



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS (INLAND)

April 11, 2020

Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS.

Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India..

Sub: Request to include inland fishing as well in the guidelines to exempt fisheries activities from the lock down – w.r.t. the 5th Addendum to the Consolidated Guidelines.

Respected Sir,

National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (I) conveys its sincere thanks to you and the Ministry of Home Affairs for issuing the 5th Addendum to the Consolidated Guidelines annexed to the Ministry of Home Affairs Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 10.04.2020 which allows exemption from Lock Down restrictions of the following activities –

“Operations of the fishing (marine)/aquaculture industry, including feeding and maintenance, harvesting, processing, packaging, cold chain, sale and marketing; hatcheries, feed plants, commercial aquaria, movement of fish, shrimp and fish products, fish seed/feed and workers for all these activities”.

NPSSFW(I), in its letter dated 28.03.2020 (copy enclosed) addressed to you, had requested for exemption of fisheries related activities from the Lock Down.

We take this opportunity to bring it to your kind notice that there is a large fishing sector in inland fisheries as well, which is larger than the marine fishing sector. It involves fishing from rivers, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands. A large number of fishers earn their livelihood by fishing in the inland water bodies and the fish they catch is catered mostly to the local people. As such it is very important to include inland fishing in the exemptions.

We appreciate the instructions given under the Note of caution in the 5th addendum and stress that social distancing and maintenance of proper hygiene have to be most strictly followed in the fishing harbours, fish auction centres and fish retail markets.

NPSSFW(I) as the national platform for small scale fish workers of the country, has issued an advisory (copy enclosed) for fish workers and their organisations for taking necessary precaution against Covid-19 infestation.

We further request you to ensure that the fish worker families affected by the Lockdown get both ration and monthly allowance of Rs.15,000/- per household per month to tide over their difficulties during the Lock Down and fishing ban period.

Thanking you,

With best regards,

Pradip Chatterjee,

Convener, NPSSFW(I)

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