



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS

Memo No. NPSSFW/Convener/001-24

January 1, 2024

Shri Pramod Sawant,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Goa.

Sub: Recurrent Illegal Fishing by Trawlers and Purse Seiners in Zuari River.

Respected Sir,

New year greetings from the National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW), the largest federation of small-scale fish workers in the country.

While we look forward to 2024 with the hope of having a happy and prosperous new year for the small-scale fishing communities, we are constrained to state that the year 2023 did not go well for the small-scale fishing communities of Zuari River.

The recurrent illegal fishing by trawlers and purse seine boats in Zuari continued unabated in 2023 inflicting heavy loss to the small-scale fishing communities' harvest of fish and damaging marine ecology which is their livelihood resource base. Repeated complaints, immediate information regarding ongoing illegal fishing and appeals to intervene on spot failed to activate the Fisheries Department and the law enforcing authorities.

It may not be out of place to cite a most recent example of illegal fishing and the response of the Fisheries Department of your Government –

- *Five trawlers carried on illegal trawling in Zuari river on December 30, 2023 from 8.30 pm by switching off their lights.*
- *Complaint was lodged with control room of the Fisheries Department over phone.*
- *Response from Fisheries Control room was of helplessness to do anything as there were no staff available to take the patrol boat from Panjim Jetty to Zuari river.*

As usual, there was no action from the authorities and illegal fishing went on merrily. Recurrence of such incidents and inaction of law enforcing authorities has assumed ominous regularity. The small-scale fishing communities, repeatedly let down by the authorities, are being compelled to perceive an unholy alliance between the Department of Fisheries and the owners of trawlers and purse-seine boats involved in illegal fishing.

In view of the above, the All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union, an NPSSFW partner organisation, has called for complete overhauling of fisheries administration in Goa to enable immediate and effective steps to stop ongoing loot of the fish resources of Zuari by trawlers and purse seine boats.



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Sir, NPSSFW ardently requests you to personally look into the matter and direct the Fisheries Department to –

1. **Take immediate and effective measures to totally stop illegal fishing in Zuari River.**
2. **Form a joint body with the participation of the Fisheries Department, Police Administration and local Fishing Communities represented by the All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union for watchdog function and enabling prompt action against illegal fishing by trawlers and purse-seine boats in Zuari.**
3. **Book the officers and staff of the Fisheries Department who failed to discharge their responsibilities to stop illegal fishing and protect the livelihood of small-scale fishers and its natural resource base.**

Relevant Notifications of the Government of Goa are enclosed.

Looking forward to an early action at your end.

Yours sincerely,

Enclosures:

1. Notification 2-1-81-FSH/6 dated 8th April, 1999
2. Notification 2-1-81-FSH (iii), dated 9th July, 1981

Pradip Chatterjee,
National Convener,
NPSSFW.

Memo No. NPSSFW/Convener/001-24/1(2)

January 1, 2024

Copy with copy of enclosures forwarded for information and necessary action to the –

1. Minister of Fisheries, Government of Goa.
2. Director of Fisheries, Government of Goa;

Pradip Chatterjee,
National Convener,
NPSSFW.