

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

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Fisheries Department

NOTIFICATION

No. 719 Fish/C-I /9R-3/20 12 (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: *Hi/sa ilisha* and species group / family: other shads- Genus / Species: other Hilsa species (*renulosa, 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 *ISpecies: 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.- (I) 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 (Gatka / 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.