater ,Buckingham canal and Pazhaverkadu mouth which will ultimately the ecological development of fishes,prawns,crab etc.for their livelihood,espeially Karukumaram - Kandachedi Paadu areas.
2. I respectfully submitted that the Kaaka Azhi had grown aggressively upto a height of 0.15m to 0.30m below from the top of water level.Due to Kaaka Azhi infestation,severe choking with 0.30m depth of sludge and also disruption to the boat movement in the Kosasthalaiyar backwater.
3. I respectfully submitted that generally the Kosasthalaiyar River acts as a breeding ground for crustaceans like prawn, crab and molluscan species like shells, calms. Owing to the presence of Charru Mussels in the Kosasthalaiyar backwater Buckingham canal and water bodies, the vast diversity of the flora and fauna, species has been drastically depleted.
4. I respectfully submitted that these issue of accumulation of Kaaka Azhi in the Kosasthalaiyar backwaters was taken up by the team of fisherfolk and they have been approached to Additional Principal Secretary Chief Conservator of Forest and Member Secretarty, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority on 12.10.22

5. I respectfully submitted that the applicant Kumaresan sooluran has filed case vide O.A.No.152/2023, on 20.09.23 and stated that the mussels spreads like a carpet over the river and canal bottom preventing prawns from grazing or burying themselves in the river sediment. Further I respectfully submitted that Phytoplankton availability is also depleted as results of which shrimps cannot survive in these waters.
6. I respectfully submitted that.the case came up hearing on 04.10.23, the Hon'ble National Grea Tribunal has given notice to the Water Resources Department (5th respondent)
7. I respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has given direction to the Water Resources Department to start dredging so that the further spreading of mussels may be avoided.
8. I respectfully submitted that in this regard,a technical team has already been inspected on 17.10.22 and recommended that the kosasthaliyar river at Karrukumaram Paadu area is required to be dredged in order to facilitate to boat movement in the Kosasthalaiyar river and ecological development of fishes,prawns,crab etc.for their livelihood.
9. I respectfully submitted that a team of fisherfolk has suggested that, the WRD has to take bathymetric survey to determine the quantity of silt accumulated in the Kosasthalaiyar backawater and Buckingham canal at Karrukumaram Paadu areas.
10. I respectfully submitted that based on that the Pre levels are taken and estimate has been prepared for dredging the backwaters of the kosasthalaiyar river at karukumaram Paadu village (ls. 0m to ls.700m) by using dredger for ecological restoration of Kosasthaliyar river,Buckingham canal focus on livelihood of fisher folk and facilitate tidal exchange for an amount of 8.50Cr and sent to the Additional Principal chief Conservator of Forest and Member secretary,Tamilnadu Wetland Authority, Chennai on 12.05.2023

11. I respectfully submitted that, in continuation with that the Additional Principal chief Conservator of Forest and Member secretary, Tamilnadu Wetland Authority, Chennai has addressed this subject to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government Environment, climate change and Forest Department, Chennai on 16.08.23
12. I respectfully submitted that the Additional Principal chief Conservator of Forest and Member secretary, Tamilnadu Wetland Authority, Chennai has suggested that the work of the backwater of Kosasthalaiyar and Buckingham Canal at Karukumaram Padu village may be done with the collaboration of Water resources Department either with their sole contribution of 8.50cr or with funding of 20 % from Tamilnadu Wetland Authority, Chennai ie. Rs 1.70cores and 80% from WRD ie.6.80cr
13. I respectfully submitted that these subject will be addressed to the Additinal Chief Secretary to Government, Water Resources Department and informed that after getting necessary approval from the government ,the removal of invasive species **Charru Mussels** by dredging of Kosasthalaiyar Backwater will be carried out
14. Further I respectfully submitted that as per the Petitioner report, it is observed that, the species like Charru Mussels have been spread over a length of 6kms from kosasthalaiyar backwater to ennore creek and Pazhaverkadu mouth which also affected the growth of white prawns, tiger prawns black prawns, sand prawns, green crab, mullet ,etc., .
15. I respectfully submitted that, considering the above circumstances the estimate for dredging the backwaters of the kosasthalaiyar river at karukumaram Paadu village needs to be revised for ecological restoration of Kosasthaliyar backwater and

Pazhaveekadu mouth focus on livelihood of fisher folk and facilitate tidal exchange and I am ready to obey the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Solemnly affirmed and signed before me on this
December 2023 at Chennai


Executive Engineer, WRD,
Araniyar Basin Division,
Chepauk, Chennai-600005