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SERIES I No. 25

# OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF GOA GAZETTE



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## NOTE

There are two Extraordinary issues to the Official Gazette, Series I No. 24 dated 15-9-2022, namely:—  
 (1) Extraordinary dated 15-9-2022 from pages 793 to 796, Department of Law, Notifications regarding various Acts.  
 (2) Extraordinary (No. 2) dated 16-9-2022 from pages 797 to 806, Department of Finance, Notification No. 5-1-2-2022-Fin(DMU)/1032 regarding Market Borrowing Programme of State Government 2022-23; and Notifications regarding various Acts from Law Department.

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## GOVERNMENT OF GOA

### Department of Environment Climate Change

#### Notification

15-1/2020-21/GSBB/BMC-141/015/788

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (a) of Section 23 & sub-section (2) of Section 24 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Central Act No. 18 of 2003) the Government of Goa hereby notifies the below mentioned Guidelines/recommendations for sustainable utilization, conservation and management of bioresources with special emphasis on controlled harvesting and conservation of edible clams, other shell fish & critical bio-resources within the jurisdiction of the

Biodiversity Management Committees along the riverine & coastal areas in the State of Goa.

General guidelines/recommendations for sustainable utilization, conservation and management of bioresources with special emphasis on controlled harvesting and conservation of edible clams, other shell fish & critical bio-resources within the jurisdiction of the Biodiversity Management Committees along the riverine & coastal areas in the State of Goa

*Preamble.—*

Growth of the blue bio-economy has potential for contributing positively towards, social upliftment and sustainable development goals. Natural bio-resource management of land, water, soil, plants and

animals, should focus on its effect on the quality of life for both present and future generations. It deals with managing the way in which people and natural habitats interact. It brings together land use planning, water management, conservation, and the future sustainability of major areas like agriculture, tourism, fisheries and forestry. The community-based approach combines conservation objectives with the generation of economic benefits for communities.

The present recommendations are made on the key assumptions that:

- (1) Locals are better placed to conserve natural resources;
- (2) People will conserve a resource only if benefits exceed the costs of conservation, and
- (3) People will conserve a resource that is linked directly to their quality of life or livelihood.

It recognizes that people and their livelihoods rely on the health and productivity of their habitats and their actions, as stewards play a critical role in maintaining this health and productivity. Natural resource management specifically focuses on a scientific and technical understanding of resources, ecology and the life-supporting capacity of those resources. In academic contexts, the sociology of natural resources is closely related to unique local Biological Resources and therefore there is a need to assess, protect, conserve and manage such economically important bio-resources. Areas considered for deriving the guidelines were from Chicalim & Sancoale with participation from local Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Chairpersons along with other members. However, they could be made applicable to entire State with customization wherever felt necessary in consultation with local BMCs, GSBB and Fisheries Department till proposed legal framework is derived by Department of Fisheries.

*Need.—*

The clam resources in these estuarine habitats form one of the localized marine live

assets for the local inhabitants and those residing within an area of about 5 kms radius. The livelihood of the local communities is dependent on these resources that sustain their day-to-day survival. Therefore, it is very important that these resources are conserved with the help of the local stakeholders for sustainable harvesting.

*Local Ownership of resources.—*

Ownership and control over the use of bio-resources is most effectively ensured if locals are sensitized. Individuals, groups and local stakeholders may be able to make use of the resources, but only with the sustainable approach. Traditionally existing sustainable practices have always ensured equitable & fair utilization of local resources. But it is observed in this case that over-exploitation was reported wherein local BMCs raised complaints with GSBB, that led to formulation of these guidelines.

As approved by GSBB's 'Committee to prepare guidelines for controlled harvesting & conservation of edible clams, other shell fish and critical bio-resources within the jurisdiction of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the State of Goa & along the riverine and coastal areas of Goa State" (Clams Committee), GSBB is notifying guidelines till rules are framed from time to time in order to protect and conserve these bio-resources considering the interest of the local beneficiaries as far as such resources are concerned.

Further, the local bodies, BMCs, Stakeholders and Fisheries Department with GSBB could jointly workout further plans for implementation. GSBB would be willing to further support if needed.

*Administration and guidelines.—*

1. The available clam resources should be allowed to be harvested only with the traditional method of hand picking and exclusively by the local villagers & those residing within an area of about 5 kms radius from the site by road or water on alongside of location and does not include opposite side of riverbank.

2. Those beyond above specified distance should not be allowed to exploit these resources without the permission of the local bodies [or suitable regulatory or Enforcement mechanism to be worked out by the Panchayat office, through Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)].

3. Efforts should be made by BMC to involve the local stakeholders to ascertain the sustainability of these bio-resources. This will enable to safeguard the intactness of resources available in this locality.

4. Ideally the lower limit of size for harvesting should not be less than 3cms. length and therefore harvesting of clams less than 3 cms. length should not be allowed (Size to be measured as shown in Figure 1. The harvesting should be done only with hand picking method, and no dredging or sweeping the bottom should be permitted in such critical habitats like Chicalim and Sancoale bay, as such dredging operations are known to alter the sediment texture leading to re-suspension and affecting the biogeochemistry causing an ecological imbalance. In case of requirement of desilting of such areas approval of competent authority based on impact assessment by accredited experts is to be obtained. In other locations, these guidelines may be further fine-tuned on case-to-case basis.

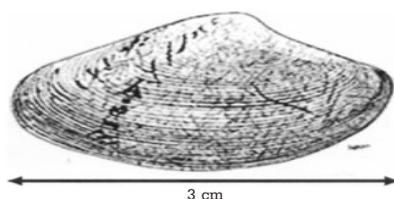


Figure 1: Reference for measurement of size of clam for harvesting.—

5. To ensure proper management and conservation of these endemic resources unique to this localized site, Quota system or alternate harvesting or appropriate mechanism developed by BMC in consultation with local body, may be implemented among the potential harvesters that depend on these resources for their

livelihood. The appropriate quota levels may be decided by BMC and local body depending upon the level of dependence of families for their livelihood. This need to be worked out based on the quantity of harvests obtained in the past. This will also fulfill the objectives of the Biodiversity Board for sustainable harvesting and equitable sharing of the bio-resources.

6. Closed season may be imposed during the months of July to October every year to facilitate breeding and recruitment in these habitats as this period happens to be the peak breeding time for these species. Even while harvesting no one should be allowed to take away micro habitats like rocks on which shell fish such as oysters grow. This is required for the maintenance of the stock of population.

7. Further to this, the habitat (clam bed) may be categorized in different zones based on the level of exploitation. The vulnerable zones with respect to exploitation and habitat degradation need to be managed with increased control of the local community to reduce the level of exploitation. This should be done by BMC under the guidance of experts designated by GSBB.

8. The months of April-May being the peak tourist season in Goa coupled with high temperatures in these habitats, the entry of tourist population should be restricted in identified vulnerable zones as it is known to lead to habitat alteration and water quality deterioration which is responsible for increased mortality of the clams.

9. The months of September-October, although found to be coinciding with recruitment, partial or controlled harvesting may be carried out to regulate the population of the clam in these habitats.

10. The local body/BMC/authority should be able to levy some license fees to be

obtained from the beneficiaries who are involved in the harvesting of this bio-resource. In this system, this revenue could possibly be used by the local Panchayat towards management of these resources by involving the local community/stakeholders. Amount could be decided by BMC based on norms such as local market costs of Biological Resources, possibility to harvest per hour, etc.

11. Regarding dependent harvesters, decision about levy fee, number of people to be allowed in a day shall be taken by BMC and Village Panchayat. There could be category of 2 types—

i) Directly dependent local population of those traditionally accessing such biological resources. Their Traditional Knowledge should be recorded and they should be involved in conservation initiatives & should be charged notional amount in such a way that it does not become prohibitive and does not exceed 0.1 % of selling price (0.1 % is derived from minimum percentage of Access Benefit Sharing under the Biological Diversity Act 2002 & Rules, 2004) or they may be exempted from such levy fee.

ii) Those who harvest such biological resources as a delicacy and should be charged more amount as felt appropriate by BMC in consultation with the local body. In case of any dispute, decision of GSBB shall be final and binding.

12. The proposed field study also needs to work on identifying an area “a small plot” within main clam bed to be identified as “NO-TAKE- ZONE”, which can be used to protect the breeding clam population and will serve as a so-called “SEEDBANK”. The No Take Zone to be identified by GSBB based on field inspections with Expert Scientists, Fishermen, Fisheries Department Officials, Biodiversity

Management Committee members and at least 3-5 local inhabitants.

13. The Chicalim Bay has a brood stock of clams and diverse marine species of commercial value, including the flagship species of Window Pane Oyster (*Placuna placenta*). However, it must be emphasized that the bay has been sustainably utilized by several generations of people from Sancoale, Chicalim, Dabolim (Sancoalekars, Chicalikars and Dabolikars) and other adjoining villages. Hence decision about levy fee and other local restrictions like number of people to be permitted per day should be decided by concerned BMC under guidance by GSBB and experts designated by GSBB.

14. Previously the traditional ecological knowledge systems were prevalent and ensuring sustainable management and smooth resource renewal dynamics in the bay and adjoining areas.

15. Clam collectors from the jurisdiction of the Chicalim and Sancoale villages will be prioritized. Disallowing access to others should be checked for its tenability in law. While regulating, restriction to certain extent could be wise approach as approved by the Clams Committee.

*Note:* While above guidelines predominantly mention clams, the guidelines are applicable to other marine and riparian Biological Resources such as oysters, mussels and other vulnerable species under threat of over harvesting.

This notification comes into effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

By order and in the name of the  
Governor of Goa.

*Dasharath M. Redkar*, Director (Environment & CC).

Panaji, 19th September, 2022.