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No.A/JMN/Vashi.3212/2020

Date: 19/10/2020

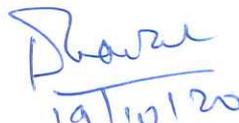
To,
 Deputy Registrar
 National Green Tribunal (Western Zonal)
 New Administrative Building,
 D-wing, 1st floor,
 Opp. Council Hall Camp,
 Pune, Maharashtra.

Subject: Original Application No. 16/2020 (WZ)
 Brackish Water Research Centre (Petitioner)
 V/S
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change etc. (Respondent)

Respected Sir,

As per the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, in the matter of Brackish Water Reaserch Centre v/s Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in O.A. No. 16/2020a 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 and Salt farms in the floodplains of the Kim and Sena River/Creek, 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,


 19/10/20
 (Dr. Dhaval Patel, IAS)
 Collector & District Magistrate
 Surat District, Gujarat.

INTERIM REPORT
On
UNAUTHORISED/ ILLEGAL
SHRIMP FARMS & SALT PANS

**LOCATED IN FLOOD PLAINS OF KIM & SENA RIVER/CREEK
AND TENA VILLAGE (SURAT DISTRICT)**

[O.A. 16/2020-WZ] & [I.A. 69/2020-WZ OF O.A. 16/2020]

BEFORE

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

October 2020

INTERIM REPORT

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INTERIM REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

Background of this report has its genesis to the complaint filed by M/s. Brackish Water Research Centre, Surat before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in the O.A. No. 16/2020 (WZ) and subsequent order of the tribunal dated 24/08/2020. 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 Kim and Sena Rivers/creeks and to further protect the Kim and Sena River/creek 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 over block no. 591, survey no. 276/3/1A, Village Tena, Taluka Olpad, Surat as per the I.A. No. 69/2020 (WZ) in O.A. No. 16/2020.

According to the complaint the illegal shrimp farms have encroached the natural flood plain and drainage of Kim & Sena River/creek and village Tena (i.e. Block no. 591). So far as the District of the Surat is concerned, the area mentioned in the complaint, falling under the jurisdiction of Surat District, is located on both side of Sena River/creek & the southern side of River Kim and block no. 591 of village Tena. 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 on the southern side of river Kim, both side of Sena river/creek and in Tena village (i.e. Block no. 591) with exception of lands falling in 14 villages of Surat district. In view of this, the assessment study is being carried out in the 14 villages of Olpad taluka of Surat district. The scope of the study includes identification of shrimp farms and salt pans; 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.

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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 and salt pans located in the region, through DILR-Surat. The measurement work was started by DILR from 22/9/2020. This activity has been continuing till date.

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

1. Dandi village
2. Kudiyana village
3. Kapasi village
4. Kuvad village
5. Saras village
6. Orma village
7. Mor village
8. Delasa village
9. Mandaroi village
10. Nesh village
11. Kachhol village
12. Hathisa village
13. Lavachha village
14. Tena village

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

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Table-1. Details showing number of permitted shrimp farm & salt pan is as below:

Sr. No	Name of village	Total Permitted shrimp farm & salt pans	Measurement work completed as on 15.10.2020	Pending measurement work out of permitted shrimp farm	No. of shrimp farm	Total allotted area of shrimp farm (Area in Ha-sq-mt)	No. of salt pans	Allotted area of salt pans (Area in Ha-sq-mt)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Dandi	113	89	0	113	307 Hact.	0	0	24 Nos. of ponds are not constructed
2.	Kudiyana	18	18	0	18	90 Hact.	0	0	
3.	Kapasi	11	11	0	11	48 Hact.	0	0	
4.	Kuvad	22	11	0	22	110 Hact.	0	0	11 Nos. of ponds are not constructed
5.	Saras	60	60	0	60	216 Hact.	0	0	
6.	Orma	5	5	0	5	21 Hact.	0	0	
7.	Delasa	16	16	0	16	64 Hact.	0	0	
8.	Kachhol	1	1	0	1	5 Hact.	0	0	
9.	Hathisa	1	0	0	1	5 Hact.	0	0	1 No. of pond is not constructed
10.	Lavachha	18	18	0	18	45 Hact.	0	0	
	Total	265	229	0	265	911 Hact.	0	0	

* No salt pans in above villages.

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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.

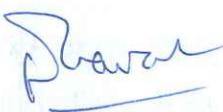
4. PENDING WORK

- The measurement work carried out by the DILR would be completed for the remaining pending locations within three months (i.e. 19.01.2021).
- The measurement sheets for the entire work would be prepared and made available by DILR on 04.02.2021
- Identification of illegal shrimp farm and salt pans, if any, would be completed and legal actions against the illegally operating shrimp farms & salt pans 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 and salt pans including measurements of survey numbers, spreading over a huge area of approximately 5100 hector, could not be completed in time. In view of this, the DILR measurement work and subsequent activities like identifying the illegal shrimp farms & salt pans, 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.


19/10/20

(Dr. Dhaval Patel, IAS)

Collector & District Magistrate
Surat District, Gujarat.