

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI.**

Original Application No.181 of 2020 (SZ)

Sarangam,
Cuddalore

...Applicant

Versus

The Collector,
Cuddalore and Others

...Respondent(s)

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**Filed by
Thiru. C. Kasirajan,
Advocate, Chennai.**

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INSPECTION REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE

In the matter of O.A.No.181/2020 (SZ) concerned with alleged Prawn fish cultivation that is being done without obtaining necessary permission from the authorities, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), constituted an independent committee comprising of

- District Collector, Cuddalore District.
- Senior Scientist from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board as deputed by its Chairman.
- The Assistant Director of Fisheries

and has directed the Committee vide its Order dated:24.09.2020 to inspect the area in question and submit factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found.

It is respectfully submitted that in pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the Committee comprising of District Collector, Cuddalore, Senior Scientist K.Rajaraman deputed by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Assistant Director of Fisheries, Parangipettai inspected the field on 04.11.2020 and made a detailed enquiry. The following details were ascertained from the field.

It is submitted that the fish culture pond has been constructed in Survey No.21/6B, Subauppalavadi, Cuddalore District with an extent of 0.20 Ares by Mr.Sammantham S/o. Ramachandran. There are no fish culture ponds of any nature in Survey No.21/7, 21/8 and 25 in Subauppalavadi Village, Cuddalore as alleged by Petitioner.

The boundaries of the existing fish culture pond in S.No.21/6B is as follows:

Sl. No	Name of the Village	Land survey No	Classification of land	Extend	Name of the Land owner	Location
1	Subauppalavadi	21/6B	Agricultural Land	0.48.8 ares	Sambandam S/o.Ramachandran	North of pond
2.	Subauppalavadi	21/7	Agricultural Land	0.20.0 ares	Manikasamy	East of Pond
3.	Subauppalavadi	21/8	Agricultural Land	0.44.5 ares	Dharanidaran S/o. Kumarasamy	South of pond
4.	Subauppalavadi	25	Grazing Poramboke	6.68.0 Ha	Poromboke land	
5.	Map enclosed				Uppanar River	West of Pond

It is respectfully submitted that sampling was done by the committee almost for an hour by throwing casting net but no fish or prawn / shrimp was caught. No stock of fish seeds or prawn / shrimp seeds were found in the pond. It was also observed by the committee that surrounding the fish culture pond a crab fence & a bird fence of about 20 feet which is used for vannamei prawn culture are erected in the said pond. The water in the pond during inspection was fresh and clear. The pond is bounded by agricultural field in 03 directions and in the west side it is bounded by Uppanar river which is running adjacent to all cultivators land. The agriculture lands lies very next to the pond. Polyethylene sheet was embedded in three side of pond dike to prevent seepage.

The Committee enquired the applicant Thiru. Sarangam and the respondent Thiru.Sampantham and adjoining farmers /land owners viz Thiru.Tharanidharan, Thiru.Thiyagarajan. In the enquiry the petitioner Thiru.Sarangam stated that Thiru.Sampantham has been doing Prawn Culture using salt water drawn from Uppanar river through diesel engine. However presently he has removed the diesel engine and has drained out all the sea water from the pond and has filled it up with fresh water. Thiru. Sampantham stated that he has been doing only fish culture. The adjoining land owners Thiru. Tharanidharan and Thiru. Thiyagarajan has stated that they have been continuously doing agriculture in their land and have harvested 40 and 23 bags of paddy respectively during last crop. There is no damage to the land because of the fish culture pond.

The facts that the crab & bird fence used for vannamei prawn culture is seen in the pond and that, not even a single fish seed was seen in the pond, gives a reason for the committee to ponder that, there might have been a chance that shrimp cultivation was already carried on in the said pond.

It is submitted that soil samples were collected in and around the sites of the pond and sent to soil testing lab of Agriculture Department and the lab results indicates that the soil suits all types of crop cultivation and the tested water samples has light salt and hence, the soil is suitable for all types of agriculture.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has directed to ascertain the following issues.

a) Whether necessary permission have been obtained for conducting fish/ prawn culture.

Thiru. Sampantham has obtained permission for fish culture vide Membership No.342 of the District Fish Farmers Development Agency dated:27.12.2017. He has not obtained license for prawn culture.

b) Whether the fish / prawn culture was done in poramboke land without getting any permission.

The pond is constructed in Survey No.21/6B Subauppalavadi, Cuddalore which as per Village records is a patta land which stands in the name of Thiru.Sambantham.

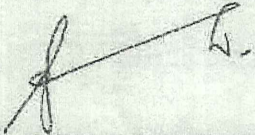
c) Whether any area falls under Coastal Regulation Zone where such activities are prohibited.

The pond in s.no. 21/6B, Subauppalavadi Village falls under Coastal Regulations Zone-III. In Coastal Regulation Zone-III, fish culture is a permitted activity and shrimp culture can be carried out only with proper license.

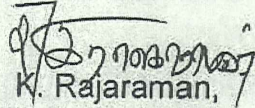
d) If there is contamination caused to the soil mention the nature of contamination on suggest remedial measures.

Laboratory testing of the sample soil in and around the pond indicates that the soil suits all types of crop cultivation and the tested water samples has light salt and

It is therefore respectfully concluded that, Thiru. Sampantham has obtained permission for fish culture and has constructed pond in his patta land which is situated in S.no. 21/6B, Subauppalavadi village, Cuddalore District. The Subauppalavadi village falls under coastal Regulation Zone -III, where fish culture is a permitted activity and shrimp culture can be carried with proper license. As on date no shrimp/ fish cultivation is seen in the pond. The soil in and around the pond is not contaminated as per the laboratory test.



Chandra Sekhar Sakhamuri,
District Collector,
Cuddalore.



K. Rajaraman,
Senior Scientist,
TNPCCB



M. Chinnakuppan,
Assistant Director (Fisheries)
Parangipettai.

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**Inspection Report submitted by the
Committee**

Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru. Kasirajan
Advocate, Chennai.

Date: 22.03.2021

Date of Hearing: 24.03.2021

