



PRESS NOTE

Date: 14-10-2024

The proposal for the “Development of Kulai Fisheries Harbour” was initiated way back in 1989 in response to the representation and request received from President, Surathkal Block, Congress (I) and subsequent request of Mandal Pradhan, Kulai in the year 1991.

Initially four different locations were identified for the proposed fisheries jetty viz, adjacent to northern breakwater, south side of outlet channel at Meenakaliya, near Chitrapura and site adjacent to Kulai ice plant belonging to KFDC Ltd. Subsequently in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture (GoI), Dept of fisheries (GoK) along with local MPs, MLAs, local fishermen leaders, representatives of CICEF, CWPRS (Pune) and Fisheries dept, finalized the present location as the ideal site in the year in the 1998-99. The Subsoil investigation has been also carried out at the proposed location during the year 1999-2000.

Accordingly, the Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, a Government of India Organization collected data on oceanographic parameters and conducted model studies. Based on the inputs of CWPRS, the Detailed Project Report including the length of the break water, was prepared by Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF). Based on the proposal submitted by Government of Karnataka, Govt. of India considered the proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 196.51 Crore.

Several meetings were also held with the then Hon’ble State Minister for Fisheries and Port, Government of Karnataka, MPs, MLAs, Deputy Commissioner, DK Dist. and local fishermen leaders during the year 2002 to 2006 to discuss various issues regarding the construction of fisheries harbour at Kulai.

The Deputy Director, Fisheries, Govt. of Karnataka, Mangalore is the Project proponent and NMPA is only the Implementing Agency. NMPA has awarded the work of Project Management Consultant to M/s Assystem India Ltd, (formerly known as L&TIEL) in the year 2018, who are monitoring and supervising the subject work. Port has also appointed NITK, Surathkal for providing services as Third Party Inspecting Agency. The professional bodies in consultation with all stakeholders had identified the location and finalized the design of the harbour.

In view of the above, it is not understood how the increasing length of breakwater at this stage, has become an issue.