

**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".

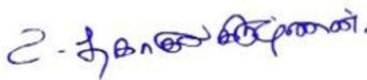
Versus

Water Resources Department,
Rep. by its Secretary, 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: 11.07.2026

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 03.06.2026 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 03.06.2026 in O.A. No. 51 of 2024 (SZ), the action taken report for the action points pertaining to the Fisheries Department is detailed below;

Sl. No.	Decision / Action Point	Action Taken
iv.	Thermocol may be replaced by insulated ice boxes which can be sponsored by Chennai Port Trust and distributed by the Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department to enumerated fishermen.	• A meeting was convened on 27.05.2026 with fish retailers who expressed their need for 70 lit and 100 lit Insulated ice box for fish storage and marketing for about 1000 retailers. • A proposal for providing insulated ice boxes to the stakeholders was submitted on 25.09.2026 to the Chennai Port Trust under CSR funding. The Chennai Port Trust, has consented to provide CSR fund to the tune of Rs.10 Lakhs which would suffice to support approximately 150 insulated boxes to be used as an alternative to thermocol to retail fishermen. • On receipt of funds, around 150 insulated boxes will be provided.
ix.	Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department may increase the number of boats to clean floating thermocol with the assistance of local fishermen.	• A meeting with the Motorized Fishing Boat Owners' Association was convened on 27.06.2025 during which, the boat owners consented to deploy motorized fishing boats for the collection and removal of floating thermocol waste from the sea, with the active participation of local fishermen. • Mass Cleaning Programme was organised for thermocol collection and removal on 13.06.2026, and 16.06.26 at N4 Bridge and N4 Shore Area and 15 and 10 metric tonnes of plastic and thermocol waste were collected.

		One non-motorized fishing boat has been fully allotted to M/s Chennai Enviro solution, to collect the Floating debris and has started collection from 18.05.2026												
x.	Awareness programmes shall be conducted periodically among fishermen and stakeholders to avoid the usage of thermocol in the sea and along the seashore.	In compliance to the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 03.06.2026 (Sl. No. x) four awareness meetings have been conducted since May 2026 as detailed below; <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Venue</th><th>Participants</th><th>Key Focus / Remarks</th></tr><tr><td>12.05.2026</td><td>Kasimedu Fishing Harbour</td><td>30 Boat owners and members Mechanised Boat Owner Associations, harbour users</td><td>Disseminated awareness on the harmful & environmental impact of thermocol and plastic waste in the sea, alternate methods of fish storage and proper waste disposal practices within the harbour premises.</td></tr><tr><td>21.05.2026</td><td>Kasimedu Fishing Harbour</td><td>35 Representatives of Motorized Boat Owner Associations</td><td>Awareness programme conducted on environmental protection, waste management, and responsible harbour practices.</td></tr></table>	Date	Venue	Participants	Key Focus / Remarks	12.05.2026	Kasimedu Fishing Harbour	30 Boat owners and members Mechanised Boat Owner Associations, harbour users	Disseminated awareness on the harmful & environmental impact of thermocol and plastic waste in the sea, alternate methods of fish storage and proper waste disposal practices within the harbour premises.	21.05.2026	Kasimedu Fishing Harbour	35 Representatives of Motorized Boat Owner Associations	Awareness programme conducted on environmental protection, waste management, and responsible harbour practices.
Date	Venue	Participants	Key Focus / Remarks											
12.05.2026	Kasimedu Fishing Harbour	30 Boat owners and members Mechanised Boat Owner Associations, harbour users	Disseminated awareness on the harmful & environmental impact of thermocol and plastic waste in the sea, alternate methods of fish storage and proper waste disposal practices within the harbour premises.											
21.05.2026	Kasimedu Fishing Harbour	35 Representatives of Motorized Boat Owner Associations	Awareness programme conducted on environmental protection, waste management, and responsible harbour practices.											

		27.05.2026	Kasimedu Fishing Harbour	50 Fish retailers and other end users /stakeholders	Participants sensitised on environmental issues related to thermocol and plastic waste and proper waste disposal.
		10.06.2026	GCC Zone 4 Conference Hall	25 Mechanized and Motorized Boat Owners, Fish Retailers, and harbour Stakeholders	District Revenue Officer, GCC, Chennai chaired the awareness programme which focused on environmental protection, reduction of thermocol and plastic waste, and adoption of waste management practices.
		• The Chennai Port Trust in coordination with Department of Fisheries has fixed awareness and warning banners at various locations inside the harbour premises. • The banners clearly mention that the use of thermocol boxes, plastics and littering is banned inside the harbour area. • The posters have been placed specifying penalty on violation (use of thermocol, plastic and its dumping) stating violation will attract a minimum penalty of Rs.500.			

xi.	Mass cleaning activities shall be carried out by engaging fishermen and stakeholders to remove thermocol waste from the sea and harbour area.	In compliance to the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 03.06.2026 sl.no xi, two mass cleaning activities have been conducted since May 2026 as detailed below			
		Date	Venue	Participants	Key Focus / Remarks
		18.05.2026	Chennai Fishing Harbour	Officials from the Fisheries Department, Greater Chennai Corporation, Port Trust, Harbour Management Committee, and local fishermen	Mass Cleaning and Awareness Programme conducted at N4 Bridge and N4 Shore Area. Around 150 participants took part in the programme including 50 fishermen and removed thermocol waste from the harbour premises. During which 10 tonnes of plastic and thermocol waste were collected.
		13.06.2026	Chennai Fishing Harbour	Officials from the Fisheries Department, Greater Chennai Corporation, Port Trust, Harbour Management Committee, NSS students of Dr. J. Jayalalitha FC&RI, Ponneri, stand-up	Mass Cleaning and Awareness Programme conducted. Around 200 participants took part including 60 fishermen and removed 15 metric tonnes of thermocol waste and other waste

				paddle volunteers, and local fisherfolk	materials from the harbour premises.
				Similar mass cleaning and awareness programmes are to be conducted periodically with the participation of local fishermen and other stakeholders.	

Sd/- K.Vijayakarhikeyan
Director
Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare

[Signature]
For Director
Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare

[Signature]
24/10/2026

Mass Cleaning and Awareness Programme

Date: 18.05.2026	Venue : N4 bridge & N4 Shore	Objective: to remove thermocol and plastic waste	Total participants: 150 members
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Mass Cleaning and Awareness Programme

Date: 13.06.2026

Venue : N4 bridge &
N4 Shore

Objective: to remove
thermocool and plastic
waste

Total participants: 200
members



After removal

Date: 13.06.2026	Venue : N4 bridge & N4 Shore	Objective: to remove thermocol and plastic waste	Total participants: 200 members
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Mass cleaning activities

Date: 13.06.2026

Venue : N4 bridge &
N4 Shore

Objective: to remove
thermocool and plastic
waste

Total participants:
200 members



12.05.2026, 21.05.2026 & 27.05.2026 - Awareness programme @ Kasimedu Fishing Harbour Office



Mass cleaning activities

Date: 13.06.2026	Venue : N4 bridge & N4 Shore	Objective: to remove thermocol and plastic waste	Total participants: 200 members
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Awareness and warning banners at various locations inside the harbour premises



Digital Flex Banner fixing at Entrance Gate at Northern Break water



Digital Flex Banner fixing at Retail fish market



Digital flex banner fixing at First main road Nagoorar Thottam junction