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Title: Need to protect traditional rights of fishermen community in Coastal areas.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): In the Draft Notification on the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) 2007, it is feared that the interest of coastal tribes (Fishermen) is not protected even though its objective is protection and sustainable development of coastal management based on sound scientific principles taking into account the vulnerability of the coast to natural hazards, sustainable livelihood of coastal community and conservation of ecologically and culturally significant coastal areas.

The customary rights of fishermen are not seen protected. As a result the fishermen community will be marginalized or thrown out of coastal area.

Fishing has not been identified as a key activity requiring sea frontage and hence their access rights to sea and sea beach is under threat.

The seaward line prescribed is 12 nautical miles as against 500 metres from the High Tide Line prescribed by CZR Act 1991.

In the absence of well-defined regulation and No Development Zone (NDZ) in the Draft Notification, private tourism sector may infiltrate into the coastal area.

The rights of fishermen to build houses and settlements, keep fishing implements in open Beach and free access to beach and sea will be affected.

In the CZR Act 1991 certain restrictions were imposed in CRZ-I for protection of environment. In the **Draft CZM** notification no such restrictions appear to be prescribed.

The customary rights of the fishermen community should be ensured and their basic occupational needs such as housing, schooling and healthcare are to be satisfied, besides facilities to keep **the** crafts and nets to be provided and access rights to sea and beach have to be ensured. There should be ample provisions in the Notification empowering the State Govt, to deal with such vital issues of social importance.