

>

Title: Need to address the problem of fishermen/traditional communities living in the coastal areas of Kerala.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): The Government of India had issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification to ensure livelihood security to the fishing communities and other local communities living in the coastal areas by conserving and protecting coastal stretches and by promoting development in a sustainable manner based on scientific principles and taking into account the dangers of natural hazards in the coastal areas and rise in sea level due to global warming.

But during the implementation of the CRZ Notification, fisherman traditional community living in the coastal areas of Kerala faced certain difficulties which have resulted in wide public agony. Following are the issues that need to be addressed urgently

- a) Fishermen/traditional communities living by the sea are unable to construct their dwelling units. The construction of dwelling units of traditional coastal communities including fisherman may be permitted in CRZ III including the No Development Zone by the sea and inland water bodies except in vulnerable areas.
- b) The space for constructing dwelling units in the CRZ area is limited. Hence, family members are not in a position to construct dwelling units in the land rightfully received as family right/share in the No Development Zones of CRZ III. The traditional/fishermen community who buy a piece of land within the CRZ area is unable to build a house as per the present provisions. It is a very essential requirement for the traditional/fishermen community, the right for the same need to be reinstated in CRZ II and CRZ III area.
- c) The construction of dwelling units need to be permitted on the banks of paddy fields/ pokkali fields/aqua farms, after leaving minimum setback of 5m.
- d) The banks of small streams with less than 10m width may be excluded from CRZ.
- e) Considering the pressure of population on the banks of the sea-tide affected water bodies, the No Development Zone of CRZ III along the banks of inland water bodies may be reduced to 50m from High Tide Line (landward) from the present stipulation of 100m. At present under Wetland (conservation and Management rules) 2010 only 50m is declared as No construction zone.
- f) The provision to permit reconstruction in the NDZ of CRZ III area without increase in existing plinth area, existing FSI and existing density may be modified to permit reconstruction in the NDZ of CRZ III without increase in existing plinth area or up to 100m² in case of dwelling units. This would help the fishermen/local community to reconstruct small huts and dwelling units to a better place to live.
- g) Presently, construction in backwater islands is possible only beyond 50m from the HTL. For the traditional/fishermen community, this may be amended to the extent that 'dwelling units can be permitted landward of existing authorised structures or approved roads'.
- h) The construction of building for livelihood activities like peeling of prawns, fish based small scale non polluting cottage industries/small shops and flour mills may be permitted in CRZ area other than CRZ I, CRZ III -NDZ and CRZ IV.
- i) Permission may be granted for 3-4 floor housing buildings under Government projects like Rajiv Slum Development Project in CRZ III area after leaving 100m from HTL of sea.