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## Fishermen's body threaten stir against new CRZ rules

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TimesPoints



Representative image

VASCO: Threatening to protest against the recent [CRZ](#) notification, Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) has demanded that the state government and all 3 MPs of Goa must take up the issue with the Centre and get it withdrawn at the earliest.

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GRE president Agnelo Rodrigues flayed the government for approving the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2019 despite several objections being raised when the draft rules were released.

National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) vice-chairperson and GRE general secretary, Olencio Simoes said that he was shocked to learn that the central government went ahead and approved the CRZ rules despite assurances given by Union minister Suresh Prabhu, South MP Narendra Sawaikar and several coastal MPs from Maharashtra, [Kerala](#), [West Bengal](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), etc, who were present at a recent interaction with parliamentarians, at the deputy chairman hall, Constitution Club, Delhi, where several objections were highlighted to the draft CRZ rules.

Simoes said that this is a desperate attempt by the government to push its Sagarmala plans under the National Waterways Act, 2016, which will lead to concretisation of the Goa's 105-km coastline and 190-km riverline.

"The new CRZ notification has diluted the very founding principles and objectives of protecting the coastal communities, coastal and marine ecology and restricting development of ports, industries, etc, which was done in CRZ 1991 and CRZ 2011," Simoes said. He also said that coastal communities, including fishermen, toddy tappers and farmers, as well as tourism stakeholders, shack owners, etc, will be displaced as the no-development zone has been reduced.

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