

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE

AT CHENNAI

OA No 13 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS NEWS PAPER CHENNAI E-EDITION
DATED. 16.01.2025 TITLED, "EXPERTS ARE ALARMED AS 350 TURTLES WAS
ASHORE DEAD TILL JANUARY 2025"**

..... Applicant

Vs

UNION OF INDIA & OTHERS

.... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE FISHERIES RESPONDENT NO 7

DATE - 06.02.2025



**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE**

STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Report to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai on SUO MOTU Original Application No.13 of 2025 (SZ) 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 2025"

This is to submit that the following matter of environmental importance was highlighted, published in the newspaper namely The New Indian Express newspaper Chennai e-edition dated 16th January 2025, titled "Experts are alarmed as 350 turtles was ashore dead till January 15". It is reported that with bulging eyes and swollen necks, carcasses of endangered Olive Ridley turtle have been floating in the open sea, off Chennai. More than 350 dead turtles have beached up ashore between the Marina and Kovalam in just 15 days, marking a record number of deaths in the last two decades. Neither the forest department nor the fisheries or coast guard authorities have definite answers on the cause of these deaths was heard by the Hon'ble NGT, Southern Bench, Chennai on 31.01.2025 and directed to send detailed report (in the Hon'ble NGT Format). The Hon'ble NGT issued the following order on 31.01.2025.

"9. It has been reported in the dailies that the carcass of the turtles might have been carried from the Andhra Coast. To eliminate any doubt, whether the turtles could have died in the Andhra High Seas and floated to Tamil Nadu, the Fisheries Department of Andhra Pradesh and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests – Andhra Pradesh are impleaded as additional Respondents Nos.7 and 8, who are also directed to file their report on or before 07.02.2025.

10. Let notice be issued to the newly added respondents through the Tribunal. Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy, the learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of Respondents Nos.7 and 8.

11. Let the Government of Tamil Nadu and the departments concerned give us the deaths reported on a daily basis from 17.01.2025 till today and the action taken to arrest such untimely or unnatural deaths of turtles.

12. Post the matter on 07.02.2025.”

In this regard, it is submitted that in Andhra Pradesh only 1200 Mechanised boats are operating in the coast of Andhra Pradesh which is using trawl nets. Vide G.O.Ms. No. 114, Dt.08.09.2001 cited that trawlers which are engaged in fishing without Turtle Excluder device (TED) shall be liable for confiscation of the entire catch and impose a fine of Rs.2,500 only. Further to implement the TED, provisions were included in the Andhra Pradesh Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1995. However, till today the TEDs are not available in the market for procurement by the fishermen.

it is submitted that, there are no Mechanised fishing boats after the Nizampatnam Fishing harbour which is 400 KM away from the Tamil Nadu coast, Hence, the reports furnished by the Tamil Nadu Government are very bleak, that the carcasses may be floated to Tamil Nadu from Andhra Pradesh and it has to be decided by the Oceanographic organisation based on the movement of the ocean currents and winds.

Further it is submitted that, Trespassing of Tamil Nadu Mechanised fishing boats into the territorial waters of Andhra Pradesh especially the southern districts of AP i.e., Tirupathi, Nellore, Prakasam and Bapatla Districts is a long-time issue and till today 145 cases were reported. This issue was addressed by the GoAP in the 29th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council held on 14.11.2021 and 12th Standing Committee meeting held on 28.05.2022 at Thiruvananthapuram for an amicable solution between the state of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, regular correspondence has been taking place between the State of

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Further, the same was placed in the Southern Regional Fisheries Management Council constituted for addressing the inter-state issues by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. Accordingly, Government of Tamil Nadu has initiated action on Mechanized boat with registration No. IND-TN-02-MM-2589, which has indulged in fishing activities in territorial waters of Andhra Pradesh, reported on 22.09.2024 at Kothapatnam FLC of Prakasam District by the fisheries department of Andhra Pradesh and FIR has been filed at SHO Kothapatnam.

it is submitted that, the Department of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh is regularly creating awareness to the Marine fishers in coordination with forest department, Marine Police, Coast Guard and local NGOs regarding the importance of the Olive Ridley turtles in the marine ecosystem. Further, Department of Fisheries is assisting the forest department for collecting the eggs of turtles and to keep them in safe place for hatching during the breeding seasons of the turtles.

It is submitted that, the compliance action has been furnished to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden Andhra Pradesh against his letter Dt.07.01.2025. In this connection, it is informed that, CIFT and NOAA (National Oceanic & atmospheric administration) of USA has been furnished the new model design and it is under trials. Soon after the approval by the competent authority, the department will ensure the implementation of TEDs in the trawlers.

This report is submitted for kind consideration. The Fisheries Department will abide by all such directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.



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A 5/2/25