

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 WELFARE ,CHENNAI.

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

DATE: 01.06.2025

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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**

The Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, 3rd Floor,
Integrated Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Building, Nandanam, Chennai -
600 035 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-Moto
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 18.03.2025 to
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare.

- To implement in Tamil Nadu the approach of Odisha, to involve the
Coast Guard during the Breeding season of the olive Ridley Turtles.
- To Provide the modifications made to TED and Status of Research.
- The preventive measures the government intends to implement for
the upcoming seasons.

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 is submitted for kind perusal and consideration of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

1. Engaging the Coast guard and Coastal Security Group Police

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. In the said meeting, among the other instructions the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu has directed to authorize officials of Coastal Security Group and the officials in the Indian Coast Guard, to initiate penal action against the violators of Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act and Rules.

It is to inform 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.

In this regard a proposal has been submitted to government for 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 Coastal Security Group and the Indian Coast Guard as "inspection officers" under the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983 vide letter No 40337/J6/2014 dated 29.01.2025 and is in the process of Government.

2. Status of Turtle Excluder Device

An indigenous TED model has been developed by the CIFT, with this Model Government of India is taking steps to implement a scheme under PMMSY for providing TED to Fishing Boats throughout India. A first round of discussion regarding the implementation scheme in all the maritime states took place on 19.03.2025 under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Marine), Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India.

3. Steps to be taken in upcoming sea turtle breeding season

1. Implementation of Fishing Restrictions in Protected Zones

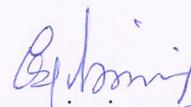
- To prevent the fishermen from operating trawler boats, motorised fishing crafts with engine capacity of more than 10 HP and usage of Ray fish nets by the motorized country crafts in the prohibited area during the turtle breeding season
2. Awareness campaigns will be conducted in all fishing villages by involving officials from Forest Department, Fishing Boat Owners Association, NGO's and Village Panchayat Presidents.
 3. Sufficient hoardings will be erected in the prominent places of Fishing Harbor s/Fish Landing Centers/ Fish Landing Points regarding conservation of Sea Turtles.
 4. 24*7 control room of the Commissionerate of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Chennai will be effectively utilized for receiving emergency alerts and other complaints regarding Sea turtle conservation activities.
 5. Regular patrolling will be conducted in advance to the turtle breeding season to prevent violation under TNMFR act.
 6. Government of Tamil Nadu will actively participate in the implementation of TED implementation scheme of the Government of India.

It is submitted that Mr. Arnav Sinha has filed a civil appeal CA. 288/2021 in Supreme Court of India with respect to implementation of TED in trawl boats in India.

In the above case Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Fisheries, Government of India and Director of Fisheries of all coastal states are respondents. The Hon'ble Supreme court has appointed two independent lawyers as Amicus Curiae. The Counter Affidavit has been filed by Director of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu for the above case and the case is pending.

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 8th day of
April 2025


 for Commissioner,
 Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare


 8/4/25