

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE AT
CHENNAI**

Application No. 152 of 2023

Kumaresan Sooluran

...Applicant

Vs

The Tamilnadu Coastal Zone Management Authority
& Ors

...Respondents

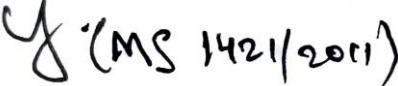
Memo filed on behalf of the Applicant

The Applicant respectfully submits as follows:

1. The Ennore fishers, ever since the infestation (Kaakka Aazhi) was identified, have been working with the authorities in helping them conduct surveys, collect samples and assisting in studies.
2. At the risk of repetition, it is submitted that their entire livelihood, which is dependent on the health of the backwater, is severely impacted. The mussels, apart from making the river and backwater un-navigable, have destroyed the breeding grounds of prawns, fishes and native mussels.
3. The matter has been pending for more than a year and it has been more than a year since the Fisheries Department itself, based on the report of the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Fisheries College and Research Institute and the Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalithaa Fisheries University, decided to dredge the backwater and the river to remove the mussels. However, no action has been taken, and the Respondents are now suggesting that another study for over three months be undertaken. In this regard, it is submitted that
 - i. Dredging the area would result in the following:
 - a. Removal of the Kaakka Aazhi present, and make the waterbody navigable.

- b. It would reduce the intensity of infestation of the Kaakka Aazhi in the waterbody.
 - c. During the monsoon, the spread of the Kaakka Aazhi would be reduced.
 - ii. Dredging is not a permanent solution, but a necessary step to address the problem. Dredging will have to be repeated as necessary.
 - iii. The study suggested for remediation of the wetland and the control of the Kaakka Aazhi has to go on parallelly.
 - iv. A programme for eco restoration of the wetland to address the infestation has to be implemented based on such studies. Such measures are not meant in lieu of measures like dredging to remove the Kaakka Aazhi from the backwater, but in addition to such measures.
4. The Kaakka Aazhi dies when exposed to sunlight. The dredged material only has to be transported to dry land and dumped, where sunlight will kill the Kaakka Aazhi, and the material can be taken to any lime kiln / cement industry. The disposal of the mussels (which will decompose swiftly) on dry land will not cause any problem whatsoever.
5. It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to direct the Respondents to forthwith commence dredging the subject area and conduct the proposed studies parallelly, to evolve a permanent solution to the infestation, and thus render justice.

Dated this the 9th day of September, 2024 at Chennai

 (MS 1421/2011)

Counsel for the Applicant