

Item No.15:-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.152 of 2023(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Kumaresan Sooluran,
Thiruvallur.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

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

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 25.06.2025.



CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Mr. A. Yogeshwaran along with
Mr. Raghunandan Sriram.

For Respondent(s): Dr. D. Shanmuganathan for R1 to R5.

Official Present: Dr. R. Jeya Shakila,
Dean, Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and
Research Insitute, Ponneri.

ORDER

1. The Member Secretary – Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority has filed a status report dated 04.06.2025.

2. It is stated that out of the 1,700-meter stretch in Athipattu Village, 1,050 meters have been dredged, during which approximately 2,60,000 cubic meters of mixed sediment comprising fly ash and mussels have been removed. A total of 15 workers have been engaged for the task, and the dredging work is expected to be completed by the last week of August 2025.

3. It is reported that dredging estimates for 1,700 meters in Kattupalli and 500 meters in Puzhuthivakkam, costing Rs.20.85 Crores. The said estimates have been prepared by the Water Resource Department (WRD), which is approaching the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and TANDGEDCO for funding.

4. In the meanwhile, the work for “Mapping of the invasive Charru Mussel (*Mytella strigata*) in Ennore Creek” has been awarded to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) at a cost of Rs.6,73,000/-. The first interim report by the NCSCM has identified the infested areas and sampling of 148 locations on a 20km stretch of Ennore Creek and Kosasthalaiyar River was carried out. The final report will be ready by September 2025.

5. A research study on “Value Addition of the Invasive Chaaru Mussel from Ennore Creek as Biofertilizer and Mineral Mix”

for an amount of Rs.11,11,000/- has been awarded to the Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College, Ponneri, which also confirmed that the biofertilizers could be potential as a sustainable source for high-quality biofertilizers and mineral mixes for agriculture and aquaculture respectively.

6. The work of “Controlling the spread of Invasive Mussel, *Mytella strigata*, in dredged areas of Ennore Creek” has been awarded to the M.G.R. Fisheries College, Ponneri at a cost of Rs.22,63,000/. The progress report from the said institute shows a notable absence or minimal presence of Charru Mussels in the areas where dredging was carried out.

7. It is also reported that the larval stages of native competitors & bio-indicator species such as yellow mussels, gastropods, Nerita species and fish larvae were found in dredged plots, highlighting the possibility of restoration of the Ennore Creek ecosystem, after dredging and removal of invasive mussel.

8. Though the report filed by the Member Secretary of the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority supports the initiative, it is noted that the dredging exercise has taken a considerably long time since it was first reported. Despite the acknowledgement that dredging is the only viable method for removing the invasive species—and that the extracted material can potentially be utilized as biofertilizer—the delay on the part of the Government is likely to contribute to the rapid proliferation of the invasive species, thereby escalating the overall expenditure to the public exchequer.

9. The Member Secretary – Tamil Nadu State Wetland authority has to prioritize the removal of invasive species by dredging first and then go for the research studies and the value addition, etc.

10. It is stated that the invasion of the alien species has spread across a stretch of 24 km, extending up to Pulicat Lake. However, the report addresses dredging activity over only 1,050 meters. According to the Water Resources Department's report, dredging 1,700 meters in Kathupalli and 500 meters in Puzhuthivakkam is estimated to cost Rs. 20.85 Crores. Regardless of the cost involved, it is the responsibility of the Government to undertake the dredging and removal of the invasive *Charru mussels* at the earliest, in order to prevent further financial burden—especially when it has been demonstrated that dredging results in a marked reduction of the invasive species and facilitates the revival of native aquatic species.

11. Though this Tribunal has been dealing with the issue for the past two years, there has been no significant progress to report. Hence, it would be appropriate for us to request the Member Secretary-Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority to appear through the Video Conference on the next date of hearing to give us direct inputs from him only for the purpose of expediting the process.

12. Post the matter on **09.07.2025** for final hearing.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.152/2023(SZ)
25th June, 2025. AD.

Note:

Let the Registry communicate this order to the Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority by e-mail for compliance.

