

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PROJECT OF DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES HARBOUR AT VILLAGE - SAKHARI NATE , TALUKA-RAJAPUR, DISTRICT – RATNAGIRI, MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD (MMB), HOME DEPARTMENT (PORT & TRANSPORTATION), 2nd FLOOR, INDIAN MERCANTILE CHAMBERS, RAMJI KAMANI ROAD, BELLARD ESTATE, FORT, MUMBAI – 400 001, MAHARASHTRA

The Environment Public Hearing for proposed project of Development of Fisheries Harbour at Sakhari Nate, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri, Maharashtra proposed by Project Proponent M/s Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), Home Department (Port & Transportation), 2nd Floor, Indian Mercantile Chambers, Ramji Kamani Road, Bellard Estate, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001, Maharashtra was conducted on Thursday, the 14th March, 2024 at 04.00 pm at Natenagar Vidyamandir Hall, At Post – Nate, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

Shri Sanjay Jirapure, Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Chiplun – Additional Charge of Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Chandrakant Suryawanshi, Additional District Magistrate, Ratnagiri and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Ms. Vaishali Mane, Sub Divisional Officer-Rajapur, Taluka-Rajapur, District-Ratnagiri; Ms. Sheetal Jadhav, Tahsildar-Rajapur, Taluka-Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri; Shri Abhaysigh Shinde Inamdar, Assistant Commissioner, Fisheries Department, Government of Maharashtra; Shri Jagannath Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee; Officials of the Project Proponent, journalists, NGOs working in the field of environment, channel representatives and local people who were present in large and with permission of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee started the proceedings.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of Ministry of

Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009 and 14th August, 2018, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee further informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), Home Department (Port & Transportation), 2nd Floor, Indian Mercantile Chambers, Ramji Kamani Road, Bellard Estate, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001, Maharashtra to conduct Environment Public Hearing for their proposed project of Development of Fisheries Harbour, at Sakhari Nate, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

Convener further informed that proposed Project as per EIA Notification, 2006 falls under Category B 7 (E) which requires to obtain prior Environment Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Mantralaya, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation is to make aware, local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and Environment Management Plan of the unit.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Environment & Climate Change Mantralaya, Maharashtra Government, Mumbai on 29-06-2023 and it has been considered and given online approval on 30-06-2023.

District Collector, Ratnagiri sanctioned to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing on Thursday, the 14th March, 2024 at 11.00 a.m., but due to certain technical issues, the Environment Public Hearing is held on 04.00 noon. After sanction District Collector, Ratnagiri to conduct the Physical Environment Public Hearing and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Environment Public Hearing Panel vide Board's

Office Order No. E- 120 of 2024 under letter no. BO/JD (WPC)/PH/B-240216- FTS-0244, dated 16-02-2024 as under :-

- 1) District Magistrate-Ratnagiri
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District
Magistrate **Chairman**
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra
Pollution Control Board, Mumbai -
Regional Officer – Kolhapur,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kolhapur **Member**
- 3) Sub Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Ratnagiri **Convener**

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Ratnagiri in the Local Newspaper in Daily Ratnagiri Times for Marathi and in National Newspaper Daily Indian Express for English on 10th February, 2024. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed unit.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summery were made available in Marathi and in English at various notified Government offices as –

- 1) Hon. District Collector, Collector Office, Ratnagiri,
- 2) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ratnagiri,
- 3) General Manager, District Industries Center, Ratnagiri,
- 4) Director, Environment & Climate Change Department,
Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, 15th
Floor, Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032
- 5) Member Secretary – Head Office – Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Floor, Sion Matunga Scheme
Road No.8, Sion (East), Mumbai – 400 022

- 6) Zonal Office, Western-Central Zone, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, New Secretarial Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur – 440 0001;
- 7) Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Udyog Bhavan, District Collector Office, Kolhapur – 416 002
- 8) Sub Divisional Officer, Rajapur, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri.
- 9) Tahsildar, Tahsil Office, Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri,
- 10) Sarpanch/Gram Sevak, Gram Panchayat Office-, Sakharinate, Nate, Jaitapur, Aambolgad, Dhaulvalli, Dale, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri,
- 11) Sub Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Central Administrative Building No.2, 2nd Floor, Collector Office, Ratnagiri – 415 612
- 12) Website of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai;

Convener, Environment Public Hearing Committee informed that 13 suggestions/objections are received against the project.

Convener informed that an opportunity is given to all participants to raise any doubts, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project in environmental angle, which can be submitted by orally or in writing also.

Convener asserted that this Committee is only for recording public opinion, suggestions, objections and has no right to approve, reject or recommend the project. The suggestions/objections raised by the participants in the public hearing will be noted and it will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Similarly, the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the Project Proponent should have to be submitted to SEIAA, Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government Mumbai after taking note of the video recording of the said meeting, suggestions and objections recorded in the meeting after approval of Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. An Expert Committee there takes further decision regarding the same He requested Chairman of the Environment

Public Hearing Committee to inform Project Proponent to start the presentation.

With the permission of the Chairman, the Environmental Consultant of the project made a presentation on the entire Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed project.

Environment Consultant of the project said that Sakhari Nate is a village situated on the west coast of Ratnagiri district in the Konkan division of Maharashtra and is a major fishing port with a large fishing and fish distribution business. There are about 450 fishing boats operating here and considering the large scale of fishing, infrastructure is not available to meet the needs of fishing boats and fishermen.

Local fishermen have been demanding for many years a well-equipped fishing harbor at Sakhari Nate. Therefore, the Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra has prepared a proposal to develop Harne Fish Port.

Environmental Consultant informed that the project has been approved under the Government of India's Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) vide letter dated 22nd August, 2022.

State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra has granted Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance (CRZ Clearance) to the said project on 26th September, 2023.

The fish handling capacity of the proposed fish port is 35,050.0 tonnes per annum.

Environment Consultant said that the total cost of the said project is Rs 153.47 crore and after the completion of the port with all facilities, it will be handed over to the Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra.

After completion of the Presentation, Environment Public Hearing Committee appealed participants to raise any suggestion, objections in respect of project proponent in environmental angle only. While informing, full name and address should be mentioned.

Views, questions, suggestions/objections raised during the Environment Public Hearing and the answers/promises given by the Project Proponent :-

1) Shri Amjad Borkar, Ex.Sabhapati, Sakhari Nate Society, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri:-

Here, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report on the proposed project is presented. All the information about the impact on the environment during the construction phase of the project and its mitigation measures, as well as the impact on the environment and its mitigation measures after the implementation of the project have been explained to the participants.

We are all satisfied with the explanation given regarding Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Environmental Management Plan. We fully support the project. We all desire that the said project to be completed as soon as possible.

Shri Amjad Borkar further said that while considering the facilities at the port, the facilities at the port and the facilities around the port are informed here. In the said project, a platform for boating will be developed. There is also a provision to repair the fishing net. There is an auction hall in the harbour for fish auction. Parking is available for transportation. All this is given in the diagram. This is a matter of satisfaction.

However, it is being requested to Environment Public Hearing Committee that a large number of women have come here, they are fish sellers. They have no place to sell fish. However, there is a request from the women here that space should be reserved for women for selling fish at the port and it should be developed.

Project Proponent replied that a separate space has been reserved for ancillary facilities in the said project. A shed will be built for selling fish and space will be reserved for women and the earmarked space will be developed for local women fish sellers.

2) Shri Manoj Madhukar Aadvilkar, Residence – Gherai Bunder, Sakhari Nate, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri :-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussions
1)	Information about the area of this project should be given.	Project Proponent said that there is a 325-meter-long wharf which is

		<p>part of Dungare jetty. Boats will be parked there. Handling of goods in boats or goods sent on boats can be done here.</p> <p>An auction hall will be provided here. Big fishermen can use it. Also, there are facilities here for small fishermen who have fiber boats. Goods handling, Ice unloading facilities have been provided here. Also, a 325-meter wharf will be constructed and all facilities will be provided there which is part of Khau Galli. (Eating Lane).</p>
2)	How will be vehicular movements/traffic system?	Project Proponent said that there is an old road for traffic. But if additional land is made available, the new road will definitely be constructed.
3)	Nothing is mentioned in the plan and in the report regarding construction of new road.	Project Proponent replied that the road would be developed if land is made available.
4)	Sakhri Nate has a historical fort. If it is possible to build a road outside the fort, traffic can flow smoothly. Therefore, there will be no damage to the historical fort.	Project Proponent replied that although there is no present plan to construct a new road, if the local people co-operate in this regard, a survey will be conducted and a positive decision will be taken as to how it will definitely be used for the project.
5)	Project should be completed with full care and responsibility towards	Project Proponent said that in the proposed project, an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) will be

	pollution and environment. 2-3 companies are in operation here, which carries the process on fish. Their waste water is generated on the streets, smell nuisance spreads in the area. Hence , concrete steps should be implemented for control of pollution.	commissioned to process industrial waste water. The waste water generated after processing the fish will be collected and processed in the ETP scientifically.
6)	It is a good thing for fishermen to have such projects. Fish selling women literally sit on the streets to sell fish. Even though no accidents have occurred so far, fish selling women should be provided another space to sell fish to avoid any accidents in the future. The demand is very fair.	Suggestion has been noted.

3) Shri Malik Gadkari, Ex. Sarpanh, Sakhari Nate, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri:-

The middle ward is Sakhari Nate. Filling with mud at the lake, Hatwankar Lake will be carried. That road will pass near Dungeri Jetty. It will go upto the The length of the jetty is beyond the Cheese harbour. There is No road is sanction there. If the space is available, the road will be constructed, but there is no obstacle in completing the jetty project.

I became Sarpanch after 2002. In 2004, the foundation stone of the project was laid by the then Chief Minister. Still then, the work of Jetty could not be done. Today. I am happy that environmental public hearing has been organized in front of me to start the said project. Wholeheartedly supporting this project.

4) Shri Adil Ebrahim Mhaskar, Sakhari Nate Macchimar Co-op. Society Limited :-

I am an active fisherman and support this project. But the questions I am asking should be answered:-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussions
1)	Whether a back water wall will be built for port security?	Project Proponent replied that since the said project is being developed in creek area, this project does not need back water wall. If the said project would have been in the sea, it would have required a back water wall.
2)	Which jetty is going to be built – Pillar Jetty or Substantial Jetty?	Project Proponent answered that Pillar Jetty will be built.
3)	What measures are planned for water supply?	First the water sources of Gram Panchayat will be seen. Provision will be made in the budget for bringing water from where it is supplied to the local villages. The plan will be approved at the government level.
4)	Who will pay water bill of the project?	Project Proponent replied that in future the water taxes will be paid by the Fisheries Department of the Government of Maharashtra.
		Project Proponent clarified that drinking water system and waste water treatment system in the project will be completely separate.
5)	Whether fish market is planned for local fishermen and fisherwomen to sell fish?	Space is kept for Ancillary Facilities. Arrangements will be made there for local fishermen and fisherwomen.

6)	What are the arrangements for selling diesel to institutions/Fishermen Societies?	Project Proponent replied that space has been reserved for the diesel pump. The supply and distribution of diesel will be looked after by the Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra.
7)	Is there a navigation tower arrangement in the port?	Project Proponent said that a navigation tower will be commissioned in the project.
8)	Is there a place for cold storage process at the port?	Project Proponent informed that a space has been reserved for the Ancillary Facilities. A space has been reserved there for cold storage process.
9)	Does the Licensing Officer have an office space?	Project Proponent answered that space is reserved for Ancillary Facilities, office space will be provided there.
10)	Who will manage the port in the future?	Project Proponent said that the management of the port will be under the Fisheries Department of the Government of Maharashtra. Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) will only develop the port and then it will be handed over to the Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra. Further its operation and maintenance will be looked after by Fisheries Department, Government of Maharashtra.
11)	In case of port dispute in future which authority should be appealed?	Project Proponent answered that an appeal should be made to Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra.

12)	Will electricity be provided at the port? Who will pay his bills?	Project Proponent said that provision has been made in the budget for power supply. The electricity bill will be paid by the Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra.
13)	Whether security guards and security arrangements will be made at the port?	Project Proponent said that provision has been made in the budget. Checkpoints/ Chowkis are planned for security guards
14)	Whether private land will be acquired for the said project?	Project Proponent said that preferably we will not construct the project in private land. The project will be constructed on that site only if the private owner make available No Objection Certificate (NOC). Otherwise, the project will be built by avoiding/leaving the private land.

5) Shri Sandeep Ramchandra Banakar, Sarpanch, Nate Gram Panchayat, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri :-

Sr. No.	Objection / Information / Question	Answers / Assurances given by Project Promoter / Environmental Consultant / Environmental Public Hearing Committee as per discussions
1)	Though, proposed project of jetty is to be constructed at Sakhri and Nate villages, there is no mention of Nate village anywhere in the report. Also, the land of the people of Nate village will be acquired for the project due to which mango gardens,	Project Proponent answered that proposed project is completely on water. Project does not require any additional land and clearing of any trees anywhere on the land. Therefore, no provision is made for cutting and replanting of the trees.

	banana farms will be destroyed. What is planning and policy of compensation?	
2)	Shri Banker objected that even if the trees are not to be cut, if the land is required, what provision is made to acquire it?	Project Proponent said that our project is going to be built on water. However, if additional space/plot is required, further action will be taken only after receiving No Objection Certificate from the concerned land owners. Project Proponent assured that efforts will be made to take a positive decision in this regard at the government level.

**6) Shri Faiyyaj Nalekar, Bharatiya Janata Party Taluka Rajapur
Dy.Chairman:-**

There is an environmental public hearing for the proposed construction of fish harbour at Mauje-Sakhri Nate, Taluka-Rajapur, District-Ratnagiri and I fully support this project. He asked all the fishermen present whether they support the project? All participants expressed their support by voice vote. Fishermen have been using this port since long ago and do a business of nearly 300-400 crores. After the completion of the port, the use of trucks, tempos will increase to a large extent. So, it is requested that Gunamastar Port Road and all the toll plaza can be provided with a good quality cement concrete road or some alternative roads which goes to the port.

Project Proponent said that according to the demand, a proposal will be submitted to the Government and efforts will be made to approve the road project as soon as possible.

**7) Shri Nadim Abdul Razak Kanase, Sakhari Nate, Taluka -
Rajapur, District - Ratnagiri:-**

Our tribe is giving full support to the said project. The reason for the joy and happiness we are witnessing in the meeting is that for many years local fishermen have been suffering while fishing, small fishermen are having trouble handling small boats, big fishermen are having trouble

handling big boats. The excitement is visible because the proposed project seems to relieve the daily suffering of fisherwomen.

The dream we have seen for many years is coming true. Because the small fisherman is doing his business for how to grow up, how to get work for everyone and now there is hope somewhere. So we fully support this project.

He further questioned whether the place shown for repairing the boats is plain or substantial. Similarly, the water that comes from the mountain is the drinking water of the village. It should not be damaged. Explain the planning for the same.

Project Proponent said that while preparing the plan, it is already considered that the rain water of the village is going to get together and flow in a large quantity as it is a hilly area. Hence, we planned to build open gutters. Open Gutters will be erected instead of Fiber Gutters. They will be embedded while developing the project. They are embedded while developing the project.

Shri Kanase further remarked that just like Mumbai's local is the lifeline, similarly the fishermen community of Sakhri Nate area is the lifeline. If the boats stay there for two days, the daily local business, direct or indirect is affected. Hence, lifeline should be also good. We have expressed support for the project and are submitting a written statement on our behalf.

8) Shri Shafi Mohammad Wadkar, Chairman, Saki Naka Macchimari Sahakari Society Limited, Sakhari Nate, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri :-

Our organization has a membership of 3,500. There are 4,500 fishermen. All my members and local fishermen here are giving full support to this project.

9) Shri Mahim Todkar, Macchimar, Sakhari Nate, Taluka – Rajapur, District – Ratnagiri :-

We have been doing fishing business in this village for several years. Lack of supportive services which requires for the fishing industry is not available here, which makes it difficult to sell fish and dispose of them in time. Hence, first of all, we thank Government for planning the proposed project.

We have set up a small factory for fish processing at this port. It has also received a loan of 20 crores from the Government. But the fish that the factory gets must be of good quality, so this port is very much needed. Hence, this port project should be completed as soon as possible.

10) **Ms. Gulzar Shafi Thakur, Sarpanch, Sakhari Nate, Taluka - Rajapur, District - Ratnagiri -**

As Sakhari Nate Sarpanch, on behalf of Gram Panchayat and the public at large pledge that we all support this project.

Environment Public Hearing Committee on Environment appealed to the attendees to raise any suggestions or objections regarding the proposed project. There was no response from those present.

While concluding the meeting, Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Ms. Vaishali Mane, Sub Divisional Officer-Rajapur, Taluka-Rajapur, District-Ratnagiri; Ms. Sheetal Jadhav, Tahsildar-Rajapur, Taluka-Rajapur, District - Ratnagiri; Shri Abhaysing Shinde Inamdar, Assistant Commissioner, Fisheries Department, Government of Maharashtra; Shri Jagannath Salunkhe, Regional Officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kolhapur and Member, Environment Public Hearing Committee; Officials of the Project Proponent, journalists, NGOs working in the field of environment, channel representatives and local people who were present in large numbers and thanked all the local people, villagers and said that there is a need for such projects while moving towards the 21st century and implementing development policies. Many people have expressed their suggestions, views in the meeting. Some people have given verbal as well as written suggestions or objections.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that actually public hearing was scheduled at 11.00 am today but due to some technical reasons it was held at 4.00 pm. Thanks to all the villagers for their co-operation in this regard.

Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee said that minutes of this meeting will be prepared in English and Marathi and it will be submitted along with written suggestions/objections as received from the local people, revised EIA report with the approval of Chairman, Environment Public Hearing Committee through Head Office, Maharashtra