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Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Reconstituted West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority (WBSCZMA) held on 20th January, 2014 in the Conference Room of Environment Department at Poura Bhavan, Salt Lake

The following Members attended the meeting:

1. Sri Trilochan Singh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department & Chairman, WBSCZMA.
2. Dr Subesh Kumar Das, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Department.
3. Dr Pranab Kumar Pradhan, Expert Member.
4. Dr Kana Talukder, IFS, Chief Environment Officer & Member Secretary, WBSCZMA.

The following also attended the meeting:

1. Dr Subrat Mukherjee, IFS, Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management (IESWM)
2. Smt Indrani Saha, Joint Secretary, Urban Development Department
3. Sri D Chatteraj, Joint Secretary, Fisheries Department
4. Dr S N Biswas, Joint Director, Fisheries Department
5. Dr Rajarshi Chakrabarty, Environment Officer, Environment Department
6. Sri J. Arokiasamy, Managing Director, Raj Hatcheries (Bengal) Private Limited.
7. B. Basak, Raj Hatcheries (Bengal) Private Limited.

Proceedings:

The Chairman welcomed everybody and initiated the discussion. The agenda was short with consideration of grant of clearance in respect of CRZ to the project proposal by Raj Hatcheries (Bengal) Private Limited.

The project proponent described the salient features of the project. The project had been earlier sent around concerned Departments for comments which were duly considered by the Members. The comments are represented below:

I. Department of Fisheries: "an enquiry was caused and findings are appended below:

1. m/s Raj Hatchery Bengal Pvt. Ltd. has proposed for establishing a shrimp hatchery of 100 million production capacity / annum at Tajpur in the district of Purba Medinipur in West Bengal.
2. The proposed site covers a total area of 35.26 acres under Kh.No.452, JL No.244 and plot No.s 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 87, 88, 89 is classified as salt factory and situated under the coastal zone category Maso-tidal.
3. The eastern boundary of the proposed site is approximately 1.5km away from high tidal line of the sea. The Southern boundary touches the branch of the tidal creek.
4. Permission from LR Department for establishment of the stated shrimp hatchery in the salt factory land is required to be obtained.
5. Proper ETP is to be established in a functional way so as to avoid any pollution hazard in the creek water.
6. Permission for environment clearance from pollution control board is to be taken.

From the foregoing facts this is to state that, the state of West Bengal is one of the important shrimp producing states and there is no dependable source of seed in the state. As per sub section-III of section-3 of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification as published vide S.O.19E dated 6.11.11 "setting up and expansion of fish processing unit including ware housing except hatchery and natural fish drying in permitted area" is mentioned under prohibited activities within CRZ. The proposed site is situated in the CRZ-I and will be utilized for producing the shrimp seed which is very much required for promoting Tiger Shrimp farming in the state of west Bengal.

It is therefore, suggested that the proposal as submitted by m/s Raj Hatchery for commissioning of shrimp seed hatchery at Tajpur towards obtaining no objection certificate from WBSCZMA may be **recommended.**"

II. Office of DM and Collector, Purba Medinipur: "The proposed shrimp seed hatchery may be **allowed** subject to

- i. Clearance from the L&LR Department
- ii. Installation of a proper effluence treatment plant
- iii. Use of eco-friendly generator set and other electrical power installation in compliance with Air Act 1982".

III. Department of Urban Development: "Preparation of LUDCP for Tazpur area will be of little use pending preparation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan the work which has been in progress and which will continue the new Land Use classification. As such this Dept. at this stage has little scope to offer any opinion in the matter."

IV. Tourism Department: "In regard to the smell if any of the proposed project is concerned, it will definitely harm tourist interest is the proposed project site falls within the tourist destination / activity area".

V. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI): "A Report on ecological status of the proposed shrimp hatchery at Tajpur in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal" prepared by the ZSI in 2013 had been submitted by the project proponent on 16.8.2013. Said report recommended the following ecological measures for the proposed site for Shrimp hatchery:

- i. The tidal creeks running around the proposed hatchery site should not be altered (by dumping, narrowing the path etc.) for any purpose and ensure the local species to feed and breed in the creeks.
- ii. Any infrastructure development (construction of boundary wall/ building) should be done at least 100mts away from the HTL of the tidal creeks
- iii. No dumping of waste (bio/non-biodegradable) should be planned into the creeks
- iv. Properly treatment of effluents should be done before releasing into the creeks / sea
- v. Since stunted mangroves is already evident in the creeks banks, m/s Raj Hatchery (Bengal) Pvt Ltd. should attempt plantation of mangroves in the banks of the creeks and tidal inundated area adjacent to the proposed site for hatchery".

The Members discussed the project thoroughly and it was decided in view of the importance of the project and the recommendations received, to issue clearance to the project subject to all the conditions cited above, viz:

- a. Permission from LR Department for establishment of the stated shrimp hatchery in the salt factory land is required to be obtained.
- b. Proper ETP is to be established in a functional way so as to avoid any pollution hazard in the creek water.

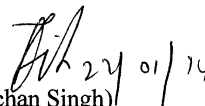
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- c. Permission for environment clearance from pollution control board is to be taken.
- d. Use of eco-friendly generator set and other electrical power installation in compliance with Air Act 1982
- e. The tidal creeks running around the proposed hatchery site should not be altered (by dumping, narrowing the path etc.) for any purpose and ensure the local species to feed and breed in the creeks.
- f. Any infrastructure development (construction of boundary wall/ building) should be done at least 100mts away from the HTL of the tidal creeks
- g. No dumping of waste (bio/non-biodegradable) should be planned into the creeks
- h. Proper treatment of effluents should be done before releasing into the creeks / sea
- i. Since stunted mangroves is already evident in the creeks banks, m/s Raj Hatchery (Bengal) Pvt Ltd. should attempt plantation of mangroves in the banks of the creeks and tidal inundated area adjacent to the proposed site for hatchery.
- j. Clearances from all concerned agencies including Coastal Aquaculture Regulatory Authority, Digha-Shankarpur Development Authority, etc. are required to be obtained

The project proponent agreed to abide by the conditions.

The Director, IESWM was then requested to enlighten the Members about the status of preparation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan of West Bengal according to the CRZ notification 2011. The current Plan is valid till 31.1.2014 till further any notice of extension is received. He stated that the work was underway and the draft Plan would be uploaded on the website for public comments. It was also decided that comments may be invited from the concerned departments of the State Government to make the WBSCZMA to formulate its recommendations to the NCZMA.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.


(Trilochan Singh)
ACS Environment
& Chairman WBSCZMA

Dated: 22.1.2014.