

From: T Peter <[REDACTED]>
Date: 28 November 2012 22:48
Subject: complaince
To: [REDACTED]

Respected Sir,

I, T. Peter, State committee member of Kerala Swathantra Malsya Thozhilali Federation (Kerala Independent Fish Workers Federation) and Secretary of National Fish Workers Forum, based in Trivandrum being Fisherman's Federation of several lakh fisherman members in Vizhinjam and Poovar lodge a complaint concerning the Vizhinjam Port project, located in Vizhinjam, Kerala.

This complaint is made on behalf of KSMTF Fisherman's Federation and Fisherman Families in Vizhinjam, Adimalathura and Poovar.

I have been, or are likely to be affected by social or environmental impacts of the project in the following ways:

1. Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour and Adimalathura Village to Poovar Village are most important fish landing centres in South Kerala, having thickly populated resident community dependent on solely fishing related livelihoods. Vizhinjam Port will affect the entire fishing community and fishing operations.
2. Mullor Village coastal area (Karimpallikara to Chowara area) is used by hundreds of traditional fisherman and mussels fishing (chippi) in the underwater rocks. These chippi fisherman will completely lose their livelihoods with no other means of income. The high protein chippi in mullor eaten by the people will be lost.
3. Wadge Bank is important marine biodiversity area and is located from Vizhinjam to Kanyakumari (TamilNadu) coastal waters. Ship movement and port construction and operation will cause destruction of marine wealth and fishery resources of Wadge Bank. The Wadge bank maintains the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen and loss of fish wealth will negatively affect the livelihoods of the fishing community.
4. Port project location will cause danger to fishermen using Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour. During the June, July, August Monsoon season the fishermen of entire Trivandrum District are using the Vizhinjam fishing harbour intensively. The existing Vizhinjam fishing harbour constructed in 1962 has caused severe erosion and loss of land in Panathura and Poonthura villages in the areas north of Vizhinjam. Like that the new port will affect and most likely cause erosion in areas north of Vizhinjam and will also result in causing damage to the Vizhinjam fishing harbour.

5. Port will block fisherman boats movement of Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour. This will make fishermen to travel further in the sea to reach the fishing grounds and go around the breakwater to return back to the Vizhinjam fishing harbour resulting in higher expenses for kerosene and fuel. This will reduce incomes of fishing community.
6. Fishing community of Adimalathura to Poovar area will lose access to the sea because of ship approach channel and ship movement into the port. The Fishermen using shore seine, gill net and hook and line in Adimalathura, Pulluvila and Poovar will be severely affected with damages to the equipment and nets. Also there will be a safety issue for fishermen here due to the big vessel movements.
7. Fisher-folk families living will be forced to be evicted in Vizhinjam and lose access to the beach.
8. Port will destroy marine wealth and fishery resources and reduce fish catch and incomes of fishermen. Rock Blasting will cause severe damage. Vizhinjam to Poovar area is used by several lakhs of fishermen and ships disturbance will negatively affect fishing and fish catch.
9. We want to know how many jobs fisherman families can get from port. We also want to know what other economic benefits can come from transhipment port for locals. The entry to the port is in Mullor village so Vizhinjam and Adimalathura fishing community will not receive even any loading unloading jobs from the port. Nearby area of the port will become a restricted port area with no entry to fishing community to travel and do fishing freely.
10. Pollution from port and ships will destroy the Vizhinjam to Poovar marine breeding grounds and natural coastal area.

Thanking You

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