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No.A/JMN/Vashi. 3457/2020

Date: 05/11/2020

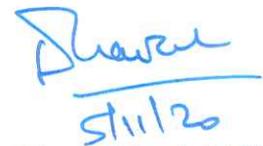
To,
Deputy Registrar
National Green Tribunal (Western Zonal)
New Administrative Building,
D-wing, 1st floor,
Opp. Council Hall Camp,
Pune, Maharashtra.

Subject: Original Application No. 57/2020 (WZ)
Roshni B.Patel (Petitioner)
V/S
Union Of India & Ors. (Respondent)

Respected Sir,

As per the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, in the matter of Roshni B.Patel (Petitioner) V/S Union Of India & Ors. (Respondent) in O.A. No. 57/2020 a reply is required to be filed with regard to the complaint filed by the applicant as interim report is prepared on the ongoing assessment and action to be taken thereof, on the illegally operating Shrimp farms in the flood plains of the Tapi and Mindhola River, District Surat, is prepared and being forwarded with attachment to this e-mail for kind perusal of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. On completion of the ongoing assessment and study work the detailed action taken report would be submitted.

Thanking You,



(Dr. Dhaval Patel, IAS)
Collector & District Magistrate
Surat District, Gujarat.

INTERIM REPORT
On
UNAUTHORISED/ ILLEGAL SHRIMP FARMS

LOCATED IN FLOOD PLAINS OF TAPI & MINDHOLA RIVER/ESTUARY
(SURAT DISTRICT)

[O.A. 57/2020-WZ]

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

November 2020

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1. BACKGROUND

Background of this report has its genesis to the complaint filed by Roshani B. Patel before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in the O.A. No. 57/2020 (WZ) and subsequent order of the tribunal dated 22/09/2020. The application is filed under Section 18 read with Sections 14, 15 & 17 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for the protection of the flood plain area and restoring the restituting the natural flood water drainage capacity of the Tapi and Mindhola Rivers/estuary and to further protect the Tapi and Mindhola River/estuary ecosystems from adverse impacts of large number of unauthorized/illegal shrimp farm that have come up on its floodplains which is adversely affecting the coastal ecology. In addition, interim stay of construction of aquaculture/shrimp farms and recovers the cost of dismantling unauthorized/illegal shrimp farm from their owner as per the O.A. No. 57/2020.

According to the complaint the illegal shrimp farms have encroached the natural flood plain of Tapi & Mindhola River/Estuary and CRZ area. The area of Surat District mentioned in the complaint, is located on both side of Tapi & Mindhola River/estuary in Taluka Majura & Choryasi. Study of the area with regard to the complaint is required to be carried out for ascertaining the latest status.

2. SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT STUDY

The area pointed out in the complaints fall in both side of Tapi & Mindhola river/estuary with exception of lands falling in 7 villages of Majura taluka and 5 villages of Choryasi taluka of Surat district. In view of this, the assessment study is being carried out in the 12 villages of Majura & Choryasi taluka of Surat district. The scope of the study includes identification of shrimp farms; decide on status of their legal/permission, compliance of conditions under the permission, status of CRZ violation, if any, and measurement of individual ponds with respect to their size and location. Based on the study, process of demolition/ cancelling permissions in case of illegal establishments would be done under the applicable rules/acts.

The study for assessment of the extent of CRZ violation, if any, would also be done with the help of superimposed map to be prepared with the two maps, i.e., the State CRZ map and District Inspector Land Record (DILR) maps that are presently under preparation as a part of this assessment study. This work of superimposition of the two maps would be carried out through expert agencies like BISAG (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics), Gandhinagar or National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai. Based on the superimposed map, the violation of CRZ if any would be identified for further appropriate actions, under the applicable acts/rules.

3. STUDY CARRIED OUT - PRESENT STATUS

It is decided to carry out measurement of all the shrimp farm located in the region, through DILR-Surat. The measurement work was started by DILR from 27/10/2020. This activity has been continuing till date.

The measurement activity is being carried out in the following villages of Majura and Choryasi Taluka of Surat District, where all the shrimp farms are located.

- **Villages of Majura Taluka**

1. Dumas village
2. Abhva village
3. Khajod village
4. Gabheni village
5. Jiav village
6. Bhimpor village
7. Budiya village

- **Villages of Choryasi Taluka**

1. Umber village
2. Damka village
3. Rajgari village
4. Junagam (Shivrampura) village
5. Talangpor village

Among the above villages only village Dumas has forest land having area 45.57 Hact., where in no shrimp farms are existing.

The measurement work is carried out and progress thereof is depicted in tabular format as per table-1 below.

Sr. No	Name of village	Measurement work completed of nos. of shrimp farms as on 01.11.2020	Pending measurement work out of permitted shrimp farm	No. of shrimp farm	Total allotted area of shrimp farm (Area in Ha-sq-mt)	Remarks
1	2	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Abhva	265	0	0	0	235 Hact.
	Total	265	-	-	-	235 Hact.

It has been alleged in the complaint, that there are number of shrimp farms located in various villages, which are likely to be operating without requisite permissions. Once the DILR measurements are completed and requisite maps are prepared, the illegally operating shrimp farms, if any, would be identified and appropriate actions would be initiated by the concern authorities.

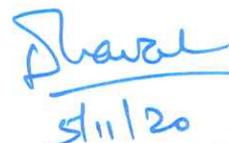
4. PENDING WORK

- The measurement work carried out by the DILR would be completed for the remaining pending locations within three months (i.e. 31.01.2021).
- The measurement sheets for the entire work would be prepared and made available by DILR on 15.02.2021
- Identification of illegal shrimp farm, if any, would be completed and legal actions against the illegally operating shrimp farms would be initiated immediately thereafter.

5. CONCLUSION

Due to the prolonged rainy season, adverse field condition for survey work & prevailing pandemic situation, the basic work of measurement of shrimp farm including measurements of survey numbers, spreading over a huge area of approximately 2500 hector, could not be completed in time. In view of this, the DILR measurement work and subsequent activities like identifying the illegal shrimp farms, violation with reference to their locations & size, CRZ status and other permissions could not been completed in time. With likely completion of measurement work within next three months and after submission of map by DILR, the remaining work would be initiated immediately.

A complete report on the entire activity including action against the identified illegal shrimp farms & salt pans etc. would be submitted in the final report.



(Dr. Dhaval Patel, IAS)

Collector & District Magistrate

Surat District, Gujarat.