

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No. 51 of 2024 (SZ)

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”.

... Applicant(s)

Versus

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

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel for Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 27.04.2026

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN
ZONE, CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 51 OF 2024 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion *Suo Motu*
based on the news item in *Dinamalar*
Newspaper, Chennai Edition dated
05.02.2024 "Beaches becoming garbage
islands pose a threat to ecosystems and
livelihoods"

Versus

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

...Respondent(s)

**STATUS REPORT Filed by the Department of Fisheries and
Fishermen Welfare to the Interim Order dated 09.12.2025 in
O.A. No. 51 of 2024 (SZ)**

1. The above case was registered as a *suo motu* Original Application by the Hon'ble Tribunal based on a news report published in *Dinamalar* newspaper (Chennai Edition) dated 05.02.2024, titled "Beaches becoming garbage islands pose a threat to ecosystems and livelihoods."
2. That in compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Tribunal in the interim order dated 28.10.2025 in O.A. No. 51 of 2024 (SZ), a joint meeting was convened on 08.12.2024 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department with Greater Chennai Corporation and Fishing Harbour Management Committee.

The Salient outcome of the Joint Meeting is as follows:

- It is submitted that awareness programmes are being organized and will continue to be convened on a regular basis for all stakeholders in fishing harbours and major fish markets, in order to educate them on minimizing the use of thermocol ice boxes and promoting safe disposal practices.
- It is submitted that the Chennai Port Trust may provide sponsorship support for reusable insulated ice boxes to the Chennai Fishing Harbour Maintenance Committee, enabling their utilisation on a rental basis within the harbour premises, thereby reducing dependency on disposable thermocol boxes.
- It is further submitted that the Chennai Port Trust may allocate space inside the Chennai Fishing Harbour premises for the establishment of a solar-powered chill room by interested private companies, which may be used by fishers on a rental basis to further minimize individual usage of thermocol boxes.
- The Greater Chennai Corporation may identify the entry points of thermocol wastes along the river stretches in Chennai City and to install booms/skimers to collect floating thermocol and other solid waste from packaging sources.
- It is suggested for addressing the Government of India for including the supply of insulated ice boxes for replacing thermocol boxes as a new component under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) which is proposed for reintroduction in 2026 - 27.

Accordingly the following action has been taken by the Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare Department.

Si.No	Meeting minutes	Action taken
1.	Awareness program should be convened regularly to the stakeholders in fishing harbours and major markets to educate them to minimize the uses of thermocol ice boxes and for a safe disposal of thermocol	Chennai Fishing Harbour Management Committee has executed an agreement with the Greater Chennai Corporation for removal of waste from the harbour premises. M/s Chennai Enviro Company has been entrusted with the removal and scientific disposal of accumulated thermocol and plastic waste. The agency is carrying out waste removal on daily basis. An awareness programme has been conducted on 05.02.2026 subsequently for the Chennai Fishing Harbour Boat Owners' Associations and fish vendors, emphasising reduction in thermocol usage and adoption of proper disposal practices to prevent environmental pollution. During the meeting, retailers, wholesalers have been insisted to and pursue good management practices in disposing fish wastes and thermocols used for fish transportation and storage. Fish vendors have been advised to utilize insulated ice boxes instead of their thermocol boxes
2.	To address Government of India for including 'supply of insulated ice box for replacing thermocol ice box' as a new scheme under the PMMSY which is likely to be reintroduced by 2026-27.	The Fishermen Welfare Department has proposed the 'Supply of Insulated Ice Boxes' as a new scheme under PMMSY-2 .

3.	To send proposal under TNSHORE/TNMRF to the Department of Environment and Climate Change for supply of insulated ice boxes to the fish vendors on subsidy basis	The Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department has submitted a proposal for a total amount of Rs.2.00 Crore. ^{to November 2025} The initiative seeks to replace traditional thermocool ice boxes with advanced Phase Change Material (PCM) ice boxes across fishing harbours and fish markets.
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Based on the facts stated above, it is submitted that the status report may kindly be accepted and pass appropriate orders.

Date at Chennai on this 16th day of FEBRUARY 2026

Before Me
Mokamra Tausifmogh
(4437/2024)
No. 1, Law officers chambers,
Madras High Court, ch-104


Director
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare


16/02/2026

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**Animal Husbandry, Dairying,
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare (FS4) Department**

Minutes of the Joint meeting on NGT (SZ) O.A. No. 51 of 2024 with Greater Chennai Corporation & Fishing Harbour Management Committee on the news article titled "Beaches becoming garbage islands pose a threat to ecosystems and livelihoods" held on 08.12.2025 chaired by Dr. N.Subbalyan, I.A.S., Secretary to Govt. Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department.

2. The Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department has conducted the Joint Meeting with the Director of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, officials of the Chennai Fishing Harbour Management Committee and also with the Greater Chennai Corporation.

3. The Additional Director of Fisheries briefed the background of the Suomoto Case taken at the Southern Zone of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in case OA No.51 of 2024 and its interim orders and action taken by the Department of Fisheries to the officials.

4. Based on the detailed discussion held with the officials during this meeting, the following decisions were taken:-

1. Awareness program should be convened regularly to the stakeholders in fishing harbours and major markets to educate them to minimize the uses of thermocol ice boxes and for a safe disposal of thermocol;
2. All the members accepted that insulated reusable HDPE containers or boxes as the alternate for thermocol boxes to store or transport fishes for bulk storage chill room (Pre-fabricated or constructed) with preferable solar power or hybrid is suitable;
3. The Chennai Port trust can sponsor reusable insulated ice boxes to the Chennai Fishing Harbour Maintenance Committee, so as to utilise the boxes on rental basis within the harbour premises;
4. The Chennai Port Trust can provide space inside the CFH premises for establishing chill room with solar power by the interested private companies, which can be used by fishers on it for rental basis to minimize the use of individual thermocol boxes;
5. The Greater Chennai Corporation can identify the points of entry of thermocol

along the river stretches of Chennai and provide booms or skimmers to collect the floating solid waste including thermocol waste originated from the disposed packaging materials.

5. The Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare also instructed to address Government of India for including the 'supply of insulated ice box for replacing thermocol ice box' as a new scheme under the PMMSY which is likely to be reintroduced by 2026-27.

6. The Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare further instructed to send proposal under TNSHORE/TNMRF to the Department of Environment and Climate Change for supply of insulated ice boxes to the fish vendors on subsidy basis.

7. The Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare furthermore instructed the Fisheries Department to inspect thermocol recycling plant which is collecting thermocol from Vanagaram Fish Market and to propose a recycler model as a solution to utilize the thermocol waste collected by Greater Chennai Corporation from Chennai Fishing Harbour.

8. The Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare instructed the Greater Chennai Corporation and Chennai Port Trust to send the Action Taken Report on thermocol usage and its disposal on regular basis.

N.Subbaiyan
Secretary to Government

//True copy//


Section Officer
18/12/25