

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No.152 of 2023 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Thiru. Kumaresan Sooluran

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority,
Rep. by its Member Secretary,
Chennai and ors.

...Respondent(s)

INDEX

S. No.	Date	Description	Page No.
1	29.07.2024	Report filed by the 5 th Respondent- The Water Resource Department	1-3

(Note: The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



Through

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

DATE:07.08.2024

BEFORE THE HONBLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTH ZONE AT CHENNAI

Original Application No. 152 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF

Thiru. Kumaresan Sooluran

.....Applicant

Vs

The Executive Engineer PWD WRD

Araniyar Basin Division Chepauk

Chennai -05 And Others

Respondents

Report filed by the Fifth Respondent

1) I, G.R. Radhakrishna, Son of Thiru.Ramalingam Aged about 50 years and officiating as Executive Engineer, PWD, WRD, Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk, Chennai-05 and having office at Chennai, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

2) It is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble the National Green Tribunal (SZ) has directed to file a status report on invasive species "Mytella strigara" (**Charru Mussels**) spread over along the stretch of the Kosasthalaiyar backwater, Buckingham canal and Pazhaverkadu mouth.

3) It is respectfully submitted that, in this regard, a status report has been submitted on December 14 2023 to Hon'ble the National Green Tribunal (SZ) based on the factual observation made in the site inspection.

4) In pursuance to the direction of the Hon'ble the National Green Tribunal (SZ). It is respectfully submitted that, the proliferation of Charru Mussels, Microbes and allgaeas which is harmful impact on the water bodies and marine eco system and the growth of Charru Mussels leads severe threaten to endemic species diversity of brackish water.

5) It is respectfully submitted that, invasive species Charru mussels "Mytilus strigata" native to South and Central Coast of America and it is already spread over the Indian shores by the movement of ship hulls. It is further submitted that the Fishermen and Stakeholders are complaining that the reason for spread over the Charru mussels to the North Buckingham Canal, Kosasthalaiyar backwater and Pazhaverkadu Mouth is due to the port operations along the coast including the Ennore port, Kattuppalli port.

6) It is also reported by the Field engineers that the mechanism of the transport of "Charru Mussel" need to be studied by the expert committee including of Marine Biologist, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture CIBA (ICAR).

7) It is respectfully submitted that, the estimate has already been prepared for dredging the backwaters of the Kosasthalaiyar river upto 700m for an amount of Rs.8.5 Crores. This proposal has been sent to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Member secretary, Tamilnadu Wetland Authority, Chennai on 12.05.2023.

8) Further, It is respectfully submitted that as per the petitioner affidavit, it is observed that, the species like Charru Mussels have been spread beyond Karukumaram - Kandachedi Paadu till Pazhaverkadu mouth spanning for a length of 16km, between Ennore Creek to Pazhaverkadu. However the extent of spread should be verified by the expert committee, because it is an underwater species. In case of such spread is confirmed the dredging work need to be continued till the Pazhaverkadu mouth for facilitation of tidal exchange nourishing the growth of crustacean species such as crab, prawns and mullets, etc.

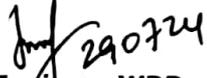
9) It is respectfully submitted that, unchecked discharge of ballast water from ships entering to the Ports along the Chennai coast upto the Pulicat would have resulted in the spread of an invasive species to the Kosasthalaiyar Backwater and Buckingham Canal.

10) It is respectfully submitted that, In Polluter pays principle is in force to make party responsible for causing pollution responsible for paying for the damage done to the natural environment and this principle has also used for enforcing cost of pollution prevention on the Polluter.

11) It is respectfully submitted that, the Expert Committee constituted by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone (SZ) should fix the responsibility among the stakeholders and to contribute, the fund is required for eradicating the exotic invasive species "Mytella strigata" (**Charu Mussels**) by dredging of Kosasthalaiyar Backwater, North Buckingham Canal at LS 19500m upto Pazhaverkadu Mouth. The quantum of dredging required and the extent of the reach of dredging including the number of iteration required to ensure complete eradication of this invasive species should be assessed by the expert committee along with the Bathymetry survey.

12) Further, It is respectfully submitted that, the dredging of Kosasthalaiyar backwater and Buckingham canal will be carried out for preventing the growth of Charu Mussels, facilitating the boat movement of the fisherfolk and finally the livelihood the fisherfolk will be safeguarded.

Solemnly affirmed and signed before me on this 29th of July 2024 at Chennai


Executive Engineer, WRD,
Araniyar Basin Division,
Chepauk, Chennai-600005

VERIFICATION

I, G.R. Radhakrishna, Executive Engineer, WRD, Araniyar Basin Division, Chepauk, Chennai- 5 do hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true and correct on the basis of ground truth, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: 29.07.2024


Executive Engineer, WRD,
Araniyar Basin Division,
Chepauk, Chennai-600005