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NOTIFICATION

No.B.12012/1/2019-FS, the 9th October, 2019. WHEREAS, Fisheries conservation addresses the study, conservation, and sustainable use of aquatic animals and aquatic habitats, including streams, rivers, wetlands, estuaries, and oceans including the management of recreational and commercial fisheries as well as endangered species and ecosystems.

AND WHEREAS, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a worldwide problem that is causing local and global financial losses, depleting natural resources, changing our diverse ecosystem and causing undue pressure upon the aquatic ecosystem and whereas illegal fishing (overfishing, use of pesticides, chemicals, explosives, electrical devices, illegal fishnets, use of gas, etc) pollutes water, destroys breeding grounds, severely depletes the local fish population, also harms legitimate fishing activities and livelihoods and jeopardizes food and economic security of the local people.

AND WHEREAS, the freshwater resources of Mizoram is also currently experiencing an alarming decline in fish biodiversity due to these factors, this emphasizes an immediate need for initiating research and actions for strict management techniques to protect these aquatic systems. It is well established that the success of biodiversity conservation depends on the creation of mass awareness among the public regarding the various ecological, socio-economical, nutritional, cultural, aesthetic, recreational, Pharmaceutical etc., services offered to mankind. Therefore, participation of every citizen is crucial for protection and restoration of the dwindling fish biodiversity.

AND WHEREAS, it is felt necessary to pay incentives to person who, by spending own resources, takes up commendable activities or renders commendable service for the communities in the conservation of fisheries and promoting restoration and maintaining intact habitat in the rivers and streams of Mizoram.

AND WHEREAS, paying financial rewards to person who provides information that leads to arrests, criminal convictions, civil penalties, or property forfeitures for violations of the Mizoram Fisheries Acts is an important tool for detection and apprehension of the offenders and could also serve as deterrent to Fisheries crimes.

AND WHEREAS, it is also felt necessary to pay financial rewards to person who, by spending own resources, renders service or assistance in detection of offence, seizure of Fisheries article and illegally caught aquatic animal as well as equipment, electrical devices, explosives, toxic chemicals used in commission of offences and/or in the apprehension of offenders.

NOW, **THEREFORE**, in view of the above, the Governor of Mizoram in the interest of the public, is pleased to make the following scheme for payment of financial rewards/incentives to a person - who renders commendable service or takes up commendable activities towards conservation and protection of indigenous fishes and promoting restoration and maintaining intact habitat in any river or stream in Mizoram or to a person who provides information that leads to seizures, arrest, criminal convictions, civil penalties or property confiscation for violations of Fisheries laws or who renders service or assistance in detection, arrest and seizure for committing Fisheries crimes.

1. Short title, extent and commencement.-

- a) This Scheme shall be called '*The Mizoram Fisheries Conservation Rewards Scheme, 2019*'.
- b) It shall extend to the whole of Mizoram.
- c) It shall come into force with effect from the date of issue of notification.

2. Definitions.-

In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,

- a) 'Director' means Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Mizoram.
- b) 'DFDO' means District Fisheries Development Officer/ Assistant Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Mizoram.
- c) 'FEO' means Fisheries Extension Officer, Fisheries Department, Govt. of Mizoram.
- d) 'fish' includes finfish, shellfish and turtle in all stages of its life.
- e) 'person' includes an individual, group of person(s), a body, a non-government organization (NGO), a community or a society.
- f) 'offence' means an offence or crime punishable under the Mizoram Fisheries Act, 2002.
- g) 'offender' means a person who committed an offence punishable under the Mizoram Fisheries Act, 2002.
- h) 'major case' means an offence or crime punishable with fine of Rs. 10,000/- and above under the Mizoram Fisheries Act, 2002.
- i) 'minor case' means an offence or crime punishable with fine of less than Rs. 10,000/- under the Mizoram Fisheries Act, 2002.
- j) 'Incentive' means cash assistance given to person who renders commendable service in the conservation of fishes and their habitat.
- k) 'Rewards' means bounty given to person who renders service in the detection of offence that leads to apprehension/arrest etc.

3. Person eligible for reward/ incentive.-

The following shall be eligible for reward/incentive under this Scheme:

a) Incentive. -

Any person who renders commendable service or takes up commendable activities towards the conservation and protection of fish stock and promoting restoration and maintaining intact habitat for fisheries in any stretch (of not less than 1 Km) of a river or stream in Mizoram;

b) Reward. -

- i) any person who provides actionable first hand information that leads to an arrest, criminal conviction, penalty/seizure and/or confiscation of aquatic animal produce and/or property tools, explosive, noxious materials used for commission of the offence ;
- ii) any person who renders service or assistance in detection of an offence, in apprehension of offender or in the seizure of aquatic animal produce as well as equipment, electrical device, explosive, noxious materials etc used in committing the offence shall also be eligible to get rewards under this scheme provided that the offender or seized articles are brought to book;

4. Person not eligible for reward:

- a) Any person who furnishes information or renders service or assistance in the detection of offence or seizure or arrest but is involved in the commission of the offence is ineligible for such reward under this scheme;
- b) Any officer or employee of the Government of Mizoram who furnishes information or renders service or assistance in the performance of official duties is ineligible for payment of reward under this scheme;

5. Furnishing of information about occurrence of Fisheries crime/ offence by Informant.

- a) Any person who detects or comes across an offence being committed or already committed may, in the interest of fisheries conservation, report or furnish information with supporting evidence and photographs, if any, about the occurrence of an offence verbally/ in writing/ message/ e-mail to the DFDO/FEO under whose jurisdiction the offence was committed;
- b) To facilitate reporting of such offence cases, the DFDO will furnish the name and contact number of the DFDO/FEO to the President of the concerned Village Councils/Local Council and YMA Branches under his jurisdiction through News paper and Social media;

6. Follow-up action on the report of occurrence of the offence.-

- a) The DFDO/FEO on receipt of the report/ information about occurrence of the offence, will immediately take follow-up action and it will be the duty of the DFDO/FEO to collect evidence from the witness to ensure that offence case if found genuine, is taken up and brought to book as per relevant laws in force within the shortest possible time;
- b) In case the occurrence of the offence was already reported by any other person earlier and the required follow-up action already initiated, the DFDO/FEO will inform the same to the informant;
- c) The DFDO/FEO shall keep record about the particulars of the informant and details about the offence/offenders/seizures to facilitate follow-up action and verification when the claim for rewards is received at a later date;

7. Application for claim of incentive.

An eligible person who renders commendable and verifiable service towards the conservation and protection of fisheries and promoting restoration and maintaining intact habitat for fisheries in any river or stream in Mizoram may submit application in plain paper for claim of incentive to the DFDO/FEO concerned giving the following details:-

- i) Name of river or stream where commendable service was rendered.
- ii) Exact location or stretch of river/stream where service was rendered.
- iii) Name of Village Council under whose jurisdiction the service was rendered
- iv) Nature/type and details of commendable service rendered and activities carried out and impact of the activities/service rendered.
- v) Duration or period during which such activities/services were rendered.
- vi) Assets created in the course of conservation efforts, if any, by the claimant.
- vii) A certificate from the President of the Village Council and NGOs (YMA/MUP/ MHIP) to the effect that they have witnessed or acknowledged the service claimed to have been rendered or activities claimed to have been carried out by the applicant.
- viii) Name, address, contact number and bank account number of the claimant.
- ix) Supporting documents/evidence/photographs of activities taken up to be properly captioned and enclosed.

8. Application for claim of reward

- a) An eligible person who, in the interest of Fisheries conservation, furnishes actionable information about occurrence of an offence may submit application in plain paper for claim of reward to the DFDO/FEO concerned giving the following details within 30 (thirty) days of furnishing the information to the DFDO/FEO:-
- i) Nature/type and details of offence detected.
 - ii) Time of detection of the offence.
 - iii) Location or place of occurrence/detection of the offence.
 - iv) Name of offender(s), if known,
 - v) Time and mode of furnishing information to Fisheries Official and name and designation of fisheries Official to whom information was furnished.
 - vi) Name, contact number and address of witness, if any.
 - vii) Name, address, contact number and bank account number of the claimant.
 - viii) Supporting documents/evidence/photographs to be enclosed.
- b) An eligible person who, in the interest of Fisheries conservation, renders service in apprehension of offenders, seizure of aquatic animal produce and any tools/device used in the commission of such offence may submit application in plain paper for claim of reward to the DFDO/FEO concerned giving the following details within 30 (thirty) days of such seizure or apprehension of the offender;
- i) Nature/type and details of offence detected.
 - ii) Time of detection of the offence.
 - iii) Location or place of occurrence/detection of the offence.
 - iv) Name, father's name and address of offenders apprehended, if any.
 - v) List and details of articles/properties seized if any.
 - vi) Date and place of handing over the offenders and seized articles to Fisheries Official, and name and designation of Fisheries official to whom the offenders/seized articles were handed over.
 - vii) Name and address of persons/officials who made the seizure/arrest.
 - viii) Expenditure incurred for detection/seizure/arrest with supporting vouchers.
 - ix) Name, address, contact number and bank account number of the claimant.
 - x) Supporting documents/evidence/photographs to be enclosed.

9. Procedure for processing the claim for reward/incentive.-

- a) On receipt of claim for the reward/incentive, the FEO shall examine and verify about the genuineness of the claim. If the claimant is found eligible for the reward/incentive, he will forward the application/claim with his report to the DFDO within 10 days of receipt of the report;
- b) The DFDO will then examine the matter and after satisfying himself about the genuineness of the claim will forward his comments/remarks to the Director for his decision within 10 days of receipt of the report;
- c) The Director, on receipt of the claim for the reward/incentive with the report/comments from the DFDO/FEO, shall examine the case and convey his decision/sanction to the DFDO, and his decision shall be final;
- d) On receipt of sanction for the reward/incentive from the Director, the DFDO will make payment of the sanctioned amount to the successful claimant through cheque/electronic transfer;

10. Admissible rate of reward.-

- a) Reward/incentive to the eligible person/claimant shall be sanctioned at the rates given below at the discretion of the Director depending on the merit of the case subject to availability of funds.
- (i) Reward @ Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 5,000/- for minor cases and
 - (ii) Reward @ Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- for major cases,
 - (iii) Incentive @ Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-

Thlamuana,
Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram,
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