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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

**Fisheries and Ports (B) Department**  
NOTIFICATION

G.O.(P) No. 16 / 97 / F & PD.  
1997.

Dated Trivandrum 27th May

**S.R.O. No. 403 / 97** – WHEREAS the Government are convinced of the need to conserve fish wealth and thereby to protect the interest of persons engaged in fishing, particularly those engaged in fishing using traditional fishing crafts such as catamaran, country crafts or canoes;

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary to conserve fish wealth and to regulate fishing on a scientific basis

AND WHEREAS, it is imperative to maintain law and order in the sea;

AND WHEREAS there is need to avoid loss of human life and property due to accident in the sea during squally weather conditions.

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (d) of sub section (1) of section 4 of the Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 (10 of 1981), read with rule 4 of the Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 1980, the Government of Kerala hereby prohibit the use of bottom trawl in the sea along the entire coast line of the State not beyond the territorial waters specified under G.O. (P) 136 / 84 / PWF & PD dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1984 published as S.R.O. No. 1496 / 84 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary, No. 1055 dated the 3rd December 1984 for the period of 45 days with effect on and from the 15th day of June, 1997 to the 29th of July, 1997 (both days inclusive)

**By order of the Governor,**  
**N.M. SAMUEL,**  
**Secretary to Govt**

### **Explanatory Note**

(This does not form part of the notification; but is intended to indicate its general purport)

Clause (d) of sub section 1 of section 4 of the Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act 1980 read with rule 4 of the Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Rules, 1980 empowers Government to regulate, restrict or prohibit the use of prescribed fishing gear in any specified area. There have been persistent demands from various sections of fishing community for imposing ban on bottom trawling on the ground that the bottom trawling during the monsoon season has been adversely affecting the conservation of fish wealth and their share of earnings from fishing. Consequently there have been clashes between the fishermen belonging to the traditional sector and mechanized sector leading to serious law and order problems in the sea.

There have been frequent occurrences of squally weather condition in the sea during monsoon, leading to accident resulting in human life and property.

Government have therefore, after considering all the aspects relating to the matter, particularly the adverse effect of bottom trawling, decided to ban bottom trawling in the territorial waters of the state during the monsoon period for 45 days starting on and from 15th of June 1997.

This notification is intended to achieve the above purpose.