



DAKSHINBANGA MATSYAJIBI FORUM (DMF)

Trade Union Regn. No.20474/92. Affiliated to National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF)

Head Office: 20/4, Sil Lane, Kolkata - 700015. Phone & FAX: 033-23283989 e-mail: dmfwestbengal@gmail.com

Memo No. DMF/Pres/11/21 (2)

February 22, 2021

1. Chairman,
Kolkata (Shyama Prasad Mookerjee) Port Trust,
15, Strand Road, Kolkata - 700 001.
2. Deputy Chairman,
Haldia Dock Complex.
Haldia, Purba Medinipur,
West Bengal 721657
India.

श्यामा प्रसाद मूखर्जी पोर्ट, कोलकाता
Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
केन्द्रीय प्राप्त व वषण परिभाग
Central Receipt & Despatch Section
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22-02-21

Sub: Address and compensate small scale fishers in Hooghly and Haldi rivers whose boats & nets are damaged by ship and barge movement.

Sir,

Greetings from Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF), the largest organization of small scale fish workers in West Bengal.

This is to bring to your notice that livelihood of small scale fishers and fish workers are threatened by the disorderly movement and anchorage of ships and barges in Hooghly and Haldi Rivers. The ships and barges carrying fly ash, coal and oil often do not stick to the navigation routes fixed by KPT and sail over the fishing nets fixed by the small scale fishers. It is also a common and recurrent practice of the vessels to anchor outside the navigation channel and many times they anchor on the fishing nets. Also, there are repeated incidents of capsizing of ships or barges laden with fly ash. The submerged vessels continue to damage the fishing nets of fishers. Further, the dredgers employed by the Kolkata and Haldia port authorities also run into and destroy fishing nets.

More than 20,000 fishers living on the banks of Hooghly and Haldi rivers earn their livelihood by fishing in the area with about 2,000 fishing boats. They hail from Khejuri-II, Nandigram-I, Haldia, Sutahata and Mahishadal blocks of the district of Purba Medinipur; Sagar, Kakdwip, Kulpi, Diamond Harbour I & II, Falta and Budge Budge I & II blocks of the district of South 24 Parganas and Shyampur I & II and Bagnan II blocks of the district of Howrah.

The poor fishers are finding it very difficult to sustain the massive and recurrent losses and are being compelled to leave their traditional occupation. due to the unlawful movements of the ships, barges and dredgers. You will appreciate that this violates the constitutional rights of fishing communities.



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In view of the above DMF ardently requests you to take immediate effective steps to stop damage to fishing nets by ships, barges and dredges. We are constrained to state that the helpless and desperate fishing communities residing on the banks of Hooghly and Haldi rivers will be compelled to block the navigation channel to and from the Kolkata and Haldia ports in future.

We would request you to ensure –

1. Prompt and adequate compensation for the nets or boats damaged by ships and barges;
2. Clear and adequate demarcation of the navigation route of ships and barges with buoys and signals;
3. Make changes in the navigation route only on informed consent of fishing communities active in the area;
4. Immediate removal of submerged ships and barges from rivers;
5. Strict surveillance on the movement of boats and ships through prescribed navigation route.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Pradip Chatterjee

Pradip Chatterjee,

President,

Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF).