



E.No.2/19/2019 - ई एंड एफ /62

दिनांक: 16.01.2020

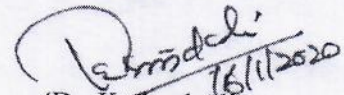
CIRCULAR

Sub: - Appeal to Fishermen of Lakshadweep – Reg.

Please find enclosed here with the 'Appeal to Fishermen of Lakshadweep' by the respected Chief Wild Life Warden, U.T. of Lakshadweep Administration, for wide circulation of the same.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

Your's faithfully


(Dr. K. Syed Ali)

RFO & Head, Wild Life Division

Encl : As above.

Copy to :

- 1) The PA to the Hon'ble Administrator U.T.of Lakshadweep for kind information please
- 2) The PA to the Advisor to Hon'ble Administrator U.T.of Lakshadweep for kind information please
- 3) The PA to the Secretaries of all Departments, U.T.of Lakshadweep for kind information please
- 4) The PCC, U.T.of Lakshadweep for kind information please
- 5) The PA to the HoDs, U.T.of Lakshadweep for information please
- 6) The DCs/SDOs in all Islands for information and necessary action please
- 7) The Chairpersons (VDP) in all islands for information and necessary action please
- 8) The Radio Station, Kavaratti, for information and wide publicity
- 9) The Govt. Press, U.T. of Lakshadweep, for publishing in the next issue of Lakshadweep times.
- 10) The NIC, Kavaratti for uploading in the website.
- 11) The Officer in Charge in all islands, Dept. of Environment & Forest for necessary action please
- 12) All the NGOs working for Wild Life Conservation in Lakshadweep for information.

APPEAL TO FISHERMEN OF LAKSHADWEEP

Dated 16.01.2020


Lakshadweep is blessed with mesmerising coral paradise and other marine wild life including Sea Cucumbers. The Sea Cucumbers are listed as Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and given highest degree of protection. On 11.01.2020, a team of Officers lead by Shri.P Syed Shaik Koya, Range Forest Officer, with the help of Officers of Fisheries & Police department caught a fishing boat along with four accused fishermen from Suheli Cheriakara Island named KHYBER-2 IND-LD-KV-MO-149 (owned by Shri. Mohamadali N.P, Neliyampura House, Kavaratti Island) involved in illegal poaching/hunting of Sea Cucumbers, which is a Non-Bailable Offence under the Act. The entire boat was seized along with 234 Kg of dead Sea Cucumbers and 46 Nos of live Sea Cucumbers and all the four accused fishermen were arrested and produced before Magistrate, remanded for 14 days judicial custody. The accused fishermen belong to Kavaratti and Agatti Islands, further investigation is under progress.

Further, it is informed that, some local fishermen are involved in rampant poaching/hunting of Sea Cucumbers in large scale, mainly from uninhabited Islands for their personal purposes/trade etc. It is also informed that, the fish collection vessels coming from mainland for the transportation of Tuna Fish are involved in illegal collection, trading and transportation of the Sea Cucumbers. The Sea Cucumber trading network spreads across different countries. It is informed that, from Lakshadweep, the Sea Cucumbers are supplied to Kochi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and then sent across to SriLanka, and further to Other South East Asian Countries mainly China. The Second route passes through Maldives, straight across to China and neighbouring countries.

The Sea Cucumbers in marine environment has the same status of tiger and Lion in Land Forest as per Schedule I of Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. It is revealed that the killing of 173 Nos of Sea Cucumber is equal to killing of 173 Nos Tiger or Lion. The Sea Cucumbers enhance the productivity of coral reefs apart from playing a crucial role in the food chain. They maintain overall stability of the sea bed in terms of oxygenation. They also play a major role in bait fish breeding and maintenance of healthy lagoon ecosystem. Since all these species are Flagship species, the ecological damage to the environment due to killing of thousands of such Sea Cucumbers cannot be ascertained in near future. The time taken to regain the ecosystem stability is in question by removing such a large number from marine environment.

In view of the above, the Fishermen of Lakshadweep Islands are appealed not to indulge in poaching/hunting of Sea Cucumbers. For some short-term monetary gains/profits by way of exporting the Sea Cucumbers will lead to complete destruction of our eco system. The exploitation and destruction of such vital marine species will affect our ecosystem as well as survival of our future generations. All fishermen are requested to extend their full support and co-operation to protect Sea Cucumber and other marine wild life heritage of Lakshadweep Islands which is Gods Creature, helping for our survival in the Islands. All the fish collection vessel going to the mainland and all such vessels should be ensured that, it should not contain/transport any Sea Cucumbers and other marine wildlife species along with the consignment of Tuna fish.

Your active involvement and support will definitely help in protection and conservation of our rich marine biodiversity and also help in our endeavour of preservation of this ecologically fragile ecosystem of Lakshadweep Islands.


(Damodhar A.T.) IFS
Chief Wild Life Warden
U.T. of Lakshadweep Administration