

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)

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

DATE: 28.08.2024

Minutes of the meeting convened 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 on 22.08.2024 at Chief Secretary Conference Hall, 2nd floor, Secretariat, Chennai

The list of participants is attached at annexure.

A meeting was convened by the Chief Secretary to Government, on 22.08 2024 at 2nd floor. Secretariat, Chennai regarding the O.A.No. 152 of 2023 (SZ) filled by Kumaresan Sooluran, vs Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority Rep by its Member Secretary, Chennai and Ors in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

With the kind permission from the Chief Secretary to Government, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority made a brief presentation and explained about the spread of invasive mussel (*Mytella striagata*) (Kakka aazhli) in the Ennore Creek & Pulicat area and its impact on the livelihood of the local fisherfolk. He mentioned that a preliminary survey has already been done in the Ennore & Pulicat area in order to find out the heavily infested areas which needs to be tackled with the help of inter-sectoral convergence.

The Chief Secretary to Government desired to know from the Fisheries Department about the permanent solution for controlling the invasive mussel. The Chief Secretary also queried whether any scientific study has been undertaken so far on measures to control the spread of this invasive mussel. The concerned departments answered in the negative. The representatives from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Chennai stated that manual and biological control of the invasive mussel is possible and a detailed study has to be undertaken in this regard. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Fisheries Department was also of the view that permanent solution has to be found out to control this menace for the benefit of the local fisherfolk. The Chairman, Kamarajar Port Limited taking cognisance of the claim that ballast water is responsible for the present scenario of invasion, firmly emphasised that the chance for spread of invasive mussel through ballast water is minimal as there are stringent international procedures in vogue for handling ballast water to minimise pollution.

After detailed deliberations, the following instructions were issued by the Chief Secretary to Government :-

- (i) Central Institute of Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture (CIBA) should submit a joint proposal to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority for undertaking a scientific study to suggest effective measure to control and eliminate the invasive mussel (*Mytella Striagata*) (Kakka aazhi). The measures should be both short

term and medium term and aimed at a permanent solution to the menace. The necessary funding for the said study can be made out of the fund available with the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission. The interim findings of the study should be made available in 3 months time so that mitigation measure can be commenced without delay.

- (ii) Additional Chief Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department to co-ordinate the response of the State Government agencies including Fisheries Department, WRD and Department of Environment and Climate Change before NGT.
- (iii) The Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu, NGT (SZ) was instructed to seek time to file Status Report during the next hearing on 27.08.2024.
- (iv) Response to be filed that State Government will take mitigation measures based on the study report. Additional Chief Secretary, AHDF&FW Department may take inputs from WRD and Environment and Climate Change Department while preparing the affidavit.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

MURUGANANDAM
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// True Copy //

Jyoti
27/8/24
SECTION OFFICER
N.P.L.
27/8/2024

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

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Dr. K. Gopal IAS.,	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department
2	Thiru Sunil Paliwal I.A.S.,	The Chairperson, Kamaraj Port Limited
3	Thiru Deepak Srivastava I.F.S.,	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
4	Thiru Anurag Misra, I.F.S.,	Special Secretary (E, CC), Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department
5	Thiru. T. Ritto Cyriac, I.F.S.,	Special Secretary (Forest), Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department
6	Tmt. J.P. Irene Cynthia, IAS.,	Managing Director, Kamaraj Port Limited
7	Thiru Natarajan	Head of Corporate Affairs, Kattupalli Port
8	Thiru G. Sathyanarayana	Additional Secretary to Government, Water Resources Department, Chennai-9.
9	Er. Janaki	Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chennai Region, Chennai
10	Er. Podupani Thilagam	Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Palar Circle, Chennai.
11	Dr. D. Shanmuganathan	Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu, National Green tribunal (SZ)
12	Dr. Kannappan	Principal Scientist, Central Institute of BrackishWater Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai
13	Dr. Jayakumar	Principal Scientist, Central Institute of BrackishWater Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai
14	Dr. Jayabaskar	Senior Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Chennai
15	Dr. Dharani	Scientist-G, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai