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## Sruthisagar Yamunan

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Fishermen in Ennore took to the streets on Wednesday protesting against the destruction of mangroves in the Athipattu area by a contractor engaged by Kamraj Port Limited (KPL).

Coming as it does just weeks after the floods in Chennai, the fishermen claimed that mangroves were crucial for limiting damage during cyclones. Also, the vegetation attracts prawns, a major source of livelihood in the area.

According to A. Venkatesh, president of Mukadhwarakuppam Kadal Meenavar Cooperative Union, a sizeable area of mangrove vegetation had already been levelled by dumping rubbish. The activity was being carried out on behalf of the Port, he charged.

In late November, the Port faced similar allegations when activists claimed about 400 acres of hydrologically-sensitive wetland area was being dumped with the spoils of dredging as part of the Port's development activities.



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been levelled shows that a very sensitive area has been filled.

“This activity is also a violation of CRZ notifications. Our community will scale the protests up if this does not stop immediately,” he said.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/ennore-fishermen-protest-destruction-of-mangroves/article8047146.ece>

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