

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

Original Application No. 240 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Hindu Chennai Edition Dt 19.08.2024 titled "Invasive fish species in Korattur lake pose threat to native breeds, ecosystem".

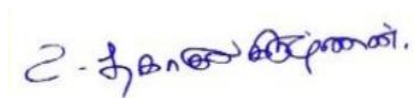
Versus

The Chief Secretary to Govt.
of Tamil Nadu, Chennai and Ors.

Respondent(s)

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Through
U. Gokulakrishnan
Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 08.07.2026

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SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No. 240 of 2024 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the News Item in The Hindu
Chennai Edition Dt. 19.08.2024 titled
"Invasive fish species in Korattur lake
Pose threat to native breeds,
ecosystem",

versus

The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Tamil
Nadu, Chennai and Ors..

.....Respondents

**STATUS REPORT IN RESPECT OF
ORDER OF THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI DATED 28.03.2025 IN O.A. No. 240 of
2024**

I Thiru.K.V.Muralidharan, IAS., , being the Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, 3rd Floor, Integrated Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Building, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

I am the respondent herein and I am well acquainted with the facts of this case as per records. I swear this affidavit is filed on my behalf.

1. It is respectfully submitted that Korattur Lake with is one among the three waterbodies including Ambattur and Madhavaram Lake and is a western suburb of Chennai bordered by Madhananguppam in the north, Kolathur in the east, Pattaravakkam/Ambattur in the west and Padi in the south. This lake falls under Kosasthalaiyar Division of Water Resources Department.
2. It is respectfully submitted that in continuation of publication of article in 'The Hindu' Chennai edition dated 19.08.2024, the Korattur Aeri Padukappu Makkal Iyakkam, moved the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and obtained stay on industrial effluents being let into the waterbody and a survey of korattur lake undertaken by a group of native enthusiast and inland fishermen found multiple invasive fish species in the water body. According to the survey, these invasive species have been affecting the native species.

3. It is respectfully submitted that a survey was conducted on 26.09.2024 at Korattur Lake with the assistance of inland fishermen by the Fisheries and Fishermen department.
4. In the survey, it was observed that Tilapia fishes were found predominantly while other species such as flower horn, Gambusia in lesser numbers in the said water body.
5. During the survey, algal-bloom was noticed which may be due to sewage discharge by industries and domestic waste dumping in the lake, that affects the ecology of the lake.
6. It is submitted that though Tilapia and Gambusia are exotic species, Tilapia is one of the fishes regularly caught for human consumption and Gambusia supports in mosquito control for many years.
7. It is submitted that Tamil Nadu Dr.J.Jayalalitha Fisheries University (TNJFU) conducted a detailed study on the "Invasive Fish species in Korattur Lake" and submitted the study report on the "Invasive Fish Species in Korattur Lake" on 24.10.2025 in which they have suggested the following management and control measures of Invasive Fish Species in Korattur Lake.
 - Immediate action: Intensive fishing and biomass reduction of tilapias, sailfin catfish and mosquito fish.
 - Medium term: Habitat restoration and restocking of native fishes.
 - Long term: Public awareness, regulation of ornamental fish release and continuous monitoring.
8. Accordingly, the following actions were taken by the Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare, Department for the aforesaid management and control measures

Immediate action: Intensive fishing and biomass reduction of tilapias, sailfin catfish and mosquito fish.

It is submitted that Fishing was carried out in Korattur Lake for 27 days, with 30 to 40 fishers engaged on daily basis. During this period, a total fish catch of 2466.10 kg was recorded in which Tilapia, forming the

major share of the catch (2437.30 K), the details of the fish catch data as follows.

No. of Fishing Days	27
Total No. of Fishers Engaged on daily basis	30 to 40
Tilapia Catch ((in Kg)	2437.3
Invasive Ornamental Fish (in Kg)	28.8
Total Fish Catch (in Kg)	2466.1

Medium term: Habitat restoration and restocking of native fishes.

It is submitted that as a measure to restore native fish species in the Korattur lake, about 11,000 numbers of Indian major carps seeds costing about Rs 25,000 were stocked on 19.1.2026 by the local Fishers. Furthermore, in the last two months about 40,000 seeds of indigenous fish species have been stocked by the local fishers at their own expense

Long term: Measures in creating public awareness, regulation of ornamental fish release and continuous monitoring

It is submitted that, the fishers of Korattur Village Welfare Association have themselves voluntarily come forward and have taken up the responsibility in exterminating the invasive and exotic species while fishing in Korattur Lake.

Moreover the same has been insisted to the fishermen during the discussion held with them on 13.11.2025

Hence it is submitted to state that though the fishermen have been instructed to continue extermination of the invasive and exotic fish species as a measure to reduce the biomass of the said fish species, fishermen themselves are taking suitable initiatives in addition to restoration of indigenous fish species through ranching of seeds of native fish species.

Based on the above facts, it is humbly prayed that the status report may kindly be accepted and pass suitable order.

Director
Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare

03/02/2026