

**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: 18.03.2025**

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

I, Srinivas R.Reddy, S/o Late T. Ramachandran Reddy, aged about 58 years, working as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (FAC) 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 of the case circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and as such authorized and competent to report.
2. It is humbly submitted that, the Water Resources Department vide status report dated 11.03.2025 has informed that the dredging work commenced on 30 November 2024 and approximately 2,00,000 m<sup>3</sup> of heterogeneous material, a combination of fly ash and aggregated Charru mussels in 800 m stretch in the 1.7

Km stretch of Athipattu Village has been dredged and the work shall be completed before 4<sup>th</sup> week of May 2025. It has also been informed that the ongoing dredging work is undertaken by utilizing two dredgers, with capacity of 300m<sup>3</sup>/hr and 4450 m<sup>3</sup>/hr, four poclains, two boats, and a dedicated workforce of 40 personnel (Pictures of dredged materials and machinery utilized for undertaking the dredging work is enclosed as **Annexure - 1**).

3. It is humbly submitted that, the Water Resources Department has further informed that the responsibility for the removal and appropriate disposal of all dredged material within the 1.7 km stretch of Athipattu Village lies with the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) based on the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in O.A. 08/2016 dated 21.12.2017.
4. It is humbly submitted that, the Water Resources Department has informed that a comprehensive proposal for an estimated amount of Rs.20.85 crores has been formulised for intervention in the 1.7 km stretch from Ls.6300m to Ls.8000m in Kattupalli Village and encompassing branch channel of 0.5 km in Puzhuthivakkam village (A map of the proposed area is enclosed as **Annexure - 2**). The initiation of works in the above locations shall be initiated based on the approval and allocation of necessary funds. The fund estimates shall be submitted to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) for the necessary financial resources (A copy of the status report of Water Resources Department is enclosed as **Annexure - 3**).
5. It is humbly submitted that, in order to control / eradicate the invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*) pilot studies in the dredged area is being undertaken with the help of Dr. MGR Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri in order to prevent the reoccurrence of the invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in the dredged area. The pilot studies shall be helpful in framing methodologies which shall be implemented in the other infested area in the Ennore creek after dredging / manual removal of the invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*). Further, it is

submitted that funds have been released to undertake the following studies which shall help in preventing reoccurrence of the invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in the dredged areas in Ennore creek and also provide livelihood opportunities through value addition of invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*).

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Work component</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Total project cost (Rs. in lakh)</b>	<b>Amount released (Rs. in lakh)</b>
1.	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 and Research Institute, Ponneri	22.63	10.61
2.	Value addition from invasive Charru Mussel ( <i>Mytella strigata</i> ) in Ennore Creek	Dr. MGR Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri	11.11	8.45

It is pertinent to mention that the report from the Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department is yet to be received regarding the further spread of 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**

**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 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

Signed by Srinivas R  
Reddy  
Date: 17-03-2025 19:11:18

**DEPONENT**

Annexure – 1



Dredger of capacity 450 m<sup>3</sup> per hour



Dredger of capacity 300 m<sup>3</sup> per hour



Poclains used in making drying pits



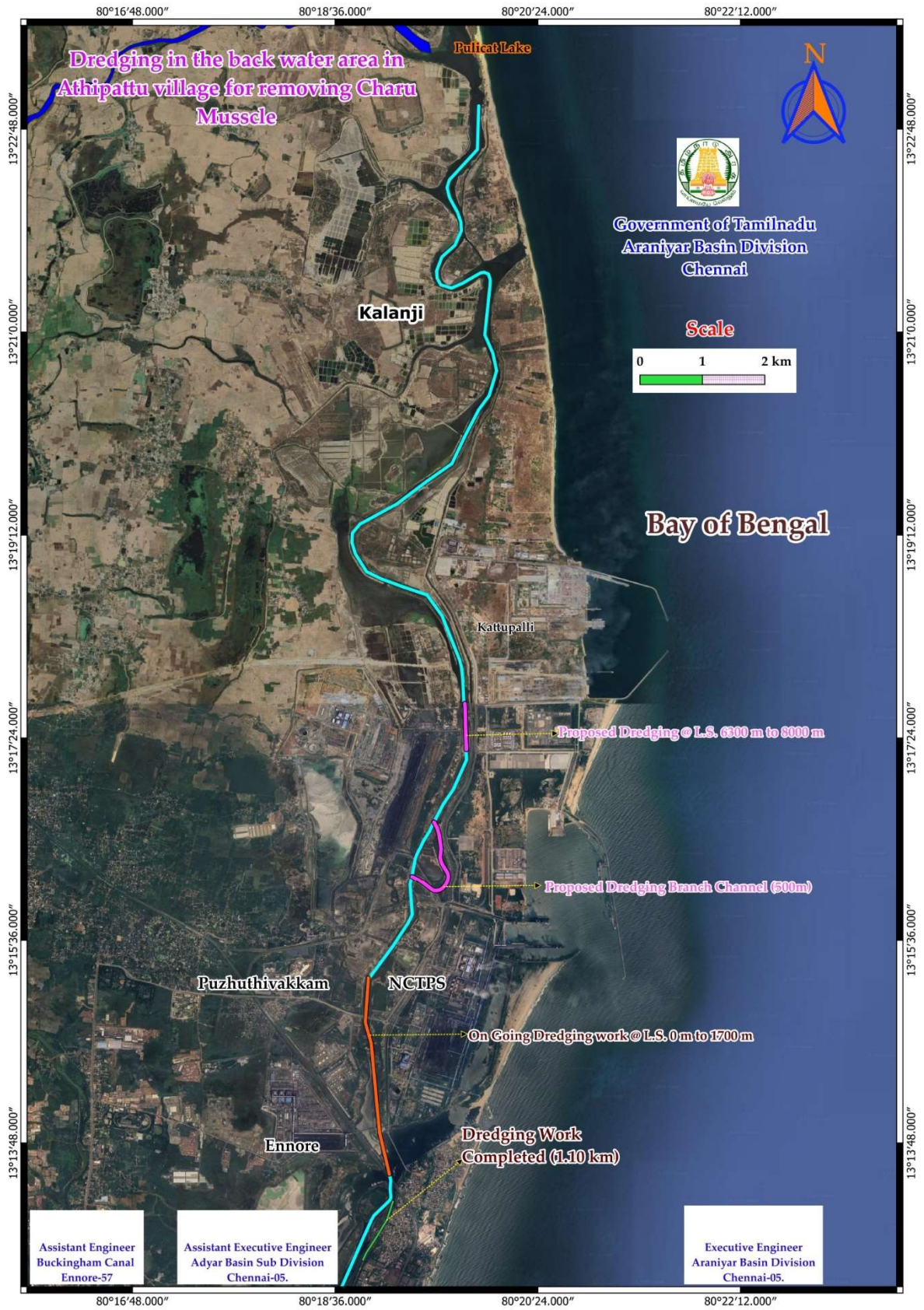
Poclains used in making drying pits



Mussels extracted along with Fly ash



Annexure – 2





**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**  
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Kurothi Maasi - 27  
Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2056

From  
**Er.M.MAGESH NAGARAJAN, B.E., M.S.,**  
Superintending Engineer, WRD.,  
Palar Basin Circle,  
Chepauk, Chennai-5.

To  
**The Principal Chief Conservator of  
Forests and Member Secretary,**  
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,  
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,  
Chennai-600 015.

**Letter No: A1[NGT-113/639/25]/1996/2024, Dated: 11.03.2025**

Sir/Madam,

Sub : WRD – NGT (SZ) O.A.No. 152/2023 – Detailed Report –  
submitted - - Regarding

1. The National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone O.A. 152/2023 order Dated 19.02.2025.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai-15 Letter No. TNSWA2/236/2024 Dated 28.02.2025.
3. The Excecutive Engineer, WRD., Araniyar Basin Division, Chennai-5 Letterr No. EE/JDO.4/ F-Court Case/2025/ Dated : 10.03.2025.

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With reference to the 1<sup>st</sup> order cited, the detailed report regarding removal of Charru Mussels from the Kosasthalaiyar Backwater area is submitted in favour of sending the same to Tamilnadu Wetland Authority for enabling to file status report of this case on 13.03.2025.

**Encl** : Detailed Report and Photographs.

*7.7.9103/25*  
**Superintending Engineer, WRD.,**  
**Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5**

*[Signature]*  
11.03.25

**Inputs to Charru mussel O.A 152/2023 for Detailed Report on  
Ennore Creek Dredging Operations**

1. The Ennore Creek and Kosasthalaiyar Backwater ecosystems are under severe distress, confronting the intertwined issues of accumulated fly ash deposits and the rapid proliferation of the invasive Charru mussel, a species originating from South America.
2. Recognizing the spreading of Charru mussel infestation, which initially manifested in Kattupalli and subsequently spread to Athipattu, backwards a strategic decision was made to commence dredging operations in Athipattu, i.e from the spreading point/Area. This approach allows for controlled, localized trials in an area with a relatively lower mussel density, enabling more precise observation and interpretation of biological control results.
3. This ecological crisis has necessitated immediate and sustained intervention, mandated by the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) order O.A. 152/2023.
4. The present dredging operation is executed in accordance with the directives of O.A. 08/2016 dated 21.12.2017 of National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, which mandates the Water Resources Department (WRD) to remove the fly ash deposits from LS.0m to 1700m from Ennore creek to Athipattu village within the Kosasthalaiyar backwater with deposit fund from TANGEDCO at an estimate cost of Rs.28.00 Cr based on Polluter Pays Principle and obeyed the court direction. The proposed dredging is about 4,75,000 m<sup>3</sup> of which 8% of volume constitute charru mussel based on the systematic sampling .
5. The work was commenced on 30 November 2024 and the work is in progress, and about 800m of Backwater water area is dredged. This work will be completed before 4<sup>th</sup> week of May 2025.

**(PTO)**

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6. Notably, at present the dredging process has concurrently removed approximately 2,00,000 m<sup>3</sup> of heterogeneous material, a combination of fly ash and aggregated Charru mussels, which are predominantly found in the upper strata of the riverbed. Hence, the scope of WRD., is to dredge out fly ash with charru mussels and TANGEDCO to convey away from the back water area. Due to the Mangrove plantation and the bank the dredging volume is limited to dredge in a phased manner so as to dispose from bank immediately.
7. As per the NGT's directive, TANGEDCO bears the responsibility for the removal and appropriate disposal of all dredged materials within the 1700-meter stretch of the Kosasthalaiyar Backwater area.
8. The ongoing dredging work utilizes two dredgers, with capacities of 300 m<sup>3</sup>/hr and 450 m<sup>3</sup>/hr, alongside four poclains, two boats, and a dedicated workforce of 40 personnel.
9. To develop efficacious and sustainable recurrence control measures for the Charru mussels, a rigorous scientific investigation is deemed essential. The engagement of specialized research institutions, such as the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) and Dr.M.G.R Fisheries Research Institute, is strongly recommended to conduct a comprehensive study and formulate long-term control strategies. The Water Resources Department has requested the timeline and parameters of the baseline study being conducted by the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, scheduled on 18.12.2024, to facilitate effective interdepartmental coordination and to evolve biological measures to eradicate charru mussel spreading.

**(PTO)**

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10. Since, the removal of charru mussle work is being carried out from spreading point (i.e Athipattu) and moving towards Kattupalli based on the further fund allocation. Hence, a comprehensive proposal, with an estimated cost of Rs. 20.85 crores, has been formulated for intervention in the 1.70 km stretch in backwater area from Ls.6300m to L.8000m in Kattupalli village encompassing branch channel of 500m Puzhuthivakkam village. This intervention will commence upon obtaining approval and allocation of necessary funds. Following a meeting held by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests on 06.03.2025, it was decided that funding estimates will be submitted to both TNPCB and TANGEDCO to secure the necessary financial resources for the project's continuation.

*07.03.2025*  
**Superintending Engineer, WRD.,  
Palar Basin Circle, Chennai-5**

*[Signature]*  
11.03.25