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TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013

[SAKA 1935

PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Fisheries Department

No. 718 Fish/C-1/9R-3/2012 (Part-I)

Kolkata, the 4th April, 2013.

ORDER

In exercise of the power conferred by clause (c) and (d) of sub-section (1) of section 4, read with clauses (i) of section 2 of the West Bengal Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1993 (West Ben. Act IX of 1993) and in supersession of all earlier order on the subject, the Governor is pleased hereby to issue the following restrictions regulating catching of hilsa with effect from such date as may be specified by the State Government:—

In fishing hilsa (species group / family: Hilsa shad-Genus / Species: *Hilsa ilisha* and species group / family: other shads- Genus / Species: other Hilsa species (*tenulosa*, *macrura* and *todi*) in the territorial water body of the State, the following restrictions are imposed:—

- (a) For the purpose of conservation of hilsa fish stock in the open water system, no persons or group of persons or fishers or fisherman or their assistants under no circumstances shall catch hilsa (species group / family: Hilsa shad-Genus / Species: *Hilsa ilisha* and species group / family: other shads- Genus / Species: other Hilsa species (*tenulosa*, *macrura* and *todi*) using any kind of monofilament gill net / nets having mesh size below ninety (90) millimeter.
- (b) For the purpose of conservation of juveniles hilsa (jatka / khoka ilish) migrating downstream towards sea, use of bag net, scoop net, lift net and small meshed gill nets {mesh size below one (1) inch} for catching hilsa below 23 centimeters in estuarine area of the rivers and bay mouth is totally prohibited during February to April every year.
- (c) No persons or group of persons or fishers or fisherman or their assistants under no circumstances shall transport, market, sell and possess hilsa (species group / family: Hilsa shad-Genus / Species: *Hilsa ilisha* and species group / family: other shads- Genus / Species: other Hilsa species (*tenulosa*, *macrura* and *todi*) having length below 23 (twenty three) centimeter.

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- (d) For the purpose of conservation of marine (shallow area) biodiversity and habitat, necessary for hilsa survivality and growth, bottom trawling in shallow continental shelf (12 nautical miles) is totally banned.
- (e) For the purpose of promoting breeding / spawning, catching of hilsa (species group / family: Hilsa shad-Genus / Species: *Hilsa ilisha* and species group / family: other shads-Genus / Species: other Hilsa species (*tenulosa, macrura and todi*) of any size is completely banned between five (5) days prior & post of the full moon for the period of 15th September to 24th October every year.

By order of the Governor,

S. K. DAS

Addl. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal.

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Fisheries Department

NOTIFICATION

No. 719 Fish/C-1/9R-3/2012 (Part-I).— dated the 4th April, 2013.— In exercise of the power conferred by section 19 of the West Bengal Inland Fisheries Act, 1984 (West Ben. Act XXV of 1984) and in supersession of all earlier notification on the subject, the Governor is pleased hereby to make the following amendments in the West Bengal Inland Fisheries Rules, 1985, published in Part-I of the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, dated the 6th May, 1985, vide this Department notification no. 1979- Fish/C-I dated, the 29th April, 1985 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules):—

Amendments

In the said rules,—

(1) after sub-rule (2) of rule 46, *insert* the following sub-rules:—

“(3) For the purpose of conservation of hilsa fish stock in the inland open water system, no persons or group of persons or fishers or fisherman or their assistants under no circumstances shall catch hilsa (species group / family: Hilsa shad-Genus / Species: *Hilsa ilisha* and species group / family: other shads- Genus / Species: other Hilsa species (*tenulosa*, *macrura* and *todi*) using any kind of monofilament gill net / nets having mesh size below 90 (ninety) millimeter and other nets having mesh size below 40 (forty) millimeter for other fishes.

(4) No person shall transport, market, sell and possess hilsa (species group / family: Hilsa shad- Genus / Species: *Hilsa ilisha* and species group / family: other shads- Genus / Species: other Hilsa species (*tenulosa*, *macrura* and *todi*) having length below 23 (twenty three) centimeter and the same is banned.”;

(2) after rule 49, *insert* the following rule:—

“50. **Declaration of Hilsa Sanctuary and protection of Hilsa.**— (1) The riverine area in the river Bhagirathi falling (a) between Lalbagh in Farakka (Murshidabad District), (b) Katwa to Hooghly Ghat (part of

Burdwan & Hooghly District), (c) Diamond Harbour to Nischintapur Godakhali and (d) five (5) square kilometer area around the "Sand Bar" located in the river Matla, Roymongal & Thakuran in Sundarbans area and Farakka Barrage are declared as Hilsa Sanctuaries (protected area for Hilsa).

(2) In order to facilitate spawning, all types of fish catching are banned in the Hilsa Sanctuaries during June to August and October to December every year.

- (3) Fishing of hilsa is prohibited within five (5) square kilometer of the Farakka Barrage round the year to protect the hilsa species and facilitate brooders spawning in the area.
- (4) For the purpose of conservation of juveniles hilsa (jatka / khoka ilish) migrating downstream towards sea, use of bag net, scoop net, lift net and small meshed gill nets {mesh size below one (1) inch} for catching hilsa below 23.0 centimeters in the inland open water system (including estuarine area) is totally prohibited during February to April every year.”.

By order of the Governor,

S. K. DAS

Addl. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal.