

No.WL6- 1055/14

Circular No. 2/2014 Dated 21..07..2014

Sub: Poaching of Marine Fauna – Reg:

Ref: F.No.4-36/2013 WL GOI, Ministry of environment & Forests (Wildlife Division), New Delhi Dated 25th August 2013.

It has come to the notice of the undersigned that the poaching of marine fauna especially species like dolphins, sea turtles, whales, sharks, rays etc. has been on the rise in the coastal areas of the State. Chief Conservator of Forests' Council has discussed the matter and came to the conclusion that the forest officers are not paying attention to such grave violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and Rules made there under. It is the duty of all the forest officers to detect such offences and charge the same in the Judicial Courts. As per G.O. (MS) No.30/2014/F&WLD dated 12.07.2004, all ACFs of Social Forestry Units stand designated as Wildlife Wardens and all the Range Forest Officers are empowered to file complaints as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. All Territorial DFOs are also the Wildlife Wardens in their jurisdiction and as such legally competent to curb the poaching of marine fauna protected under Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Also, the Government of India, Ministry of environment & Forests in the reference cited has issued Policy Circular on prohibition of "finning" of Shark fins in the sea. It has been directed that all the concerned State Governments shall strictly implement this policy initiative through appropriate legislative, enforcement and other measures.

Hence all the DFOs/ Wildlife Wardens and ACFs/RFOs are hereby instructed to be vigilant and to take appropriate measures in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Rules there under.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) &
Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala.