

F.No.19-84/2020-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA-III Section (CRZ)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 27th July, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Deployment of Artificial Reef Modules made of concrete in the Sea -reg.

The Ministry has received communications from State Coastal Zone Management Authorities seeking guidance on Deployment of Artificial Reef Modules made of concrete in the Sea.

2. The Ministry has sought the comments of National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM). The NCSCM has mentioned that as per the CRZ Notification 2011/2019, activities impugning on the sea and tidal influenced water bodies will be regulated and permitted or regulated project activities attracting the provisions of this notification shall be required to obtain CRZ clearance prior to their commencement. Deployment of sample artificial reef modules made of concrete in the sea requires rapid assessment of the possible impact of the concrete material used and the presence of the artificial reef on the marine environment and monitoring program including ecological, socio-economic and fishery aspects to evaluate the reef's after-effects after the deployment, as part of the CRZ clearance process.

3. Based on the communications received from the State CZMA and considering the opinion provided by the NCSCM, the matter was referred to the Expert Appraisal Committee (CRZ) by the Ministry.

4. The proposal was considered by the EAC (CRZ), in its meeting held on 26/05/2022 through video conferencing. The Committee made detailed deliberations on the proposal. The Committee noted that the Ministry had issued CRZ Notifications, with a view to ensure livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities, living in the coastal areas, and to conserve and protect coastal stretches, its unique environment and its marine area and to promote development through sustainable manner based on scientific principles taking into account the dangers of natural hazards in the coastal areas and sea level rise due to global warming. As per para (8) (IV) of the CRZ Notification, 2011, in CRZ-IV areas, the activities impugning on the sea and tidal influenced water bodies will be regulated except for traditional fishing and related activities undertaken by local communities. The proposed activity is for enhancing the fishery resources in the sea and is being practiced in the coastal areas since many years.

The Committee after detailed deliberations noted that the proposed activity does not require any prior permission as per the CRZ Notification, 2011. However, in order to avoid conflict with other activities, the concerned CZMA may issue general guidelines



for undertaking such activities incorporating, amongst others, the following terms and conditions:

- i. The artificial modules/ structures shall not be deployed in or over the natural living coral reef or sea-grass areas, if any.
- ii. These structures shall not hinder the navigational channel or the monitoring stations/units deployed in the sea.
- iii. The CZMA/ Fisheries Department undertake monitoring and analyse the changes in biodiversity/fisheries and seabed morphology after complete deployment through necessary studies.
- iv. There shall be encouragement for use of green artificial modules / reef structures to utilize marine resources in a sustainable way.

5. In view of the above, considering the objectives and provisions of the CRZ notifications and based on the recommendations of the EAC, it is clarified that the proposed activity does not require any prior permission as per the CRZ Notification, 2011 or 2019 and IPZ Notification, 2011 or ICRZ Notification, 2019. However, concerned CZMA may issue general guidelines for undertaking such activities as recommended by the Expert Appraisal Committee.

6. This issues with approval of the Competent Authority.



(Dr. H. Kharkwal)
Scientist 'E' (CRZ)

To

1. All the State's / UT's Coastal Zone Management Authority

Copy to:-

1. The Director, IA (Policy) / The Director (SCMD) / The Director (NCSCM)
2. PS to HMEFCC / PS to HMoS
3. PPS to Secretary / PPS to AS(TK) / PPS to JS(SKB)
4. All Senior Officers in the Ministry
5. Website / PARIVESH / Guard file