

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing

Environmental Public Hearing was conducted for Development of Ship Breaking Facility for small ships proposed by M/s. Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd., at Survey No. 41 & 42 Hissa 18 & 19/1 in Village-Katale (Jaigad Creek), Tal. Guhagar, Dist. Ratnagiri, held on 05/09/2018, at. 11:00 AM, at. Lokshikshan Mandal Abloli, Sabhagruha, Gonbarewadi, Khodade, Tal. Guhagar, Dist. Ratnagiri.

The Public Hearing is conducted for Development of Ship Breaking Facility for small ships proposed by M/s Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd. Ratnagiri at Survey No. 41 & 42 (Hissa 18 & 19/1), village Katale (Jaigad creek), Tal. Guhagar, Dist. Ratnagiri. Shri. Amit Shedge, Additional District Magistrate, Dist. Ratnagiri, Presiding over the hearing as Chairman of Public Hearing panel, Shri. N.S.Lohalkar, Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Kolhapur, Member of the public hearing panel & Shri. A.D.Chavan, I/C- Sub Regional Officer, M.P.C.Board, Chiplun, Convener of the public hearing panel welcomed the Chairman, Members as well as the participants of public hearing. The list of the panel Members as well as the participants of public present during the public hearing is enclosed herewith. (Annexure-I)

The Convener, thereafter, briefly informed about the procedure followed by M.P.C. Board, as laid down on the Basis of Terms of Reference issued by MOEF & CC, New Delhi vide letter F No. 11-17/2015 - IA III dt. 12.11.2015. This Public Hearing earlier scheduled on 25.05.2018 was postponed due to code of conduct imposed for Konkan Zone Graduates Constituency election and it was rescheduled on 05.09.2018. The notice about re-scheduling of Public Hearing was published in Daily Ratnagiri Times in Marathi on 03.08.2018 and in Free Press Journal in English on 04.08.2018. This project proposal falls under activity No. 7(b) of Category 'A' (ship breaking yards including ship breaking units) of schedule to the EIA Notification 2006. The copies of draft EIA / EMP and Executive Summaries in English and Marathi alongwith soft copy in the form of CDs were made available to the offices mentioned in the public notice.

Convener gave details of procedure and further clarified to the participants that the Public Hearing Panel is not here to accord/recommend Environmental clearance to the project, but for recording the objections/suggestions of the participants, which will be video graphed and will be submitted to the MOEF & CC, New Delhi through Head Office of M. P. C. Board, Mumbai alongwith minutes of Public Hearing for further necessary action.

The Convener, with permission of Chairman, then requested the project proponent to give information about their project through power point presentation in local language.

Project Proponent, Mariner Dilip Bhatkar (Director, Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd.)

explained technical aspects of this project in line with details given in EIA/EMP reports. He further explained genuine need of such facility today on Konkan Coast. He further added that project proponents are local residents of Konkan region and professionals in sea-faring work. He explained that entire procedure used in this project will be fostering and nourishing total environment of this region. He further added that the Company has its own 7.25 Acres foreshore land for this project and additional land acquisition is not required. Company has already made 2.5 km. private road connecting project site to state high way No. 105. Whereas, total 5000 sq. mtr. water frontage of 125 mtr. length is proposed to be leased from Maharashtra Maritime Board for this project. He added that there is not a single mangrove tree at this project site. He also explained some other downstream and upstream locations in Jaigad creek where patches of mangroves are existing.

Dr. D. A. Patil, Environmental Consultant then explained environmental issues of land, air and creek water including base line study data collected at various places around project site within 10 km radius zone.

Thereafter, Chairman of this Public Hearing, Hon. Shri. Amit Shedage (Additional District Magistrate, Ratnagiri) appealed people to express their queries, suggestions, objections or comments regarding the proposed project.

The details of the comments made by the people and the reply given by project proponent are given below.

- **Shri. Gajanan Kamalakar Patil** (Ratnagiri Taluka Panchayat Samittee Member and resident of Malgund village) : He expressed satisfaction on the information given by Project Director so as his all doubts were cleared. He showed confidence in project proponents and expected pollution free remedies during operations of project. He also expected good employment opportunities to the local youth. He declared hearty support and wished every success for this project.
- **Shri. Prakash Salvi** (Former Sabhapati, (President) Taluka Panchayat Samittee, Ratnagiri) : He said that Shri. Dilip Bhatkar has explained all details of the proposed project. Dilip Bhatkar has been always co-operative and helping needy persons especially students in this region. Dilip Bhatkar and his team all are native of this Konkan region. We all must support him for his project in the interest of development of Konkan belt.
- **Shri. Sharad Borkar** (Former Shikshan Sabhapati, Zilla Parishad, Ratnagiri) : He stated that Dilip Bhatkar, project proponent is born seafarer of Konkan coast and also certified Mariner who has successfully worked in international marine sector. He has salvaged few ships from stranded conditions on west coast of India and saved lives and ships with his own efforts. He will ensure balance of nature and take care of all environmental issues during operation of this project.

This project will provide local employment too. Mr. Borkar further cautioned as regards one proposed bridge planned across the creek between Sande Lavgan and Tavsai villages. The height and span of this bridge should be large enough for the vessels to pass underneath this proposed bridge. Mr. Borkar conveyed best wishes for this project of Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd.

- **Shri. Mahesh R. Natekar (Zilla Parishad Member)** : He agreed that the project proponent will take care of Environmental issues but he suggested monitoring committee to include representative of adjoining village. Jaigad creek has majority of fishermen community and hence their representative will work in monitoring committee to control and prevent pollution matter if arises. Mr. Natekar expressed concern for sand bars and shallow patches already existing in the creek causing obstacles for the fishing boats in their approach channel near project site. He stated that certain areas in the Jaigad creek requires dredging to have safe approach of fishing boats. Mr. Natekar suggested for vocational training for local youth for having employment opportunities. He appreciated hard work and efforts being taken by Shri Dilip Bhatkar in last few years and support given to local persons around this area. Mr. Natekar declared his support to this project.
- **Mr. Aniket Surve (Former Sarpanch, Watad)** : He expressed his satisfaction and wel-come this proposed project of ship breaking facility. He expected good employment opportunity through this project. He further stated that project proponents are local professionals and he extended total support to the project.
- **Mr. Uday Shankar Mane (Ex. Grampanchayat Member, Kasari)** : He said that this proposed project itself is a matter of pride for us and also for Konkan belt. He whole heartedly wel-come the project and conveyed total support.
- **Shri Suresh Bhikaji Sawant (Guhagar)** : He said that presentation of this project was very satisfactory. We wel-come this project in Guhagar and we suggest preference for employment opportunity should be given to the persons from Guhagar taluka. He also advised the project proponents to arrange one study tour of local villagers to Gujarat and Mumbai to see similar projects being run there.
- **Shri Mushtaq Yunus Temkar (Sanchalak Jaigad Fishermen Sanstha)** : He showed total confidence in Mariner Dilip Bhatkar who is project proponent. He further said that this project is very ideal on our coast line and we shall all work together for this project and its success. He wished for early commencement of this project.
- **Sharad Yashwant Pawari (Fishermen of Kudali village)** : He said that there is fishermen community in Jaigad creek. Fishing activity in this creek should not be hampered due to this project. He further stated that there is one dock anchored in the creek and its anchors have no light signals during night hours.

Such anchors must have light signals for safety. Authorities need to look into such matters on priority. He further suggested to keep the channel free for movements of fishing boats of nearby villagers.

- **Shri Parshuram Vishram Pashte**(Former Sarpanch, Sandelavgan) : He said that this is the first ever project of this type on our Konkan coast. Obviously, we shall all support this project from heart.
- **Shri Ramesh Kharvatkar** (Chairman, Katale Fishermen Sanstha) : He said that this project site falls on coast line of our village itself. We whole-heartedly support this project on our village coast line. At the same time, project proponents will ensure that our fisherman will not suffer in anyway due to this project. He further stated that he has experience in operations of Pollution Control equipments like sewage and effluent treatment plants. He is ready to provide assistance in installation and operation of such treatment plants at project site. He expected local employment in this project.
- **Mrs. Samiksha Sanjay Ambedkar**(Chairperson, Kharavi Samaj Sanstha) : She said that fishing is their only earning source. Now-a-days, the children in every house are literate and educated but they do not have good employment opportunities ashore. She expected job opportunities to the youth in this project.
- **Shri Chandrakant Bait**(Business man; Director of Ratnagiri District Central Co-operative Bank; President, Lokshikshan Mandal, Abloli) : He stated that Director of Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd. Mariner Dilip Bhatkar has discussed about this project with me many times in past. I am sure that Mr. Bhatkar will run the project properly and he will solve the problem if any. Pollution Control is very important in implementing this project. Mr. Bait further suggested to start ship building work also here to generate more employment opportunities. At the end, he conveyed best wishes to this project.
- **Smt. Rutuja Rajesh Jadhav**(Ziila Parishad Member) : She welcomed the project and conveyed best wishes to Shri Dilip Bhatkar for his initiation. She expected proponents to fulfill Pollution Control measures properly. She also expected job opportunities to local persons and supported this project.
- **Dr. Vinay Natu**(Ex. MLA, Guhagar) : He said that environmental issues need to be discussed here primarily in such public hearing. In addition to fishermen community; the problems of farmers and horticulturists also need to be viewed. Environmental issues need to be attended carefully in all respects. He very particularly emphasized the need of very sturdy and wide roads from project site upto national highway to sustain heavy vehicle traffic of this project. Dr. Natu recommended the necessity of such projects at such places so as the project becomes identity of that particular place. He advised to have one yearly meeting of Govt. officials, Grampanchayt people, fishermen and villagers etc.

together to discuss various issues amicably. He pointed out need of guidance and training for upcoming students for jobs and higher education.

- **Smt. Sanjana Uday Mane (Watad Gan)** : She pointed out to the vision of Mahatma Gandhi saying that go to villages if you want to develop India. She said Mr. Dilip Bhatkar is working on similar lines for development of rural Konkan. We well-come and support this project.
- **Shri. Aniruddha Kamalakar Salvi (Ex. Sarpanch Jaigad)** : He said that Shri Dilip Bhatkar has provided employment avenues for local people in his earlier projects in past. This project also will help in development of Jaigad creek. We wholeheartedly support this project.
- **Mrs. Meghana Mahadeo Pashte(Ratnagiri Taluka Panchayat Samitee Member)** : She said that I personally know the spirit and passion of Shri Dilip Bhatkar with his keen interest while working on Konkan coast. I wish him success in this project.
- **Shri Sachin Manjarekar(Sarpanch Sandelavgan-Kasari)** : We support and wish success for this project.
- **Mrs. Farzana Dange(Member and ex-Sarpanch, Jaigad)** : We wel-come this project and declare our support.
- **Shri Vijay Janardan Mohite(Tavasal Padave village Sanstha)** : We expect that proponents will take care of all issues during operation of project. Proponents will support fishermen and will spare no problem while operating this project. He expected job opportunities and one committee to be constituted for co-ordination.
- **Smt. Darshana Pandurang Dhatkar (Village lady from Kharavi Community)** : Men from our community generally work upto age of 50 to 55 years in deep sea. Thereafter livelihood becomes difficult. Hence, creek water fishing needs to be protected and employments opportunity is expected through this project
- **Smt. Malati Mukund Dabholkar (Village lady from Kudali village)** : Our creek provides livelihood for us as if this creek is our milking cow. There should not be obstacle for our small fishing boats in our creek. Due to present unemployment criterion, our educated young boys are working at sea even in cyclones and we mothers are worried for their safety at sea. Therefore, local employment opportunities are essential.

- **Mrs. Pratiksha Kundan Pawari (Member, Grampanchayat Kudali)** : We are facing problems from the other projects which are already operational in Jaigad creek. We do not have agricultural land with us and hence we do fishing in the creek. Therefore, preventive measures should be taken to ever come the problems of fishermen community in future.
- **Shri Gajanan Patil(Member Ratnagiri Taluka Panchayat Samitte)** : He again stood up and appealed to all participants present in the house that everybody has understood project details by now. Thereafter, he asked people to raise their hands if they want to give consent to this project. All the participants raised their hands showing support and consent to this project of ship breaking facility at Katale in Jaigad creek.

Mr. Patil further urged Hon'ble Chairman to please bring this example to the notice of Government that people in Konkan do support good industry whole heartedly in Konkan region especially on the background of protests usually shown to incoming Industry in Konkan region elsewhere. Entire house clapped in affirmation to support this statement made by Mr. Gajanan Patil.

- **Mr. Nilesh Surve(ExSarpanch Tavsai-Katale Grampanchayat)** : We shall all support this project. However, it is to be noted that the Jaigad creek is also known for Tourism. Tourists are coming here to enjoy nature and sea food of this creek. Hotel industry and tourism should not be affected in Jaigad creek. We need support for our tourism activity.
- **Shri Pradeep Surve (Ex-President Tanta Mukti Samitee Tavsai-Katale)** : We support this project and convey our best wishes. However, the livelihood and views expressed by ladies from villages in Jaigad creek need to be considered seriously.

At last, Hon. Chairman asked project proponent Mariner Dilip Bhatkar to express his views and give concluding remarks.

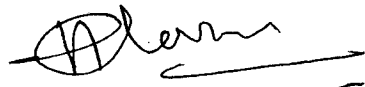
Mariner Dilip Bhatkar, Director, Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd. expressed gratitude and thanks to the house for peaceful and good understanding and for extending support and best wishes to the project. He once again assured the total protection of environmental issues during operation of project, careful preventive measures to control pollution and no hindrance and obstacles to the fishing activity and tourism activity in the creek. Mr. Dilip Bhatkar responded to the suggestion made by Mr. Natekar and further stated that involvement of village representative in the proposed monitoring committee will help the Company in better co-ordination of project work. He also stated that the few long pending issues of this creek like dredging the sand bars and shallow patches and thus establishing the safe navigational channels will be collectively taken to the Port and Govt. Authorities for needful doing

and solving the problems. As regards suggestion made by Sharad Pawari, project proponent Shri Bhatkar explained that the dock situated with unlit anchors in the creek does not belong to Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd. but belongs to some other company based in Mumbai and we also face difficulties from

We shall take up this matter to the owner of this site and also to Port Officer for remedial action. Mariner Dilip Bhatkar also appreciated the assistance and co-operation extended by Mr. Ramesh Kharvatkar in the matter of sewage and effluent treatment plants to be installed at project site. Mariner Dilip Bhatkar once again thanked the dais and the house personally and also on behalf of M/s Marine Syndicate Pvt. Ltd., Ratnagiri.

After the question-answer session, Shri. A.D.Chavan, Convener of the Public Hearing panel confirmed with the Chairman of Public Hearing about conclusion of Public Hearing.

The Chairman then concluded the Public Hearing with vote of thanks to the participants.

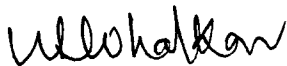


(A.D.Chavan)

Convener of Public Hearing/
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(N.S.Lohalkar)

Member of Public Hearing/
Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Kolhapur.

Regional Officer
M. P. C. BOARD, KOLHAPUR.



(Amit Shedge)

Chairman of Public Hearing panel/
Additional District Magistrate,
Ratnagiri.

Addl. District Magistrate
Ratnagiri.

