

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 4TH RESPONDENT-

TAMILNADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY

INDEX

S. No.	Date	Description	Page No.
1	18.02.2025	Status Report Filed By The 4 th Respondent- Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority.	1-3
2	17.02.2025	Annexure 1- WRD Report	4-5
3	12.02.2025	Communication Letter- From, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Authority. To, DR M.G.R fisheries College and Research Institute.	6-7

4	12.02.2025	Communication Letter- From, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Authority. To, National Central for Sustainable Coastal Management.	8-9
5.	26.12.2024	Communication Letter- From, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Authority. To, Water Resource Department.	10-13
6.	18.12.2024	Annexure 5- Field Inspection Report.1	14-17

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: 18.02.2025

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)**AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE 4th RESPONDENT i.e. MEMBER SECRETARY, TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY**

I, Sri G. Kiran, I.F.S., Son of M. Govinda Raju, aged about 38 years, working as the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wetland), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority at Panagal Maligai, Saidapet Chennai- 600015 on behalf of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows: -

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

- 2) It is humbly submitted that, the Water Resources Department vide status report dated 17.02.2025 has informed that the dredging work has been completed in 500 m stretch in the 1.7 km area of Athipattu village between Ennore Creek flyover and the North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) main gate and the work shall be completed by April 2025 (A copy of the status report of Water Resources Department is enclosed as **Annexure - 1**).
- 3) It is humbly submitted that, based on joint field inspection on 18.12.2024, with Water Resources Department, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, Dr. MGR Fisheries College, Ponneri and local fisher folk, infested area of 1.5 Km has been communicated to Water Resources Department (WRD) for initiating dredging in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam villages vide this Office Ref. No. TNSWA2/236/2024 dated 26.12.2024 (Copy of the letter is enclosed as **Annexure - 2**).
- 4) It is humbly submitted that, based on the proposals received from various reputed institutes for the pilot study to control / eradicate invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in the Ennore Creek, the work has been awarded to the following institutions, vide this Office Ref. Nos. TNSWA2/35/2025, TNSWA2/36/2025, and TNSWA2/37/2025, dated 12.02.2025 (Copy of the letters is enclosed as **Annexure - 3**): -

Sl. No	Work component	Institution
1.	Mapping of Invasive Mussel, <i>Mytella strigata</i> in Ennore Creek	National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai
2.	Controlling the spread of invasive Mussel, <i>Mytella strigata</i> in dredged areas of Ennore Creek, Chennai through re-occurrence assessment, eradication strategies and ecosystem restoration in Ennore Creek.	Dr. MGR Fisheries College, Ponneri

3.	Value addition from invasive Charru Mussel (<i>Mytella strigata</i>) in Ennore Creek	Dr. MGR Fisheries College, Ponneri
----	--	------------------------------------

The aforementioned studies shall help in identifying the extend & intensity of the area infested by the invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in Ennore Creek, provide strategies to control / eradicate the invasive Charru Mussel and shall also provide alternate livelihood opportunities to the local communities through value addition of the invasive Charru Mussel.


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


DEPONENT
 Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland)
 O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
 Forests and Member Secretary
 Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
 Chennai

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 18th day of February, 2025.


DEPONENT
 Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland)
 O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
 Forests and Member Secretary
 Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
 Chennai

Inputs for submission of Status Report Original Application No.152/2023 before 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 has a harmful impact on the water bodies and marine eco system and the growth of Charru Mussels leads to severe threats to endemic species diversity of brackish water.

2. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) O.A.No.152/2023 has directed the Water resources department to dredge the charru mussels in Kosasthalaiyar Backwater.

3. In compliance to the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A.No.8/2016 dated: 21.12.2016 the Water Resources Department (WRD) has taken up the work on dredging of Kosasthalaiyar backwater from L.S.0m to 1700m to remove the fly ash deposited in the backwater area for an estimate amount of Rs.28.00 Crores. In this intervention along with flyash, the charru mussels from the Kosasthalaiyar backwater from L.S.0m to 1700m will also be removed. The work commenced on 28.11.2024 and the work is in Progress and completed dredging upto 500m, which is expected to complete by April 2025.

4. In this regard on 18.12.2024 as part of the preparatory work for the dredging operations in the Puzhuthivakkam and Kattupalli region, Tamilnadu Wetland Mission Authorities and officers from the Water Resources Department (WRD) conducted baseline data collection. Following this on 03.01.2025 a meeting chaired by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests discussed biological control methods for managing Charru Mussels.

5. Based on the findings of baseline pilot study conducted by wetland mission authority along with Dr.M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri, National Centre for sustainable coastal management and Water Resources Department officials for identification intensity of charru mussels spreading in backwater area to locate the vulnerable areas, the proposal for further intervention will be formulated for removal of charru mussels Puzhuthivakkam and Kattupalli village.

July 17 2025
Executive Engineer, WRD.,
Araniyar Basin Division,
Chepauk, Chennai-5.



தமிழ்நாடு மாநில ஈரநில ஆணையம்
TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY



From

To

Thiru. Deepak Srivastava, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai – 600015.

The Dean,
Dr MGR Fisheries College &
Research Institute,
Ponneri
Government of India,
Chennai.

Ref.No.TNSWA2/36/2025, Dated:12.02.2025

Sir / Madam,

Sub: Wetlands – O.A. No 152 of 2023 filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) – Controlling the spread of Invasive Mussels, *Mytellastrigata* in Dredged Areas of Ennore Creek, Chennai through Re-occurrence assessment, eradication strategies, and ecosystem restoration in Ennore Creek in dredged area by Water Resource Department - Quotation received – Acceptance - Regarding.

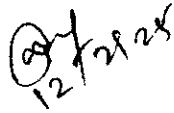
- Ref:**
- i. Orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in O.A. No. 152 of 2023, dated 25.10.202 & 29.11.2024.
 - ii. The Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Palar Basin Circle, letter No. AEE(T)/AE/F.NGT 152 (Charru Mussel)/2024, dated 11/11/2024
 - iii. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority Ref.No.TNSWA2/236/2024, Dated: 03.01.2025.
 - iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority Ref.No.TNSWA2/236/2024, Dated: 22.01.2025.
 - v. Letter from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, MoEF&CC, GOI, Chennai, Dated: 23.01.2024.
 - vi. Letter from the Dean, Dr. MGR Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri, Dated: 24.01.2025.
 - vii. Letter from the Professor & Head, University of Madras, Department of Zoology, Chennai, Dated: 29.01.2025.

This is to inform that your proposal, Dated 24.01.2025 for the work for Value addition from invasive Charru Mussels (*Mytella strigata*) in Ennore Creek -Tamil Nadu " at the cost of Rs. 11,11,500/- (Rupees Eleven lakhs, Eleven thousand and Five hundred only) (including GST) is hereby accepted.

2) You are hereby requested to furnish Security Deposit for an amount equivalent to 2% of the quote value within 3 days from the receipt of this Letter of Acceptance. You are also required to execute an agreement for fulfilment of the contract in a Rs.200/- Judicial Stamp Paper.

3) You are informed that this is only the letter of acceptance of your quote. Formal work order for the above said work will be issued after execution of agreement.


for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority


12/2/25



தமிழ்நாடு மாநில ஈரநில ஆணையம்
TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY



From

Thiru. Deepak Srivastava, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai – 600015.

To

The Director,
National Sustainable Coastal Management
Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change,
Government of India,
Chennai.

Ref.No.TNSWA2/35/2025, Dated:12.02.2025

Sir / Madam,

Sub: Wetlands – Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission - OA No 152 of 2023 in National Green Tribunal (SZ) – Mapping of invasive Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in Ennore Creek in the area dredged by Water Resources Department - Quotation received – Acceptance - Regarding.

- Ref:**
- i. Orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in O.A. No. 152 of 2023, dated 25.10.202 & 29.11.2024.
 - ii. The Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Palar Basin Circle, letter No. AEE(T)/AE/F.NGT 152 (Charru Mussel)/2024, dated 11/11/2024
 - iii. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority Ref.No.TNSWA2/236/2024, Dated: 03.01.2025.
 - iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority Ref.No.TNSWA2/236/2024, Dated: 22.01.2025.
 - v. Letter from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, MoEF&CC, GOI, Chennai, Dated: 23.01.2024.
 - vi. Letter from the Dean, Dr. MGR Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri, Dated: 24.01.2025.
 - vii. Letter from the Professor & Head, University of Madras, Department of Zoology, Chennai, Dated: 29.01.2025.

This is to inform that your proposal, Dated 23.01.2025 for the work for "Mapping of Invasive American / Charru Mussel *Mytella strigata* in Ennore Creek, Tamil Nadu " at the cost of Rs.6,73,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs, Seventy Three Thousand only) (including GST) is hereby accepted.

2) You are hereby requested to furnish Security Deposit for an amount equivalent to 2% of the quote value within 3 days from the receipt of this Letter of Acceptance. You are also required to execute an agreement for fulfilment of the contract in a Rs.200/- Judicial Stamp Paper.

3) You are informed that this is only the letter of acceptance of your quote. Formal work order for the above said work will be issued after execution of agreement.


for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority

@y
12/1/25



தமிழ்நாடு மாநில ஈரநில ஆணையம்
TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY



From

Thiru.Deepak Srivastava, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai – 600 015

To

The Superintending Engineer,
Water Resources Department
Palar Basin Circle, Chapauk,
Chennai - 600005

Ref.No.TNSWA2/236/2024, Dated: 26.12.2024

Sir,

Sub: Wetlands – Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission - OA No 152 of 2023 in National Green Tribunal (SZ) – Control / eradication of Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in Ennore Creek & Pulicat Wetlands – Demarcation of Charru mussel infested area in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam villages – initiation of Dredging – Requested - Regarding.

Ref:

- i. The Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department Lr.NO.DB/JDO.4/F-402/Estimate/2023/Dt.12.05.2023.
- ii. Orders in OA. No. 152 of 2023 in the National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai dated 25.10.2024.
- iii. Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Letter No. 2691/FR.9/2024-7, dated: 18.11.2024.
- iv. The Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, (FAC)Palar Basin Circle, letter No.AEE(T)/AE/ F.NGT152 (Charru Mussel)/2024 dated 11.11.2024.

With reference to the above, it is informed that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) on 25.10.2024 directed the State Government to remove the Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) from the three locations i.e., Kattupalli, Puzhuthivakkam and

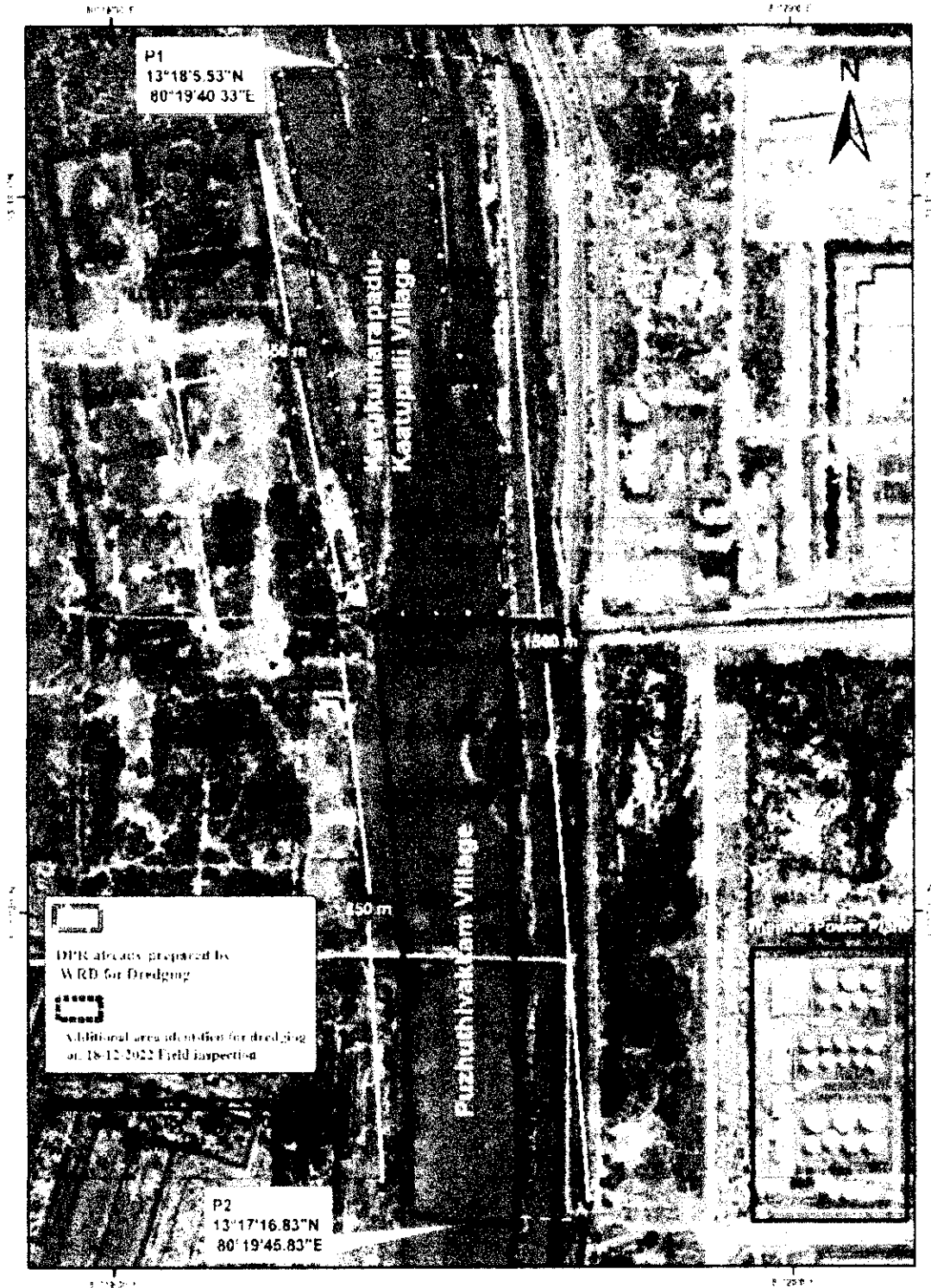
Athipattu, areas. In this regard, the Chief Secretary to Government convened a meeting on 11.11.2024 regarding the eradication / control of Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in Ennore creek and Pullicat area, wherein it was instructed to conduct a pilot study of biological control of Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in the area proposed to be dredged by the Water Resources Department.

2) In this regard, vide reference cited (iv) above, the Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department has informed that the dredging estimate will be prepared in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam village to remove the Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) after demarcation of the infested area by this office.

3) In this regard, a joint inspection was conducted by the Assistant Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, Assistant Engineer, Ennore section, Araniyar subdivision, Chepauk, Chennai, 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 in the Puzhuthivakkam and Kattupalli area of Ennore creek on 18.12.2024 (copy of the field inspection report is enclosed as Annexure).

4) During the field inspection, 1500 meters stretch has been identified as Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) infested area in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam village. The detail of the Charru mussel infested area (1500 meters) is as follows -

- (iii) In Kattupalli village (Karukumarapadu) for 650 meters stretch, dredging estimate is already prepared by the Water Resource Department at the cost of Rs.8.5 Crore, vide reference (i) cited above.
- (iv) Additionally, infested stretch of about 850 meters length in Puzhuthivakkam village has been identified, which is contiguous to the aforementioned 650 meters stretch (Map enclosed for reference)



Map: Charru mussels infested area in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam villages

4) In view of the above, it is requested that the dredging of the aforementioned areas in Puzhuthivakkam and Kattupalli villages may kindly be initiated as per the

instruction of the Chief Secretary vide reference cited (iii) above, in order to control / eradication the *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi) infestation in Ennore Creek.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully

for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority

Copy to: -

The Principal Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9 for favour of kind information.

The Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9 for favour of kind information.

The Director, Fisheries and Fisherman Welfare Department, Chennai for information

The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chennai Region, Chepauk for information and necessary action.

The Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk for information and necessary action.

Handwritten notes:
26/12/24
26/12/24



Field Inspection Report for identification and demarcation of Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) infested area in Puzhuthivakkam & Kattupalli village in River Kosasthalaiyar, Ennore creek

Date of Inspection:18.12.2024

Officers & Others Present:

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1.	Thiru R. Vidyadhar I.F.S.,	Assistant Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
2.	Dr. V. Deepak Samuel	Scientist E, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai
3.	Dr. C. Sudhan	Assistant Professor, Dr. MGR Fisheries College & Research Institute, Ponneri
4.	Thiru. P. Pavinkumar	Assistant Professor, Dr. MGR Fisheries College & Research Institute, Ponneri
5.	Er. M. Naveen Kumar	Assistant Engineer, Ennore section, Araniyar subdivision, Chepauk, Chennai, Water Resource Department
6.	Dr. S.Mohan	Hydrologist, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
7.	Dr. E.Manikandan	Geologist, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
8.	Thiru P. Prasanth	Technical Assistant, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission
9.	Thiru J. Joyson Joe Jeevamani	Project Scientist, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
10.	Thiru Nitul Kumar Gogai	Project Scientist, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management
11.	Thiru. Nithiyanandam	Managing Trustee, NGO
12.	Thiru. Mathanagopal	Fisherfolk
13.	Thiru. Kumaresan	Fisherfolk
14.	Thiru. Prakash	Fisherfolk

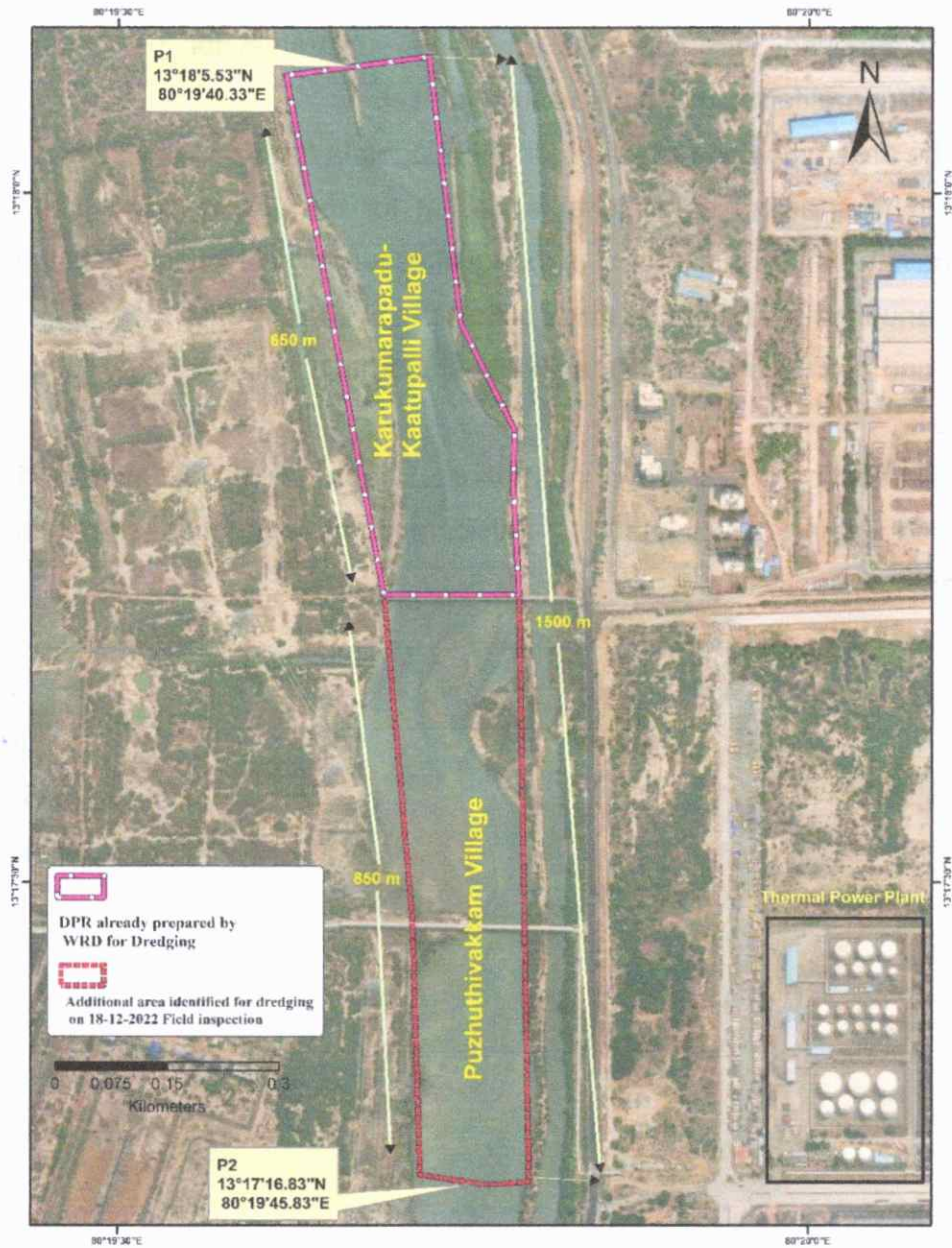
- Ref: (i) The Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department
Lr.NO.DB/JDO.4/F-402/Estimate/2023/Dt.12.05.2023.
- (ii) Orders in OA. No. 152 of 2023 in the National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai dated 25.10.2024.
- (iii) Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Letter No. 2691/FR.9/2024-7, dated: 18.11.2024.
- (iv) The Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, (FAC)Palar Basin Circle, letter No.AEE(T)/AE/ F.NGT152 (Charu Mussel)/2024 dated 11.11.2024.

With reference to the order cited (ii) above, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai has ordered to dredge the Charu mussel (*Mytella strigata*) infested area in the Atthipattu, Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam villages. In this regard, the Chief Secretary to Government convened a meeting on 11.11.2024 regarding the eradication / control of *Mytella strigata* (Charu mussel) in Ennore creek and Pullicat area, wherein it was instructed to conduct a pilot study of biological control of *Mytella strigata* (Charu mussel) in the area proposed to be dredged by the Water Resources Department.

In this regard, the Superintending Engineer vide reference cited (iv) above, has informed that for 1700 meters dredging will be initiated in the Atthipattu village and has requested this office to demarcate the Charu mussel (*Mytella strigata*) infested area in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam village. Based on the request, a field inspection was conducted by the above-mentioned team on 18.12.2024, and the following are the observations of the field inspection:-

- (i) The Kattupalli area, locally known as Karukumarapadu is found to be heavily infested with *Mytella strigata* (Charu mussel) and vide reference (i) cited above, the Water Resource Department has prepared the estimate for dredging the area covering 650 meters length at the cost of Rs.8.5 Crores during the year 2023.
- (ii) Further, an additional length of about 850 meters infested with *Mytella strigata* (Charu mussel) has been identified during the inspection visit which is contiguous to the previously identified 650m stretch. Hence, a total of about 1500 meters, has been identified as a Charu mussel-infested area in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam villages and thus the aforementioned area may be dredged by the Water Resource Department

(Map attached below for reference) in order to control / eradication the *Mytella strigata* (Kaaka Aazhi) infestation in Ennore Creek.



Map: Charru mussels infested area in Kattupalli and Puzhuthivakkam villages

- (iii) It is observed that wherever construction materials such as bricks, concrete, boulders, coffer dams & etc. are found, the infestation of Charu mussels is high. Also, in the previously constructed bridges of the Kosasthalaiyar river, the coffer dam materials are not removed, thus acting as a suitable substratum for the Charu mussel leading to further proliferation of the invasive mussel.
- (iv) The area between the pillars of the bridges in the Kosasthalaiyar river is heavily silted and thus acting as a suitable habitat for the Charu mussel. It also prevents the movement of fishing boats of the local fisher folks which is affecting their livelihood.
- (v) Manual removal may be more suitable in shallow areas where the Charu mussels are found in patches, as this may provide alternate livelihood opportunity for the local fisher folk.
- (vi) In areas near mangrove vegetations, manual removal may be more suitable than dredging in order to ensure that the mangrove vegetation is not negatively affected by dredging activities.

periyadil
20/12/24

Assistant Mission Director,
Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission