

National Fishworkers Forum

Positions on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee Report (*Final Frontier*)

Reference in Report	Swaminathan Committee Recommendation	NFF position	Explanation	Additional points
Chapter 5	To Drop CMZ notification, back to CRZ 1991 with amendments to strengthen notification	Agree	Coincides with NFF position	Need to go back to original notification of 1991; 25 amendments not acceptable
7.1	Check violations to CRZ through improved space technology enabled enforcement, strengthened institutions, and regulatory and legal framework	Agree		
7.1.1	Use of satellite and information technology to map the coast and to monitor real time violations	Agree		Need all State CZMP maps in public domain; also forest division working plans in mangrove areas
7.1.2	Direct role of SCZMAs towards monitoring and enforcement; clearances may be done by Dept of Environment or State Environment Appraisal Committees	Disagree	Will weaken position of SCZMAs and reduce public oversight over clearances	SCZMAs to be strengthened to undertake both functions; composition of SCZMAs to be reviewed; adequate representation of fishing communities, other coastal dwellers and environmentalists to be ensured; SCZMAs to be adequately funded and provided human resources
7.1.3	Build capacity of SCZMAs; build information sources; strengthen scientific capacity	Agree		Need to also use traditional and local information/knowledge
7.1.4	Web enabled systems to publish all CRZ clearances and EIA clearances; states to comply with this	Agree		Make available Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), now denied on grounds of commercial secrecy
7.1.5	Amend EPA, especially sections 21 and 22 to make punishment stringent	Agree		Also delete section 24 (2) that gives precedence to other laws with regard to punishments

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7.2	Enhance protection to fisher families for habitat and livelihood security through amendments in CRZ	Agree		
7.2.1	Amend CRZ III provisions to give higher FSI for dwelling units	Disagree	This is contrary to concept of customary rights that fishing community is demanding and inadequate to address housing needs of fisher families	Need to recognise under CRZ, 3202 fishing villages enumerated by CMFRI; Minimal restrictions on fishing community housing; regularise all fishing community houses in the 0-500 m till date; empower fishing hamlet sabhas to give permission for new houses within 50-500 m for fishing community members; 9 m and G+1 restriction to remain
7.2.2	Inclusion of livelihood related activities in permissible list for CRZ II and III	Agree		We prefer something more comprehensive than adding to permissible list; also need to include social and other needs
7.2.3	Legislation for rights of fisherfolk	Agree		
7.3	Locale specific amendments to resolve mumbai's problems	Disagree	Will not benefit fishing community, will benefit builders and others	Need for state intervention to ensure housing for fishermen in Mumbai without depending on builders

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7.4	Regulations to manage the proliferation of ports along the coasts; consider cumulative impacts	Agree		
7.4.1	Study of cumulative impact of ports; moratorium on expansion of existing ports and initiation of new projects till then	Agree		Need to also study the impacts of sea walls and groynes and regulate their construction
7.4.2	Include seaward side under CRZ to regulate ports in terms of impacts on the sea and its land interface	Agree		
7.4.3	Review amendment to EIA notification that permits expansion of ports without any increase in pollution load	Agree		
7.5	Introduce tighter standards for effluent disposal; disallow underwater pipelines to the sea; strong monitoring programme	Agree		Should be applicable to all coastal water bodies
7.6	Introduce new regimes in Andamans and Nicobar as well as Lakshadweep Islands after deliberation and consultation	Agree		
7.7	Introduce any new protection regime such as critically vulnerable coastal areas after careful and deliberate understanding of the impacts on fisher families	Agree to committee's view on principle involved; reject CVCA concept	CRZ I provides adequate protection to critical habitat; no need for yet another category	

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	Enjoin interests of fishers with that of conservation; learn from past mistakes in Jambudwip and Bitarkanika	Agree		Must review Jambudwip and Bitarkanika and restore livelihood rights that have been curtailed or taken away
7.8	Strengthen protection to mangroves based on clear definitions: mapping of mangroves, include potential mangrove areas as well as degraded areas; plan for restoration	Agree		Mangroves only refer to vegetation. Need to consider local concept of "mangal" that includes entire eco-system including mud flats and vacant spaces between plants. Also need to strengthen protection for lesser understood eco-systems like sand dunes, inter-tidal zones in the northern latitudes and tropical dry evergreen forests on south east coast
7.9	Include seaward side to ensure protection from current and future threats with safeguards to ensure no restriction to livelihoods of fishing communities	Agree		Need to ensure that sea falls into a separate category (CRZ-V?) and not get attached to land categories and cause confusion; regulations to sea side needs to be discussed in detail before finalising
7.10	Introduce measures to greatly strengthen research and regulatory capacity at all levels	Agree		
	Set up new institute for coastal zone management; set up National Board for Sustainable Coastal Management	Disagree	This is nothing but CMZ wine in CRZ bottle	
7.11	Introduce policies to cope and adopt to future dangers from sea level rise and increased vulnerability to coast; demarcate vulnerability and hazard line	Disagree with proposal to demarcate vulnerability line	CMZ through back door?	Money is better spent in demarcating HTL, something vital for CRZ and a failure in last 18 years.