

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE
AT CHENNAI

OA. NO. 111 OF 2023

Arul Raj

...Applicant

Vs.

The Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone
Management Authority Rep. by its
Member Secretary & 2 Ors.,

...Respondents

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DATED AT CHENNAI ON THIS THE 9TH DAY OF APRIL 2025


COUNSEL FOR 3RD RESPONDENT

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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTH ZONE AT CHENNAI
MEMORANDUM OF APPLICATION
(Under Sections 14, 15 read with 18(1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)

Application No. 111 of 2023

Arul Raj ...Applicant

Vs.

The Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone
Management Authority Rep by its Member Secretary
& 2 Ors. ... Respondents

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 3RD RESPONDENT

I, Dr. Purvaja Ramachandran, Daughter of C.V. Ramachandran aged about 57 years, working in the Department of National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, having office at Anna University Campus, Chennai 600 025, Do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I am occupying the post of Acting Director in the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management and I am well acquainted with the facts of the case.
2. I submit that the Hon'ble NGT Southern Zone, in its order dated 21st August 2024, in the case of OA 111 of 2023 (Arul Raj vs Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority), directed NCSCM, this Respondent No. 3, to file an additional report after doing the ground truthing in the Palk Bay Area. In compliance of the said order, NCSCM Scientists/staff undertook the field verification on 15th March, 2025 at different sites along the Palk Bay.
3. I submit that in compliance of the order of the Hon'ble NGT Southern Zone, dated 21st August 2024, in OA 111 of 2023 (Arul Raj vs Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority), the Ground Truthing/Field Survey Report is submitted herewith, enclosed to this Additional Affidavit as Annexure-1.



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National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
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Chennai - 600 025. India

- 4. The answering respondent reserves the right to file the additional Information before the Hon'ble Tribunal till Pendente - lite.
- 5. That, in view of the aforementioned facts and circumstances, this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate order(s).

S. Purraj

(Sign and seal of Director NCSCM)
 Director
 National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 Government of India, Anna University Campus
 Chennai - 600 025, India

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on
 This the 9th day of **April 2025** and
 Signed his name in my presence
 After reading the contents herein

* BEFORE ME,
 * *Moshika* MS/2577/23
 * [J. MOSHIKA] No. 366, law chambers,
 * Highcourt building,
 * ADVOCATE, CHENNAI *ch-104*



G. Rajendran
 8/4/25
G. RAJENDRAN, M.A, B.L,
 Advocate & Commissioner of Oaths,
 Notary Public, GOVT. OF INDIA,
 No. 43/58, East Jones Road,
 Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015,
 Cell: 98412 15885

ANNEXURE-1**FIELD SURVEY REPORT IN COMPLIANCE OF THE ORDER DATED 21ST AUGUST, 2024 OF THE HON'BLE NGT IN THE CASE OF ORIGINAL APPLICATION OA NO. 111 OF 2023 (PALK BAY AREA)****1.0 Background:**

The Hon'ble NGT Southern Zone, in its order dated 21st August 2024, in the case of OA 111 of 2023 (Arul Raj vs Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority), directed NCSCM to file an additional report after doing the ground truthing in the Palk Bay Area. Concerning the above order, NCSCM Scientists/staff undertook the field verification on 15th March, 2025 at different sites along the Palk Bay. The field verification/surveys were conducted to verify the presence of eco sensitive areas such as mangroves, salt marsh etc and coastal land use features particularly fisheries related infrastructure depicted in the draft CZMP and coastal land use maps.

2.0 Area of field verification:

The field survey covered an area from Rameswaram Taluk in Ramanathapuram district to Manamelkudi taluk in Pudukkottai district (Figure 1). The geographical location of the area ranges from 9°16'42.85"N to 10° 2'10.88"N latitude and from 78°53'18.62"E to 79°20'0.73"E longitude. The villages/Talukas covered during the verification included eighteen villages and six talukas.

3.0 Observation/finding from the field survey:

Field surveys were carried out at twenty sites using handheld GPS (Figure 1). The information related to eco-sensitive area and coastal land use features particularly fishing related infrastructure details were collected using high precision hand held GPS. Each field survey site wise details are shown below:



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Figure 1: Field survey location



G. Rajendran
Director
National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
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Site 1:

Site number		ST1
Location details	Latitude	9° 17' 2.978" N
	Longitude	79° 10' 1.800" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Mantapam, Ramanathapuram Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 46
Field observation/finding		Mandapam North New T Jetty, boat parking area were observed. Uprooted seagrass was also observed in the beach area.
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A view of Beach		A view of Jetty




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b

Site 2:

Site number		ST 2
Location details	Latitude	9° 18' 34.231" N
	Longitude	79° 2' 49.303" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Pirappan valasai, Ramanathapuram Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 45
Field observation/finding		Fish drying area, net mending area and boat parking area were observed during field verification. The maximum reach of high tide water had been noted.
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
Fish Drying Area		A view of Beach



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Site 3:

Site number	ST 3	
Location details	Latitude	9° 20' 52.963" N
	Longitude	78° 59' 47.529" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Attangarai, Ramanathapuram Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 44
Field observation/finding	Site 3 located northern side of the Vaigai river mouth. Fish landing centre, Fish Drying Area, Net Mending Area, Community Toilet, and boat parking area were observed during field verification. Mangroves were not observed in the Vaigai river mouth. A sand dune is observed around 150m away from HTL seaside. The maximum reach of high tide water had been noted	
Remarks	Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.	

Field photos



Net Mending Area



Fish Drying Area



Aparna

Director
 National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
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Site 4:

Site number		ST 4
Location details	Latitude	9° 20' 4.968" N
	Longitude	78° 58' 12.321" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Alagankulam, Ramanathapuram Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 44
Field observation/finding		A patch of fringe mangrove on the opposite side of the site 4 was observed
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
Mangrove in creek side		Mangrove in creek side



B. Purraj

Director
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Site 5:

Site number		ST 5
Location details	Latitude	9° 25' 25.029" N
	Longitude	78° 55' 33.839" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Chittrarkottai, Ramanathapuram Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 48
Field observation/finding		Fish landing centre, Fish Drying Area, Net Mending Area, were observed during field verification. The maximum reach of high tide water had been noted
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
Net Manding Area		a view of Estuary



L. Purraj

Director

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Site 6:

Site number	ST 6	
Location details	Latitude	9° 30' 34.709" N
	Longitude	78° 54' 10.514" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Pattanendal, Ramanathapuram Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 50
Field observation/finding	The mangrove land was observed during field verification	
Remarks	Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.	
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove	A View of Mangrove	




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Site 7:

Site number		ST 7
Location details	Latitude	9° 32' 7.037" N
	Longitude	78° 54' 37.766" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Pattanendal, Ramanathapuram Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 50
Field observation/finding		The mangrove land was observed during field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		A View of Mangrove



G. Purraj

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Site 8:

Site number		ST 8
Location details	Latitude	9° 33' 23.790" N
	Longitude	78° 55' 15.703" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Tirupalaikudi, RS Mangalam Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 50
Field observation/finding		The mangrove was observed during field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		A View of Creek




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Site 9:

Site number		ST 9
Location details	Latitude	9° 34' 53.925" N
	Longitude	78° 55' 16.236" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Valamavur, RS Mangalam Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 50
Field observation/finding		The mangrove was observed during field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		A View of Mangrove



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Site 10:

Site number		ST 10
Location details	Latitude	9° 41' 59.391" N
	Longitude	78° 59' 2.600" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Kanattankadu, Tiruvadanai Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 52
Field observation/finding		The mangrove plantation was observed during field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove plantation		Another View of Mangrove plantation



Lepuraji

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Site 11:

Site number		ST 11
Location details	Latitude	9° 42' 31.193" N
	Longitude	78° 59' 37.409" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Kanattankadu, Tiruvadanai Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 52
Field observation/finding		Net Mending Area and Jetty (M.V. Pattinam Harbour) were observed during field verification.
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Jetty		A View of Net Mending Area



G. Rajendran

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Site 12:

Site number		ST 12
Location details	Latitude	9° 46' 41.950" N
	Longitude	79° 2' 53.222" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Kodippangu, Tiruvadanai Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 54
Field observation/finding		The mangrove was observed during field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		Another View of Mangrove



L. Purrajee

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Site 13:

Site number		ST 13
Location details	Latitude	9° 46' 52.635" N
	Longitude	79° 3' 3.573" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Odavayal, Tiruvadanai Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 54
Field observation/finding		The mangrove was observed during field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		Another View of Mangrove



Spurraji

Director
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Site 14:

Site number		ST 14
Location details	Latitude	9° 49' 30.724" N
	Longitude	79° 5' 19.829" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Vattanam, Tiruvadanai Taluk & Ramanathapuram District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 54
Field observation/finding		Seagrasses and Net Mending Area were observed during the field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Seagrass		A View of Net mending area



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Site 15:

Site number		ST 15
Location details	Latitude	9° 52' 11.563" N
	Longitude	79° 7' 6.409" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Nattani purasakkudi Part - II, Avudayarkovil Taluk & Pudukkottai District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 54
Field observation/finding		Mangroves, seagrass, Fish Landing center and Net Mending Area were observed during the field verification.
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		A View of Seagrass



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Site 16:

Site number		ST 16
Location details	Latitude	9° 53' 26.188" N
	Longitude	79° 7' 4.817" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Palangulam, Avudayarkovil Taluk & Pudukkottai District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 56
Field observation/finding		Mangrove and Aquaculture pond were observed during the field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		A View of Aquaculture



Director

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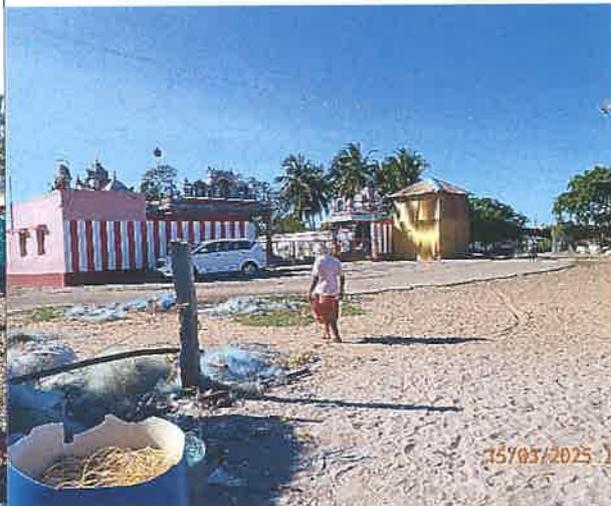
Site 17:

Site number	ST 17	
Location details	Latitude	9° 54' 36.463" N
	Longitude	79° 8' 41.352" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Nattani purasakkudi Part - II, Avudayarkovil Taluk & Pudukkottai District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 57
Field observation/finding	Mangrove, Fish Landing center, and Net Mending Area, Temple were observed during the field verification	
Remarks	Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.	

Field photos



A View of fish landing centre



A View of Temple



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Site 18:

Site number		ST 18
Location details	Latitude	9° 55' 10.491" N
	Longitude	79° 8' 25.241" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Mimisal, Avudayarkovil Taluk & Pudukkottai District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 57
Field observation/finding		Mangrove is observed during the field verification
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		A View of Mangrove



K. Purraj
Director

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Site 19:

Site number	ST 19	
Location details	Latitude	10° 0' 38.264" N
	Longitude	79° 13' 44.693" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Tandalai, Manamelkudi Taluk & Pudukkottai District.
	CZMP map No.	TN 59
Field observation/finding	Lighthouse (Ammappattinam Light House), uprooted Seagrasses were observed during the field verification.	
Remarks	Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.	
Field photos		
		
A View of Lighthouse		A View of uprooted Seagrass



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Site 20:

Site number		ST 20
Location details	Latitude	10° 1' 27.071" N
	Longitude	79° 14' 4.149" E
	Village/Taluk/district	Manamelkudi, Manamelkudi Taluk & Pudukkottai District
	CZMP map No.	Mangrove, boat parking area, Net Mending Area were observed during the field verification
Field observation/finding		TN 59
Remarks		Recent satellite images along with the field survey information will be analyzed and accordingly the draft CZMP maps will be revised if required.
Field photos		
		
A View of Mangrove		A View of boat parking area

4.0 Demarcation of Palk Bay as a Bay and Tidal Influenced Water Body:

As per para (ii) of page 30 of CRZ Notification, 2019, “CRZ shall apply to the land area between HTL to 50 meters or width of the creek, whichever is less on the landward side along the tidal influenced water bodies”. Further in the last sub-para of the same para (ii) in page 31 of CRZ Notification, 2019 (Annex-1), the term “tidal influenced water bodies” has been explained and the same is given below:



Sparajit
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*“Explanation.- For the purposes of this sub-paragraph the expression “tidal influenced water bodies” means the water bodies influenced by tidal effects from sea in the **bays**, estuaries, rivers, creeks, backwaters, lagoons, ponds that are connected to the sea.”*

Thus, “**Bay**” is classified as a “**tidal influenced water body**” as per the above explanation and as per para (ii) of page 30 of CRZ Notification, 2019 (Annex-1), “CRZ shall apply to the land area between HTL to **50 meters** and NOT 500 m as claimed by the Applicant.

Further, as per para 5 (iv) of CRZ Notification, 2019 (Annex-1), “*the water areas of CRZ-IV shall be demarcated and clearly demarcated if the water body is sea, lagoon, backwater, creek, bay, and estuary and for such classification of the water bodies the terminology used by Naval Hydrographic Office shall be relied upon*”.

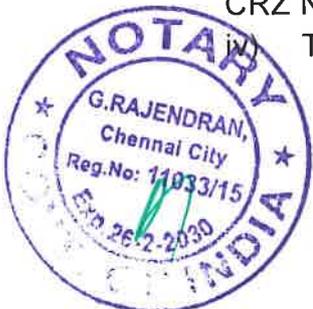
“Palk Bay” is clearly demarcated in the National Hydrographic Office (NHO), Government of India, Chart (Approaches to Palk Bay) No. INT 7394-358 (enclosed herewith as **Annex-1**). Accordingly, “Palk Bay” has been correctly demarcated in the draft Coastal Zone Management plan maps Nos. TN 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 60, covering Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts, as a “**Bay**” with CRZ of **50 m** as explained above.

Thus, CRZ of 500m is NOT applicable to Bays, as per para (ii) of page 30 of CRZ Notification, 2019 (Annex-1), as explained above.

4.1 Further, the following can be clearly seen from the draft Coastal Zone Management plan (CZMP) maps Nos. TN 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 60, of the Palk Bay region, covering Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts and CRZ Notification, 2019.

- i) National Hydrographic Office (NHO), Government of India, Chart (Approaches to Palk Bay) No. INT 7394-358 (Annex-1) uses the terminology “**Bay**”, while depicting Palk Bay in the Chart.
- ii) Accordingly, “Palk Bay” has been correctly demarcated in the draft Coastal Zone Management plan maps Nos. TN 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 60, covering Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts, as a “**Bay**”.
- iii) “**Bay**” is included in the category of “**tidal influenced water bodies**” as per the “Explanation” given in the last sub-para of the para (ii) in page 31 of CRZ Notification, 2019.

iv) Thus, “Bay” is a Tidal influenced water Body.



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v) CRZ of a “tidal influenced water body” (i.e. Bay), is 50 m, as per para (ii) of page 30 of CRZ Notification, 2019 and as already agreed by the Applicant in para 3 of the Application.

vi) Thus, CRZ along a Bay is 50 m.

vii) Thus, “Palk Bay” has been correctly demarcated in the draft Coastal Zone Management plan maps Nos. TN 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 60, covering Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts, as a “Bay” with CRZ of 50 m.

4.2 The crux of the entire case in OA No. 111 of 2023 is that the statement of the Applicant in OA 111/2023 namely, “Palk bay is shaded in light blue and demarcated as CRZ IV A” is not quoted from the CRZ Notification, 2019 but it is inferred by the Applicant from the DRAFT Coastal Zone Management plan (CZMP) maps Nos. TN 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 60, covering Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts. In the preceding paragraphs it has been clearly established that CRZ along Palk Bay is 50 m. The colour “light blue” given to the Palk Bay region in the DRAFT Coastal Zone Management plan (CZMP) maps Nos. TN 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 60, covering Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts is an error in the draft CZMP maps **but the demarcation of 50 m CRZ is correct.**

The maps are still in DRAFT stage, which the Applicant himself has accepted in para 2 of this Application. The very purpose of publishing the DRAFT maps and conducting Public hearings is to invite suggestions and objections so that the suggestions and objections can be appraised and the maps can be corrected and updated. Had the Applicant pointed out this as a suggestion/objection to the draft CZMP this Respondent (No. 3) would have corrected the “light blue” colour to “dark blue” in no time. But, the Applicant has relied upon an error in the DRAFT map to suggest that because of this error the CRZ should be 500 m, **which will be a more serious error**, since it is already established in the foregoing paras that the CRZ along a Bay is 50 m.

The Applicant is quoting only the DRAFT maps and not any statutory/approved CZMP map and the DRAFT maps, which will still undergo further corrections/ modifications based on inputs received during the Public hearings. Had the Applicant pointed out this as a suggestion/objection to the draft CZMP this Respondent (No. 3) would have corrected the “light blue” colour to “dark blue” in no time. But, the Applicant has relied upon an error in the DRAFT map to suggest that because of this error the CRZ should be 500 m, which will be a more serious error, since this Respondent (No. 3) has already established in the foregoing paras that the CRZ along a Bay is 50 m.



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4.3 In conclusion, it is established that Palk Bay is a Bay and a Tidally Influenced Water Body, the CRZ of which is correctly marked in the draft CZMP maps as 50 m. The light Blue colour given to the demarcated Palk Bay and pointed out by the Applicant would be corrected to Light Blue (CRZ-IVB).



Leproraji

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G. Rajendran 5/4/25

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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE
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COUNSEL FOR 3RD RESPONDENT