

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No.152 of 2023 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Thiru. Kumaresan Sooluran  
Thiruvallur.

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone  
Management Authority,  
Rep by its Member Secretary,  
Chennai and ors.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY 4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT-**  
**TAMILNADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY**

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

**DATE: 28.11.2024**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 152 of 2023 (SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Kumaresan Sooluran

Aged about 44 years,

Kathivakkam,

Ennore Thermal station,

Thiruvallur-600057

**...Applicant(s)**

**-Versus-**

The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority

Rep by its Member Secretary

Chennai and others.

**...Respondent(s)**

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 4<sup>th</sup> RESPONDENT i.e., MEMBER  
SECRETARY, TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY**

I, Mr. Deepak Srivastava, I.F.S., Son of (late) Shri. Gopal Krishnan Srivastava, aged about 59 years, working as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority at Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet Chennai-600 015 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

- 1) It is humbly submitted that, I am the 4<sup>th</sup> respondent herein and such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case, on the basis of official records, and as such authorized and competent to file this report.

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Member Secretary  
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority  
Chennai-15

- 2) It is humbly submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) on 25.10.2024, directed the State Government to remove *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi) from three locations i.e., Kattupalli, Puzhuthivakkam and Athipattu, areas. In order to comply with the direction of the Hon'ble Tribunal, a meeting was convened under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu on 11.11.2024, wherein the Chief Secretary to the Government directed the Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department to immediately commence the dredging works in Kattupalli, Puzhuthivakkam and Athipattu areas in consultation with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (A copy of the minutes of the meeting is enclosed as **Annexure -1**). Accordingly, the Water Resources Department vide its status report (Copy enclosed as **Annexure -2**) has informed that as per the National Green Tribunal order in OA.No. 08 of 2016 dated 21.12.2017, Water Resources Department (WRD) has proposed to dredge 1.7 km of Athipattu area between Ennore Creek flyover and the North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) main gate for an amount of Rs 28.00 Crores.
- 3) It is humbly submitted that, as a followup of the meeting convened by the Chief Secretary to Government, a joint inspection was conducted by the Assistant Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, Water Resources Department (WRD), National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Development (NCSCM), Chennai and the Dr. M.G.R Fisheries College and Dr. J.Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, Ponneri along with local fisherfolk on 21.11.2024 in the aforementioned 1.7 Kms stretch which is proposed to be dredged by the Water Resources Department (WRD).

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Member Secretary  
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority  
Chennai-15

- 4) It is humbly submitted that, the Water Resources Department has informed that, formation of pit work is in progress and one dredger has been deployed in the Kosasthalaiyar backwater and the dredging work will be commenced in full-fledged manner from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This dredging will ensure that the charru mussel spread in the Ennore creek and backwater of 1.7 km shall be physically removed.
- 5) It is humbly submitted that, the biological control of *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi) shall be a long-term solution to control the spread of Kaaka Aazhil which has never been attempted in the State of Tamil Nadu. Keeping in view the rapid multiplication of the *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi), the biological control method shall be implemented on pilot basis in the selectively dredged area and the effectiveness of biological control of the *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi) shall also be validated during this pilot study. The two-pronged strategy proposed for controlling the spread of *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi) by the State Government for improving the livelihood of the local fisher folk is as follows: -
- (i) Dredging of Kattupalli, Puzhuthivakkam & Athipattu areas
  - (ii) Benchmarking of the current invasion by *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi) and the biological control of the *Mytella strigata* Kaaka Aazhi) in the dredged area as a pilot study.

The response submitted by this answering respondent may kindly be accepted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai and render justice.

  
**DEPONENT**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Member Secretary  
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority  
Chennai-15

**VERIFICATION**

I, the above named deponent do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct on the basis of official record maintained by the Respondent No. 4, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Chennai on this the 28 day of November, 2024.

**DEPONENT**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Member Secretary  
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority  
Chennai-15

**C.No.2691/EC.3/2024**

**E,CC&F(EC.3) Dept.,**

**Minutes of the meeting convened on 11.11.2024 at Chief Secretary Conference Hall, 2nd floor, Secretariat, Chennai under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government, for discussion on O.A.No. 152 of 2023 (SZ) in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.**

The list of participants is attached at annexure

A meeting was convened by the Chief Secretary to Government, regarding the orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) on removal of South American Mussels in the O.A.No. 152 of 2023 (SZ) filed by Kumaresan Sooluran vs Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority Rep by its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority apprised the Chief Secretary about the action taken on the directions given during the last meeting regarding the control of *Mytella strigata* (kaaka aazhi). Further, he apprised the Chief Secretary that the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai has given the proposal for the chemical control of the invasive mussel which may adversely affect the aquatic ecosystem in Kosasthalaiyar River and therefore the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Chennai has been requested to expedite the proposal for the biological control of the *Mytella strigata* (kaaka aazhi).

He also mentioned that based upon the discussions held with the experts from Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Chennai, the biological control method would yield successful results only in the dredged area since the multiplication rate of *Mytella strigata* is very high and any attempt to biologically control the *Mytella strigata* without dredging will be a wasteful exercise.

After the detailed deliberations, following instructions were issued by the Chief Secretary

- i. The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department should immediately start dredging in Kattupalli, Puzhuthivakkam & Athipattu areas as per the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) order dated 25.10.2024 and while doing so the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority should be consulted for starting the dredging works in the area which is heavily infested with the *Mytella strigata* (kaaka aazhi). A quick baseline study is to be done before starting the work to measure impact.

- ii. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority should obtain the proposal for the biological control of the *Mytella strigata* (kaaka aazhi) from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Chennai and Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai and ensure that the study for the biological control commences in the dredged area immediately. The Scientific Experts from Fisheries college and Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University should also associate themselves with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Chennai to sharpen their technical knowledge about the biological control of *Mytella strigata* (kaaka aazhi) for using it in other affected areas.
- iii. The Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department shall coordinate with Water Resources Department and the Environment Climate Change and Forest Department for preparing a consolidated report. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority should file the consolidated status report on the action taken by the State Government on the control of the *Mytella strigata* (kaaka aazhi) to National Green Tribunal before the next hearing on 29.11.2024.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair.

**N. MURUGANANDAM**  
**CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

**//True Copy//**

  
**Section Officer**

S. G.  
19/11/24

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**In the Chair: Thiru N. Muruganandam, IAS., Chief Secretary to Government**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Dr. K. Manivasan, I.A.S.,	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Water Resources Department
2	Thiru. Satyabrata Sahoo I.A.S.,	Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department
3	Dr. P. Senthil Kumar I.A.S.,	Principal Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate change & Forest Department
4	Thiru. Deepak Srivastava I.F.S.,	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
5	Tmt. J.P. Irene Cynthia, I.A.S.,	Managing Director, Kamaraj Port Limited
6	Thiru. Sathish	Manager, Kattupalli Port Trust
7	Thiru. G. Kiran I.F.S.,	Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wetland)
8	Thiru. R. Vidyadhar I.F.S.,	Assistant Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
9	Er. Janaki	Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chennai Region, Chennai
10	Er. Podupani Thilagam	Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Palar Circle, Chennai.
11	Er. Delip Kumar	Assistant Engineer, Water Resources Department
12	Selvi. S. Meenalochani	Deputy Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department
13	Tmt. Reena Selvi	Joint Director, Fisheries (Research)
14	Tmt. Padmavathi	Assistant Director, Fisheries
15	Dr. D. Shanmuganathan	Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu, National Green tribunal (SZ)

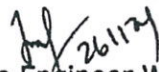
**Status Report in respect of Original Application No.152/2023 in  
National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone)**

1. The charru mussel, scientifically known as *Mytella strigata*, is an invasive species that has been increasingly reported in Kosasthalaiyar Backwater and Ennore Creek. The proliferation of Charru Mussels, Microbes and algae which is harmful impact on the water bodies and marine eco system and the growth of Charru Mussels leads severe threaten to endemic species diversity of brackish water.
2. The Hon'ble Green Tribunal (SZ) O.A.No.152/2023 order dated 08.08.2024 has directed the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamilnadu along with expert committee members to mitigate the spreading of the charru mussels in Kosasthalaiyar Backwater.
3. In this regard on 22.08.2024 the Chief Secretary has convened a meeting for mitigation of further spread of charru mussels in the Kosasthalaiyar Backwater and action taken report on prevention of invasive species "Kaaka Azhi".
4. Based on the direction of Hon'ble, National Green Tribunal (SZ), Engineers of WRD has inspected Kosasthalaiyar river and Ennore Backwater region on 28.09.2024 & 29.09.2024 and it was observed that the flow of water is smooth.

5. During recent rains in Chennai and surrounding districts has resulted in higher discharges in Kosasthalaiyar River, complicating the Kaaka Azhi removal operations. High water levels can make it difficult for machinery like poclains mounted over float platform to operate effectively, as they require stable ground conditions to function safely and efficiently. This environmental factor has hindered ongoing efforts to remove the mussel.
6. The intervention of dredging the backwaters of Kosasthalaiyar River and nearby areas will remove the Kaaka Azhi (Charru Mussels) from Kosasthalaiyar River and Ennore Creek area. It will enhance the tidal influx into the Kosasthalaiyar Backwaters and Marine Ecosystem, thereby improving the rich biodiversity of flora and fauna and enrich the breeding of prawn, crab and molluscan species like shells, calms etc., which will support the livelihood of local inland fisherman community.
7. Meanwhile as per the National green tribunal order in W.P.No. 08 of 2016 dated 21.12.2017 WRD has proposed to dredge the backwaters of the Kosasthalaiyar River & nearby areas of Athipattu and Ennore Creek from LS 0m to 1700m for an amount of Rs 28.00 Crore as second phase of the work from the deposit by North Chennai Thermal Power Station. This dredging will be ensuring that the charru mussel spread in the Ennore creek and backwater from LS 0m to 1700m will be physically removed. This action of dredging will alleviate the

ecological Impact created by "Kaaka Azhi "(Charru Mussel) In these reaches.

8. As per the Instruction of the Chief secretary, Government of Tamilnadu a baseline survey was conducted by Tamilnadu Wetland Authority of India at Ennore site on 20.11.24 along with this Department officials. This baseline study will be used as pilot study for prevention of charru mussels In this stretch of Kosasthalaiyar Backwater and Ennore creek. Based on this pilot study, the efficiency of the eradication of the charru mussels before and after the dredging work will be ascertained and further extension of this dredging activity will be planned in the remaining stretches of Kosasthalaiyar Backwater upto Pulicate lake.
9. In this regards, the agreement was awarded to the Contractor firm. As on now, formation of pit work is in progress and one dredger has been deployed in the Kosasthalaiyar backwater at LS 0m (Ennore road bridge) and the dredging work will be commenced in full-fledged from 30 th November 24.
10. Despite these challenges, the WRD continues its efforts under the Honorable National Green Tribunal's direction.

  
Executive Engineer, WRD,  
Araniyar Basin Division ,  
Chepauk, Chennai-05