

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

Original Application No. 51 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU**
based on the News Item in Dinamalar
Newspaper, Chennai Edition dt: 05.02.2024,
**"Beaches becoming garbage islands
pose a threat to ecosystems and livelihoods".**

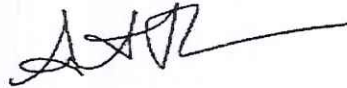
And

Water Resources Department,
Rep. by its Secretary, Chennai and Ors.

...Respondents

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**Advocate
Thiru.S. Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

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**REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE SECOND RESPONDENT -
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.**

I, S.Palanisamy, Son of Thiru.S.Santhappan, aged about, 59 years, having my office at 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. I am the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as TNPCB), Chennai - 600 032, and I am authorised to file this Report on behalf of the second Respondent of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the available office records.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the OA has been taken as Suo Motu based on the news item published in Dinamalar, Chennai Edition, dated 05.02.2024, "Beaches becoming garbage islands pose a threat to ecosystems and livelihoods".
3. It is respectfully submitted that it is alleged in the news report that Kasimedu, a prominent fishing area, looks like a garbage island due to plastic waste, wood waste, thermocol, etc. Due to various types of garbage being dumped in the coastal areas of North Chennai, there is a risk of


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destruction of the coastal environment and marine life and marine resources.

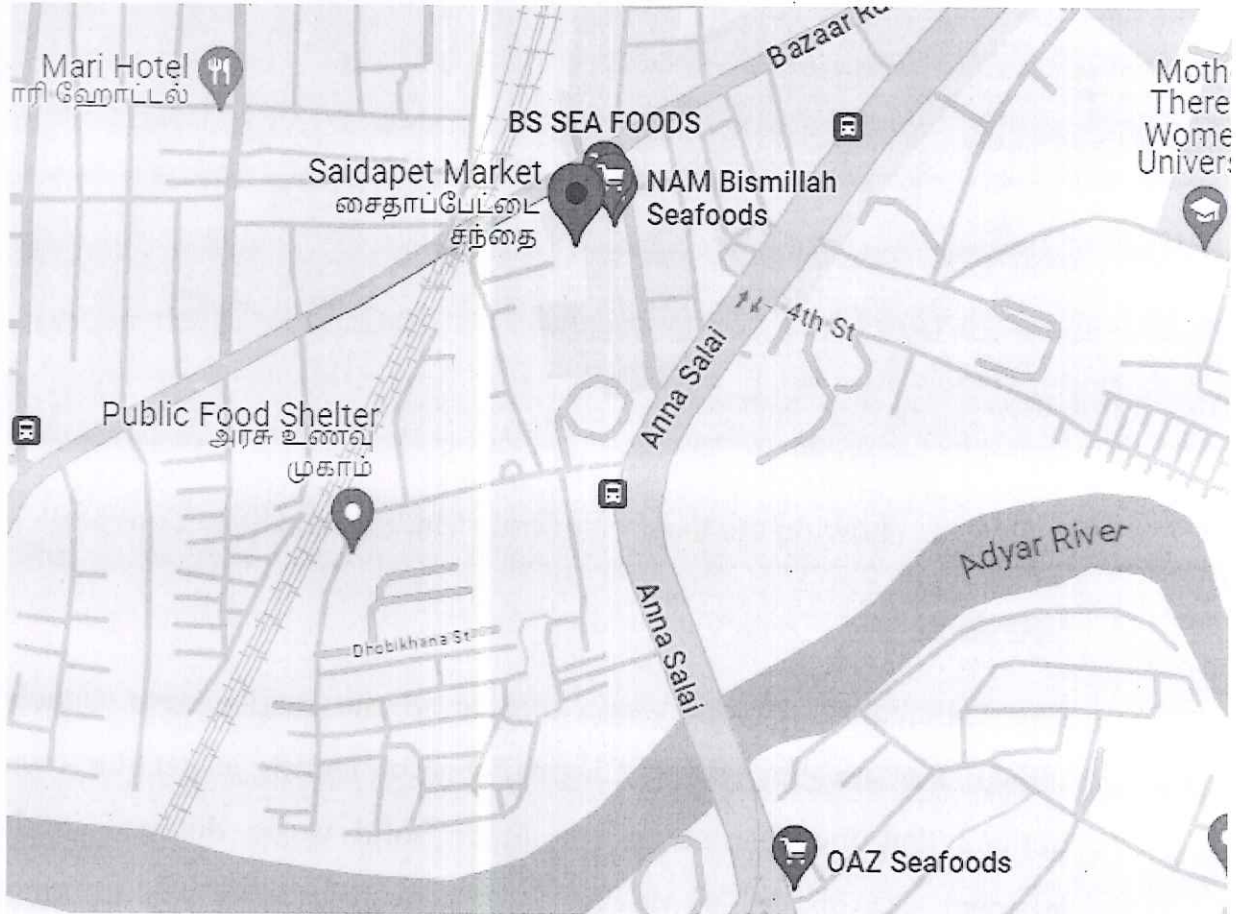
4. It is respectfully submitted that the news item also covered the statement of Thiru. Nanjil Ravi, The president of all fishermen's Association, said the big fish markets such as Chindathrippet, Saidappet, Jambazar, Pattalam, Kavankari, Vanakaram are located along the banks of the Cooum river, there the broken thermocol boxes were thrown to the Cooum river after usage of fishes sold out and the flow into the sea. Also the fishermen who break old boats at Kasimedu fishing harbour throw their waste into the Sea.
5. It is respectfully submitted that as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 dated: 08.04.2016, Rule 15:5 Duties and Responsibilities of local authorities and village panchayats of census towns and urban agglomerations: (m) Collect waste from Vegetable, Fruit, flower, Meat, Poultry and Fish market on day to day basis and promote setting up decentralised compost plant or bio-methanation plant at suitable locations in the markets or in the vicinity of markets ensuring hygienic conditions.
6. It is respectfully submitted that the fish market such as Vanagaram is located under the Jurisdiction of Villivakkam Panchayat Union, Poonamallee Taluk, Tiruvallur District. The said area was inspected on 24.04.2024 by this respondent. During Inspection it was noticed that there was no disposal of broken thermocol boxes in the stretch of Cooum River in the vicinity of Vanagaram fish market.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the inspection was carried out by the TNPCB officials under the Jurisdiction of O/o DEE, Chennai at Arumbakkam on 02.07.2024 and the followings are observed during the time of inspection:

A. Saidapet Fish Market:

The Saidapet fish market is located in Jeenis Road (13.02124, 80.22376), Saidapet. The fish market belongs to Arulmigu Karaneeswarar Temple, Saidapet having total number of 136 fish selling stalls. Mr. S.V. Anbu, Secretary, Saidapet Fish Market Association informed that the fish cutting waste, thermocol waste and other solid waste generated from the fish stalls are dumped in the bins kept near the entrance of the market which is


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cleared by GCC regularly. Mr. Sampath, Sanitary Worker, GCC has informed that the thermocol waste generated is sent to Material Collection Centre (MCC), Kannammappet regularly. The fish waste and other solid waste are sent to Perungudi dump yard twice a day. 20 – 25 kgs of solid waste has been found in the bins during the time of inspection. No water body is found adjacent to the fish market. Adyar river is located 600 m away from the fish market.



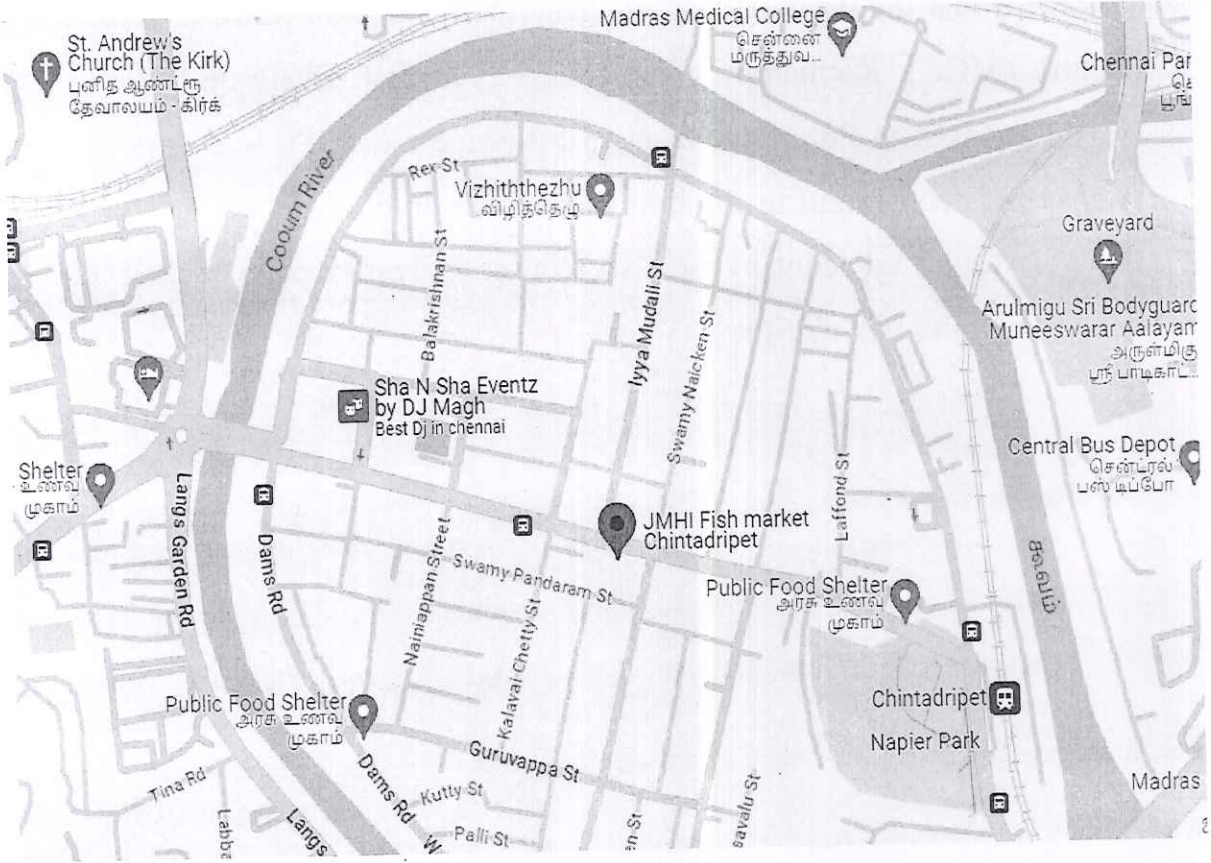
Google Map showing the location of Fish Market and River Coovum

B. Chintadripet Fish Market:

The Chintadripet fish market is located in Arunachalam Street (13.07524, 80.26992), Chintadripet. The fish market belongs to J.M.H.I. a private group having total number of 50 fish selling stalls. Mr. Meganathan, Manager informed that the fish cutting waste, thermocol waste and other solid waste generated from the fish stalls are disposed to GCC solid waste transfer station at Pulianthope High road twice a day. 5 – 6kgs of solid waste has been found during the time of

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inspection. No water body is found adjacent to the fish market.
Coovum river is located 500 m away from the fish market.

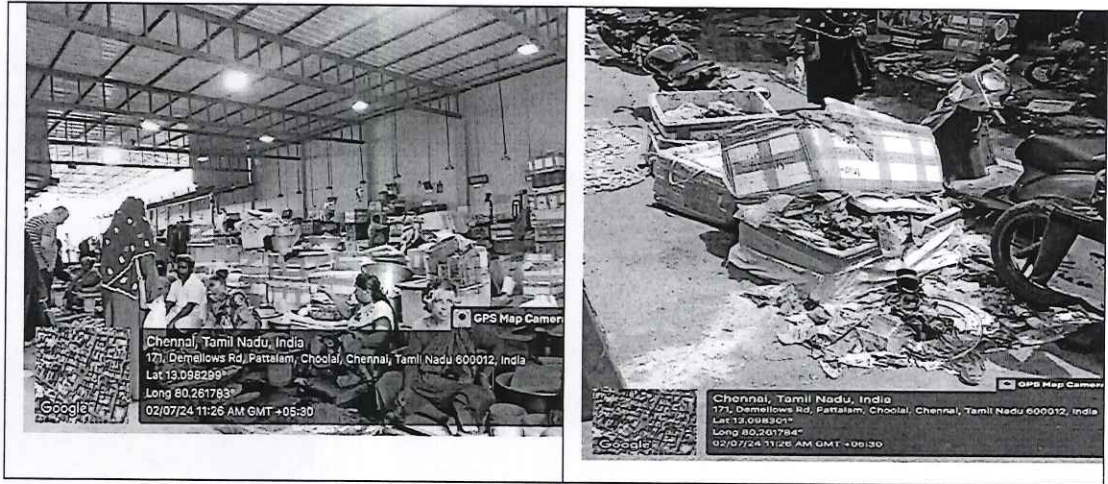


Google Map showing the location of Fish Market and River Coovum

C. Pattalam:

The Pattalam fish market was located in the market area Choolai village, Purasiwalkam Taluk, Chennai District. During inspection it was noticed that the Thermocol and other Solid waste dumped in the adjacent area of the fish market and the nearby public was informed that the dumped waste has been collected by the GCC vehicle regularly & at the time of inspection 8 -10 kg of waste dumped outside of fish market. There were no river or water bodies found near the pattalam fish market.

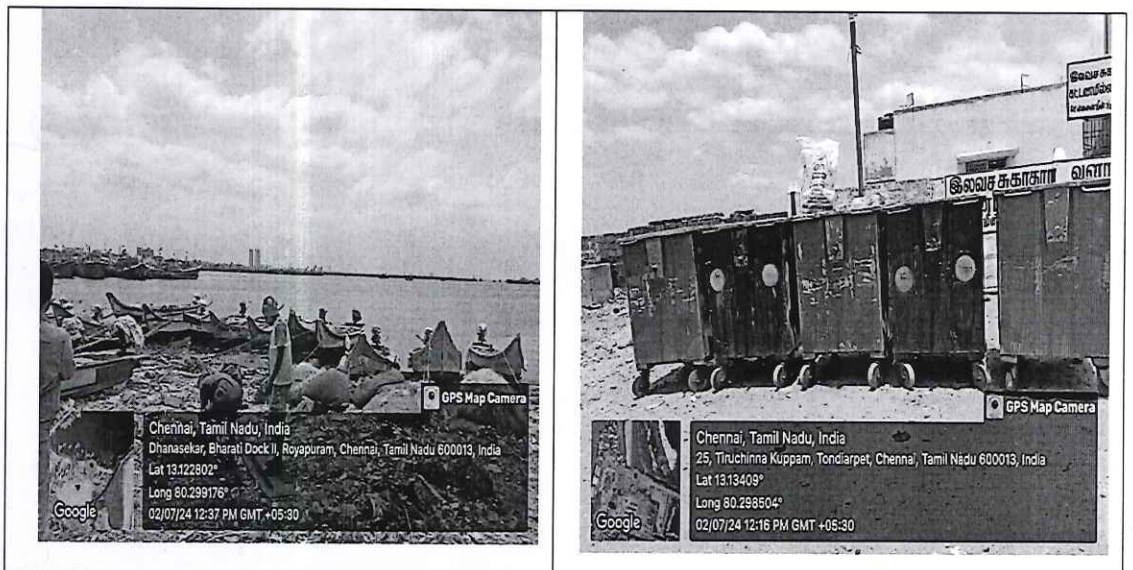
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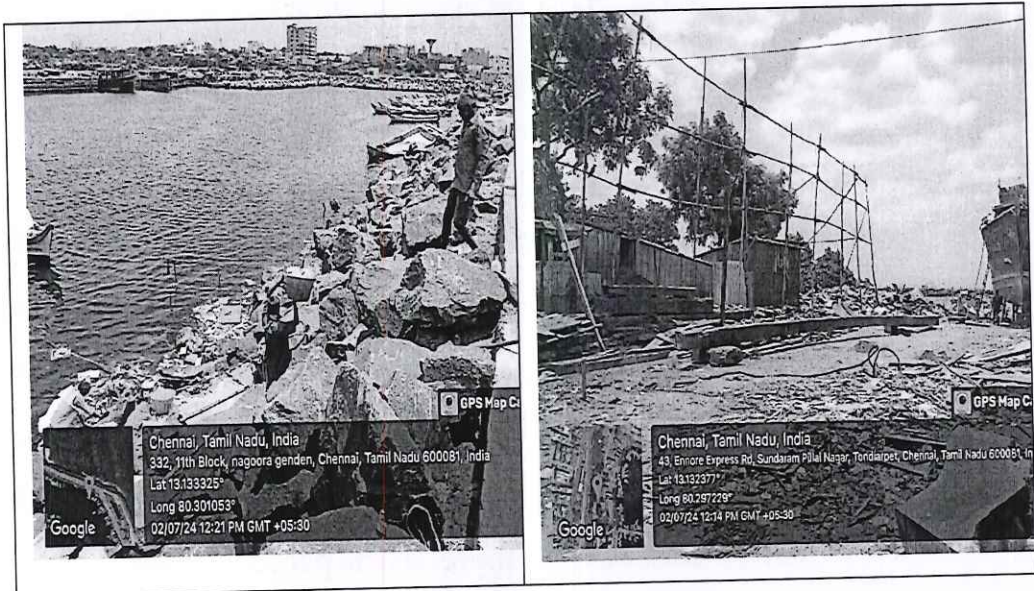
D. Chennai Fishing Harbour (Kasimedu Fishing Harbour):

The Chennai fishing harbour/Kasimedu fishing harbour was inspected along with Chennai fishing harbour officials and following were reported,

- a. There are 21 Nos of Pin provided for waste disposal and collected by the GCC inside the fishing harbour premises.
- b. The Chennai fishing harbour management committee has made contract with M/s.D.L pathi to collect waste fishnet, thermocol waste & other solid waste in the marine area in the kasimedu fishing harbour. & there are 8 persons team were collected the waste and disposed in to the pin finally the waste has been collected by the GCC.
- c. The broken old boat waste was dumped in the earmarked and has been collected by the GCC.




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d. The TNPCB has developed the discarded fishnet collection centre inside the fishing harbour and it has been started its trial run on 15.06.2024 onwards they also collect waste fishnet & marine litter.

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e. And it was informed that, as per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 dated: 08.04.2016 Rule 15:5 Duties and Responsibilities of local authorities and village panchayats of census towns and urban agglomerations: (m) Collect waste from Vegetable, Fruit, flower, Meat, Poultry and Fish market on day to day basis and promote setting up decentralised compost plant or bio-methanation plant at suitable locations in the markets or in the vicinity of markets ensuring hygienic conditions.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the news report alleged that, the kasimedu fishing area looks like a garbage island. It is due to the dumping of solid waste in the coastal areas of North Chennai. The Authority of Kasimedu Fishing harbour shall maintain the harbour clean and hygienic manner and shall collect and dispose the solid waste within the harbour area with the help of Greater Chennai Corporation. Necessary instructions were given to Kasimedu fishing harbour to manage the solid waste within the harbour area as per Solid waste management Rules, 2016.
9. It is respectfully submitted that the fish market Kavangarai, Puzhal is located under the jurisdiction of Madhavaram Taluk, Chennai District. The Kavangarai fish market is not located along the banks of River Cooum and it is located at a distance of 5 km North from River Cooum. Hence, there is


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no possibility of the Waste from Kavangarai fish market reaching River Cooum.

10. It is respectfully submitted that the said market was inspected on 22.07.2024. During the inspection, it was observed that the broken thermocol boxes were accumulated within the market. The Supervisor of the Market Mr. Mohamad informed that the dumped waste will be collected everyday by the Greater Chennai Corporation, Zone-3 vehicle regularly & at the time of inspection 10-12 kg of broken thermocol waste was dumped inside the fish market.

Under the above circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such further or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

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VERIFICATION

I, S.Palanisamy, Son of Thiru.S.Santhappan, working as Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, office at No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.

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CONTROL BOARD.**

**Advocate for Respondent: TNPCB
Thiru.Sai Sathya Jith,
Advocate, Chennai.**

Date:11.12.2024

Date of Hearing on:17.12.2024

