

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No. 13 of 2025(SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU based on the News item in The New Indian Express newspaper, Chennai e-edition dated 16.01.2025, titled, "**Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till January 15**".

versus

Union of India,
Represented by its Secretary,
MOEF & CC, New Delhi and ors.

.....Respondents

**COMPLIANCE REPORT IN RESPECT OF
ORDER OF THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI DATED 07.02.2025 ON O.A. No. 13 of 2025.**

I Tmt.R.Gajalakshmi, IAS., , being the Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, 3rd Floor, Integrated Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Building, Nandanam, Chennai-600035 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

I am the respondent herein and I am well acquainted with the facts of this case as per records. I swear this affidavit is filed on my behalf.

Preliminary submissions:

Based on the news article published in "The New Indian Express" newspaper on 16.01.2025 titled "Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till January 15", the National Green Tribunal has registered a Suo-Motu case - Original Application No.13 of 2025 (SZ).

In this connection, the National Green tribunal has issued the following order in Original Application No.13 of 2005(SZ) dated 07.02.2025 to Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare.

- To prevent the fishermen from operating trawler boats, motorised fishing crafts with engine capacity of more than 10 HP and usage

of Ray fish nets by the motorized country crafts in the prohibited area during the turtle breeding season.

- To prohibit the mechanised fishing boats in a radius of 5 Nautical Miles (NM) around the potential nesting and breeding sites of sea turtles identified by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.
- Strict vigilance to be maintained
- To follow the Andhra Pradesh model by confiscating the catch and imposing fines on violators, who are getting into the sea during the prohibited sea turtle breeding season.
- To file the report detailing the actions taken against those fishermen violators and to ensure that they may not repeat the same offence in future.

As per the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 13 of 2015(SZ), necessary action has been taken and the following action taken is submitted for kind perusal and consideration of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Implementation of Fishing Restrictions in Protected Zones:

To prevent the fishermen from operating trawler boats, motorised fishing crafts with engine capacity of more than 10 HP and usage of Ray fish nets by the motorized country crafts in the prohibited area during the turtle breeding season the following instructions have been issued to the Coastal Regional Joint/Deputy Directors of Fisheries and Authorized officers/ Asst. Directors of Fisheries vide Memorandum No. Rc. No. 1368 /J6/2024, dated.22.01.2025.

- The Government have issued notification vide G.O.(Ms) No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Department, dated 27.09.2016 and G.O.(Ms).No.62, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Department, dated 10.03.2017 to prohibit the fishing by mechanized fishing vessels, motorized country crafts with engine capacity more than 10 HP and usage of 'ray fish nets' by motorized country crafts and those using mechanized fishing techniques in a radius of 5 (five) nautical miles around potential nesting and breeding

sites of sea turtles identified by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Department of Forest in the coastal areas of Chennai, Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu during the turtle breeding season. (Notification copy enclosed) Use of Ray Fish net during the Turtle Breeding Season should be monitored by conducting regular departmental and joint patrol as per the guidelines of the Task Force constituted for the conservation of sea turtle. Fishing within 5 nautical miles shall be monitored through installed transponders with Nabhmitra Application (ISRO). Hence, the authorized officers have been instructed to file charge sheets against the violators of the above notifications towards sea turtle conservations and also to stop all Government relief assistance and welfare scheme benefits to violators.

- They have also been instructed to conduct awareness campaigns in the fishing villages by involving officials from Forest Department, Fishing Boat Owners Association, NGO's and Village Panchayat Presidents. It is to be ensured that sufficient hoardings are erected in the prominent places of Fishing Harbours (FHs)/ Fish Landing Centers (FLCs)/Fish Landing Places (FLPs) regarding conservation of Sea Turtles.
- The Authorised Officers have been instructed to frame charges under section 17 and penalize under sub section (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(f), (2) and (3) of section 18 of TNMFR Act 1983 for violation of provisions in the act especially during the Turtle breeding season as specified in the notification for protection and conservation of sea turtles.
- Further, it is informed that, 24 x 7 control room is already functioning in the Commissionerate of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Chennai for receiving emergency alerts and other complaints in all 365 days.

Awareness programme

During the period from 17.01.2025 to 25.02.2025 the Authorized officer/ Assistant Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare has conducted 170 awareness programmes on conservation of Sea turtle in the coastal fishermen villages. The district wise awareness programmes conducted are detailed below.

Sl.No	District	ADF office	No of Awareness program conducted
1	Thiruvallur	Thiruvallur	2
2	Chennai	Chennai	4
3	Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu	13
4	Villupuram	Villupuram	14
5	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	7
6	Nagaipattinam	Nagaipattinam	12
7	Mayiladuthurai	Mayiladuthurai	4
8	Thanjavur	Thanjavur	5
9	Thiruvarur	Thiruvarur	6
10	Pudukottai	Pudukottai	6
11	Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi	18
12	Tirunelveli	Radhapuram	7
13	Ramanathapuram	Ramnad North	11
14		Ramnad South	8
15		Mandapam	6
16		Rameshwaram	11
17	Kanyakumari	Chinnamuttom	24
18		Colachel	7
19		Thengapattinam	5
Total			170

Patrolling

The Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare is conducting patrolling to prevent the fishermen from operating trawler boats, motorised fishing crafts with engine capacity of more than 10 HP and usage of Ray fish nets by the motorized country crafts in the prohibited area during the turtle breeding season. In the current turtle Breeding season, the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen has conducted 126 regular patrolling and 36 joint patrolling along the coast of Tamil Nadu. The district wise patrolling is detailed below.

Sl. No.	District	JDF/DDF/ADF office	Regular Patrolling	Joint Patrolling
1	Thiruvallur	JDF, Chennai	26	12
2	Chennai			
3	Chengalpattu			
4	Villupuram	Villupuram	3	2
5	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	5	2
6	Nagaipattinam	Nagaipattinam	3	3
7	Mayiladuthurai	Mayiladuthurai	1	1
8	Thanjavur	Thanjavur	8	0
9	Thiruvarur	Thiruvarur	1	1

Sl. No.	District	JDF/DDF/ADF office	Regular Patrolling	Joint Patrolling
10	Pudukottai	Pudukottai	4	1
11	Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi	2	2
12	Tirunelveli	Radhapuram	6	0
13	Ramanathapuram	Ramnad North	5	4
14		Ramnad South	14	2
15		Mandapam	18	4
16		Rameshwaram	31	0
17	Kanyakumari	Chinnamuttom	1	3
18		Colachel	0	0
19		Thengapattinam	0	0
Total			126	36

Charges framed and fine imposed under TNMFR Act 1983.

Based on the above patrolling and strict vigilance, 336 charge sheets, have been filed against the erring fishing boats from 17.01.2025 to 15.03.2025. In continuation, the Adjudication Officers/ the Joint or Deputy Director of Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare, has made an enquiry and levied fine against the violators as per the TNMFR Act, 1983. In addition, they have ordered to stop the supply of subsidised fuel and issuing fishing token to the boats for venturing to fishing (Temporary Impoundment) until remittance of fine. It is submitted that, 41 fishing boats have been impounded so far. Further, if a boat is impounded for one day, approximately loss to a sum of Rs.1.50 lakh will be incurred against the gross catches.

The Penalty Levied on the Boats contravention of TNMFR Act by adjudicating officer are detailed below.

Sl. No	Name of the ADF office	No of Boats	Amount levied (in Rs)	Amount collected (in Rs)
1	Chennai	50	2,50,000	2,50,000
2	Nagapattinam	34	1,70,000	1,40,000
3	Cuddalore	35	1,75,000	10,000
4	Pudukottai	1	5,000	5,000
5	Ramanathapuram (North)	15	75,000	75,000
6	Ramanathapuram (South)	1	5,000	5,000
7	Thoothukudi	33	1,65,000	1,65,000
Total		169	8,45,000	6,50,000

The proceedings in remaining charge sheets are in the process of adjudication as per section 28 of TNMFR Act 1983 by the concerned Adjudicating officer.

It is submitted that, as per section 4(2) of the TNMFR Act 4, the authorized officer, may by an order, authorize an Inspection Officer to exercise the powers and discharge the duties, for the purpose of registration of fishing vessel, licensing of fishing vessel and to enter, search, seize, any fishing vessel, as may be specified in the order.

Further, the Department of Fisheries has also initiated actions for installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) for protection and conservation of sea turtles before the forthcoming nesting and breeding season of the sea turtles. Copy of the proposal sent to Government in this regard is enclosed for perusal.

However, the fishing boats, which have been charge sheeted are not allowed to venture for fishing until the completion of the proceedings and payment of penalty levied. In addition, the fuel subsidy is also being stopped until all these procedures are completed, which is amounting to Rs.32,000/Month/Boat approximately. Thus, in addition to the penalty amount levied, Non-Issuance of token for fishing /not allowing for fishing, stoppage of fuel subsidy until penalty amount is paid cumulatively acting as huge economic deterrent on erring fishermen.

As directed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the action taken by Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare for protection and conservation of sea turtles has been placed before the Hon'ble NGT. These actions have resulted in the reduction of sea turtle mortality to negligible. Further it has resulted in the resumption of Nesting activities by sea turtles, the number of nests documented was 206, a notable increase from the 162 recorded during the same period last year as reported in the **The Times of India** news article titled "**Olive ridley turtle nest numbers along city's coastline up, experts surprised**" dated Feb 26, 2025.

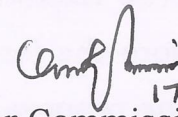
Conclusion:

As directed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the action taken by Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare for protection and conservation of sea turtles been placed before the Hon'ble NGT. Further, the

Department of Fisheries has also initiated actions for installation of TEDs for protection and conservation of sea turtles in the forthcoming nesting and breeding season of the sea turtles. Based on the above facts, it is humbly prayed that the compliance report may kindly be accepted and pass suitable order.

Dated at Chennai on this 17th day of March 2025

Sd/- R.Gajalakshmi
Commissioner
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare


17/03/2025
for Commissioner

Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare

hr
17/3/25

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

From
Thiru. Shunchonngam Jatak Chiru, IAS.,
Principal Secretary / Commissioner of
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare ((FAC)
Integrated Animal Husbandry and
Fisheries Building,
Nandanam, Chennai-600 035

To
The Principal Secretary to
Government,
Animal Husbandry, Dairying and
Fisheries Department,
Chennai – 600 009.

Rc. No. 40337/J5/2014

Dated 29.01.2025

Sir,

- Sub : Marine Fisheries - Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 - request to issue orders - permitting the Authorized officers - to authorize the officers not below the rank of Sub Inspector of Police in the Marine Enforcement Wing / Coastal Security Group and officers not below the rank of Adhikari in the Indian Coast Guard as "inspection officers" - Regarding
- Ref : 1. Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983
2. G.O.Ms.No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Dept, dated 27.09.2016.
3. G.O.Ms.No.62, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Department, dated 10.03.2017.
4. Revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for protection and conservation of sea turtles approved by the Government.
5. This office Memorandum No.40337/J5/2014, dated.22.01.2025.
6. Government of Tamil Nadu, Lr. No. 108/FR.5/2025-4, Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5) Department, dated 27.01.2025
7. Minutes of the meeting on Conservation of Sea Turtle under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government held on 21.01.2025

A news article has been published in "The New Indian Express" daily dated 16.01.2025 titled "Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till January 15" Hence, the National Green Tribunal has registered a Suo-Moto case OA 13 of 2025 in the above said issue.

In this connection, the Chief Secretary to Government conducted a meeting on the conservation of Sea Turtles on 21.01.2025. During the meeting the Chief Secretary has instructed this department to implement the following.

1. Strict implementation of the orders issued in the G.O.(Ms)No.186, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-4) Department, dated 30.09.2015 as no trawler shall be allowed without fixing Turtle Excluder Device (TED) before the Cod end of the trawl net during November to April.
2. Enforcement of the orders issued in the G.O.(Ms)No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Department, dated 27.09.2016.
3. Penal action to be taken by Authorized Officers / Adjudicating Officers of Fisheries Department under Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 for violations of above Government Orders.
4. Commissioner, Fisheries may authorize officials of Coastal Security Group (Sub-inspector of Police and above) and Marine Enforcement Wing to initiate penal action against the violators of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act and Rules.
5. Amendment may be issued to Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act and Rules to make switching off of GPS transponders in fishing boats as an offence
6. All fishing boats in 5 nautical miles may be monitored through GPS technology to analyze their movement and amount of time spent along the coast. Suitable technical platform may be developed for that.
7. Diesel subsidy and other allowances given by Government should not be extended to fishermen who are not fitting TED during the period of November to April.
8. Enforce Ray fish net ban during the period of November to April.
9. Capacity building of departments of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Forests and Research institutions like AIWC and TANUVAS should be done to equip them to deal with turtle mortality.

In this regard, for the above said actionable points 1,2,3,7 & 8 the following instructions have been issued to the Coastal Regional Joint/Deputy Directors of Fisheries and Authorised officers/ Asst. Directors of Fisheries.

1. As per the sub-rule-5 of Rule-17 of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 2020; no trawl net shall be used without fixing turtle excluder Device (TED) before the cod end during the specified period as may be notified by the authorized officer.

Accordingly, all the authorized officers have already been instructed to ensure that the trawl nets are fixed with Turtle Excluder Device (TED) during the period of **1st January to April 30th**. In this regard it is reiterated to ensure that the trawl nets are fixed with Turtle Excluder Device (TED) especially during the above period. Hence, strict vigilance and compliance to be ensured through regular departmental as well as joint patrolling. Any violation should be closely monitored and action to be taken under the provisions of TNMFR Act.

2. The Government have issued notification vide G.O.(Ms)No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Department, dated 27.09.2016 and G.O.Ms.No.62, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Department, dated 10.03.2017 to prohibit the fishing by mechanized fishing vessels, motorized country crafts with engine capacity more than 10 HP and usage of 'ray fish nets' by motorized country crafts and those using mechanized fishing techniques in a radius of 5 (five) nautical miles around potential nesting and breeding sites of sea turtles identified by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Department of Forest in the coastal areas of Chennai, Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu during the turtle breeding season.

Use of Ray Fish net during the Turtle Breeding Season should be monitored by conducting regular departmental and joint patrol with Task Force constituted for the conservation of sea turtle. Fishing within 5 nautical miles shall be monitored through installed transponders with Nabhmitra Application. Hence, the authorized officers are instructed to file charge sheets against the violators of the above notifications towards sea turtle conservations and to stop all Government relief assistance and welfare scheme benefits to violators.

3. Conduct awareness campaigns in the fishing villages by involving officials from Forest Department, Fishing Boat Owners Association, NGO's and Village Panchayat Presidents. It should be ensured that sufficient hoardings are erected in the prominent places of FHs/FLCs/FLPs regarding conservation of Sea Turtles.
4. The Authorised Officers are instructed to frame charges under section 17 and penalize under sub section (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(f), (2) and (3) of section 18 of TNMFR Act 1983 for involving fishing during the Turtle breeding season as specified in the notification for protection and conservation of sea turtles.
6. Immediate technical solution is not available in the present Thoondil and Nabhmitra applications and the technical feasibility will be explored with the application development vendor along with technical guidance of Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Group.

Further, the Authorised officers have been instructed to send the weekly report regarding the patrolling, awareness created, no of charges framed and the details of penalties imposed. In view of conserving the sea turtles to protect the ecological balance of the sea environment and to ensure responsible and sustainable fisheries, the subordinate officers are instructed to pay special attention in the above aspects.

During the meeting on the conservation of Sea Turtles held on 21.01.2025, the Chief Secretary to Government instructed that the Commissioner of Fisheries may authorize officials of the Coastal Security Group (Sub-inspector of Police and above) and Marine Enforcement Wing to initiate penal action against violators of the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act and Rules.

In this connection, I wish to submit that Section 4 of the TNMFR Act 1983 empowers the Government to authorize:

- (a) Any Officer of the Government, not below the rank of "B" group Officer; or
- (b) Any Officer of the Central Government with the consent of that Government

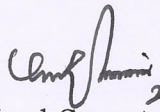
to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of an authorized officer under this Act within a specified area.

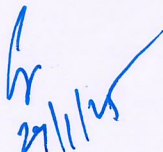
Further, under section 4 (2) of TNMFR Act 1983, the authorized officer, may by an order, authorize an Inspection Officer to exercise the powers and discharge the duties, for the purpose of registration of fishing vessel, licensing of fishing vessel and to enter, search, seize, any fishing vessel, as may be specified in the order. The "inspection officer" means an officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector of Fisheries working under the administrative control of an authorized officer, authorized by an order, to exercise such powers, and discharge such duties, as may be specified in the order.

Hence, I hereby request the Government to kindly issue orders permitting the Authorized officers/ Assistant Director of Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare to authorize the officers not below the rank of Sub Inspector of Police in the Marine Enforcement Wing / Coastal Security Group and officers not below the rank of Adhikari in the Indian Coast Guard as "inspection officers" under the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983. This authorization shall empower these officers to enter, search, and seize any fishing vessel as per the provisions of the Act, excluding those related to the Registration of Fishing Vessels/Boat building yards, fishing net manufacturers or suppliers, Licensing of fishing vessels, and Driving licenses for mechanized fishing vessels."

Orders to permit the Authorised Officer/ Assistant Director of Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare to authorise the Inspection Officers		
S. No	Enforcement Wing and Security Agency	Officers Rank
1.	Marine Enforcement Wing, Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare	Officers not below the rank of Sub – Inspector of Police
2.	Coastal Security Group, Tamil Nadu Police	Officers not below the rank of Sub – Inspector of Police
3.	Indian Coast Gurad	Officers not below the rank Adhikari

Sd/ Shunchonngam Jatak Chiru
Principal Secretary / Commissioner,
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare ((FAC))


29/01/2025
for Principal Secretary / Commissioner,
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare ((FAC))


29/1/25

Copy to

1. The Additional Director General of Police, Coastal Security Group – CID Headquarters, Tamil Nadu Police DGP Office Complex, Mylapore Chennai – 600004.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department), Forest Headquarters Building, Near Kannikapuram Check post, Guindy-Velachery main road, Guindy, Chennai 600 032
3. The Commandant, Indian Coast Guard Region (East), Headquarters, Near, Napier Bridge, Chennai-9
4. The Superintendent of Police, Marine Enforcement Wing, Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Chennai 35

Office of the Director, Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare Department, Chennai – 600 035.

Rc. No. 1368 /J6/2024

Dated 22.01.2025

MEMORANDUM

Sub : Marine Fisheries - Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 – W.P.No. 1499 of 2015 (Suo Motu PIL) filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras – Sea Turtle Breeding Season 2025 – Instructions issued.

Ref : 1. W.P.No. 1499 of 2015 (Suo Motu PIL) filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras.
2. G.O.Ms.No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Dept, dated 27.09.2016.
3. G.O.Ms.No.62, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Department, dated 10.03.2017.
4. Revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for protection and conservation of sea turtles approved by the Government.
5. This office Memorandum No.40337/J5/2014, dated.03.11.2017, 11.01.2023.

The attention of Coastal Regional Joint/Deputy Directors of Fisheries, Authorised officers is invited to the references cited.

As you are aware that "Sea Turtles" which are endangered species and protected under Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The Government has approved the revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for protection and conservation of Sea Turtles and the same has been submitted to Hon'ble High Court of Madras. Copy of the approved SOP has also been communicated to the Subordinate officers vide this office memo 5th cited. Further, the Coastal Assistant Directors of Fisheries were requested to take necessary action as requested earlier as mentioned in the SOP.

A news article has been published in "The New Indian Express" daily dated 16.01.2025 titled "Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till January 15" and it is reported that with bulging eyes and swollen necks, carcasses of endangered Olive Ridley turtles have been floating in

the open sea off Chennai. More than 350 dead turtles beached up ashore between Marine and Kovalam in just 15 days, making a record number of death in the last 2 decades. Hence, the National Green Tribunal has registered a Suo-Motu case in the above said issue.

In these connection, the Chief Secretary to Government has conducted a meeting on the conservation of Sea Turtles on 21.01.2024. During the meeting the Chief Secretary has instructed this department to implement the following.

1. Strict implementation of the orders issued in the G.O.(Ms)No.186, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-4) Department, dated 30.09.2015 as no trawler shall be allowed without fixing Turtle Excluder Device (TED) before the Cod end of the trawl net during November to April.
2. Enforcement of the orders issued in the G.O.(Ms)No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Department, dated 27.09.2016.
3. Penal action to be taken by Authorized Officers / Adjudicating Officers of Fisheries Department under Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 for violations of above Government Orders.
4. Diesel subsidy and other allowances given by Government should not be extended to fishermen who are not fitting TED during the period of November to April.
5. Enforce Ray fish net ban during the period of November to April.

In this regard, the following instructions are issued to the Coastal Regional Joint/Deputy Directors of Fisheries and Authorised officers/ Asst. Directors of Fisheries.

1. As per the sub-rule-5 of Rule-17 of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 2020; no trawl net shall be used without fixing turtle excluder Device (TED) before the cod end during the specified period as may be notified by the authorized officer.

Accordingly, all the authorized officers have already been instructed to ensure that the trawl nets are fixed with Turtle Excluder Device (TED) during the period of **1st January to April 30th**. In this regard it is reiterated to ensure that the trawl nets are fixed with Turtle Excluder Device (TED) especially during the above period. Hence, strict compliance to be ensured through regular departmental as well as joint patrolling. Any violation should be closely monitored and action to be taken under the provisions of TNMFR Act.

2. The Government have issued notification vide G.O.(Ms)No.146, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (FS-3) Department, dated 27.09.2016 and G.O.Ms.No.62, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (Fs-3) Department, dated 10.03.2017 to prohibit the fishing by mechanized fishing vessels, motorized country crafts with engine capacity more than 10 HP and usage of 'ray fish nets' by motorized country crafts and those using mechanized fishing techniques in a radius of 5 (five) nautical miles around potential nesting and breeding sites of sea turtles identified by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Department of Forest in the coastal areas of Chennai, Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts of Tamil Nadu during the turtle breeding season.

Use of Ray Fish net during the Turtle Breeding Season should be monitored by conducting regular departmental and joint patrol with Task Force constituted for the conservation of sea turtle. Fishing within 5 nautical miles shall be monitored through installed transponders with Nabhmitra Application. Hence, the authorized officers are instructed to file charge sheets against the violators of the above notifications towards sea turtle conservations and to stop all Government relief assistance and welfare scheme benefits to violators.

3. Conduct awareness campaigns in the fishing villages by involving officials from Forest Department, Fishing Boat Owners Association,

NGO's and Village Panchayat Presidents. It should be ensured that sufficient hoardings are erected in the prominent places of FHs/FLCs/FLPs regarding conservation of Sea Turtles.

4. The Authorised Officers are instructed to frame charges under section 17 and penalize under sub section (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(f), (2) and (3) of section 18 of TNMFR Act 1983 for involve fishing during the Turtle breeding season as specified in the notification for protection and conservation of sea turtles.

In this connection the Authorised officers are instructed to send the weekly report regarding the patrolling, awareness created, no of charges framed and the details of penalties imposed. In view of conserving the sea turtles to protect the ecological balance of the sea environment and to ensure responsible and sustainable fisheries, the subordinate officers are instructed to pay special attention in the above aspects. In this regard, strict adherence to the above instructions is expected. Any lapses will be viewed seriously and the officers concerned will be held responsible.

Amal Shrivastava
for Director 22/01/2025

Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare

To

The Joint Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare (Regional),
Chennai, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi

The Deputy Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare (Regional),
Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Ramanathapuram, Kanniyakumari

The Assistant Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare

Tiruvallur, FHMW-Chennai, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore,
Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai,
Ramanathapuram North, Ramanathapuram South, Mandapam,
Rameswaram, FHMW-Thoothukudi, Radhapuram, Kanniyakumari,
Colachel, Thengaipattanam.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.13 of 2025 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion - SUO MOTU based on the News item in The New Indian Express newspaper, Chennai e-edition dated 16.01.2025, titled, "Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till January 15".

Versus

Union of India, Represented by its Secretary,
MOEF & CC, New Delhi and ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY 5TH RESPONDENT-
THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARECHENNAI.**

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(Note: The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



Through
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 17.03.2025