

Ley de la República NO. 8550 8550

**THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998 LA PESCA DE FILIPINAS
CÓDIGO DE 1998**

**“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND
CONSERVATION OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, "Ley
proveyendo para la elaboración, gestión y conservación de las pesquerías y
recursos acuáticos,
INTEGRATING ALL LAWS PERTINENT THERETO, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES” INTEGRACIÓN DE TODAS LAS LEYES pertinentes a su
condición, Y PARA OTROS FINES "**

SEC. SEC. 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as – The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. **1. Título.** - Esta Ley se conocerá como - El Código de Pesca de Filipinas de 1998.

CHAPTER I CAPÍTULO I

**DECLARATION OF POLICY AND DEFINITIONS DECLARACIÓN DE
POLÍTICA Y DEFINICIONES**

SEC. SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. 2. Declaración de la Política. - It is hereby
declared the policy of the State: - Se declara la política del Estado:

- a. to achieve food security as the overriding consideration in the utilization,
- a. management, development, conservation and protection of fishery resources in order to provide the food needs of the population. para lograr la seguridad alimentaria como la consideración primordial en la utilización, gestión, desarrollo, conservación y protección de los recursos pesqueros a fin de proporcionar las necesidades alimentarias de la población. A flexible policy towards the attainment of food security shall be adopted in response to changes in demographic trends for fish, emerging trends in the trade of fish and other aquatic products in domestic and international markets, and the law of supply and demand; Una política flexible hacia el logro de la seguridad alimentaria se adoptarán en respuesta a los cambios en las tendencias demográficas de los peces, las nuevas tendencias en el comercio de pescado y otros productos acuáticos en los mercados nacionales e internacionales, y la ley de la oferta y la demanda;
- b. to limit access to the fishery and aquatic resources of the Philippines for the
- b. exclusive use and enjoyment of Filipino citizens; limitar el acceso a la pesquería y los recursos acuáticos de Filipinas para el uso exclusivo y el disfrute de los ciudadanos filipinos;
- c. to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of
- c. the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the adjacent high seas, consistent with the primordial objective of maintaining a sound ecological balance, protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment; para garantizar el desarrollo racional y sostenible, la gestión y conservación de la pesca y recursos acuáticos en las aguas de Filipinas incluyendo la Zona Económica Exclusiva (ZEE) y en la alta mar adyacente, en consonancia con el objetivo primordial de mantener un equilibrio ecológico de

sonido, proteger y mejorar la calidad del medio ambiente;

- d. to protect the rights of fisherfolk, specially of the local communities with priority to municipal fisherfolk, in the preferential use of the municipal waters. Such preferential use, shall be based on, but not limited to, Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) or Total Allowable Catch (TAC) on the basis of resources and ecological conditions, and shall be consistent with our commitments under international treaties and agreements; para proteger los derechos de los pescadores, especialmente de las comunidades locales, dando prioridad a los pescadores municipales, en la utilización preferente de las aguas municipales. Tales uso preferencial, se basará en, pero no limitado a, el rendimiento máximo sostenible (RMS) o Total Admisible Capturas (TAC) sobre la base de los recursos y las condiciones ecológicas, y será coherente con nuestros compromisos en virtud de tratados y acuerdos internacionales;
- e. to provide support to the fishery sector, primarily to the municipal fisherfolk, including women and youth sectors, through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, construction of post-harvest facilities, marketing assistance, and other services. The protection of municipal fisherfolk against foreign intrusion shall extend to offshore fishing grounds. para prestar apoyo al sector pesquero, principalmente a los pescadores municipales, incluidas las mujeres y la juventud, a través de la tecnología apropiada y la investigación, recursos financieros, la producción, la construcción de las instalaciones de post cosecha, ayuda a la comercialización, y otros servicios. La protección de los pescadores municipales contra la intrusión extranjera se extenderá a las zonas de pesca en alta mar. Fishworkers shall receive a just share for their labor in the utilization of marine and fishery resources; Pescadores recibirán una justa por su trabajo en la utilización de los recursos pesqueros y marinos;
- f. to manage fishery and aquatic resources, in a manner consistent with the concept of an integrated coastal area management in specific natural fishery management areas, appropriately supported by research, technical services and guidance provided by the State, and para gestionar la pesca y recursos acuáticos, de manera coherente con el concepto de una gestión integrada de zonas costeras en la gestión de la pesca específica de espacios naturales, reciba el apoyo necesario por la investigación, servicios técnicos y las directrices proporcionadas por el Estado, y
- g. to grant the private sector the privilege to utilize fishery resources under the basic concept that the grantee, licensee or permittee thereof shall not only be a privileged beneficiary of the State but also an active participant and partner of the government in the sustainable development, management, conservation and protection of the fishery and aquatic resources of the country. para otorgar al sector privado del privilegio de utilizar los recursos pesqueros en virtud de que el concepto básico de que el concesionario, licenciatario o permisionario, su sólo no ser un beneficiario privilegiado del Estado, sino también un participante activo y socio del gobierno en el desarrollo sostenible, la gestión, conservación y protección de la pesca y recursos acuáticos del país.

The State shall ensure the attainment of the following objectives of the fishery sector: El Estado velará por la consecución de los siguientes objetivos del sector pesquero:

1. Conservation, protection and sustained management of the country's fishery and aquatic resources; Conservación, protección y gestión sostenible del país la pesca y los recursos

acuáticos;

Poverty alleviation and the provision of supplementary

2. livelihood among municipal fisherfolk; Mitigación de la
2. pobreza y la provisión de los medios de subsistencia complementaria entre los pescadores municipales;
3. Improvement of productivity of aquaculture within ecological
3. limits; Mejora de la productividad de la acuicultura dentro de los límites ecológicos;
4. Optional utilization of offshore and deep-sea resources; and la
4. utilización opcional de alta mar y de aguas profundas de los recursos, y
5. Upgrading of post-harvest technology. Mejoramiento de la
5. tecnología de la cosecha posterior.

SEC. SEC. 3. Application of its Provisions. **3.** Aplicación de sus disposiciones. - The provisions of this Code shall be enforced in: - Las disposiciones de este Código se ejecutarán en:

- a. all Philippine waters including other waters over which the Philippines has
- a. sovereignty and jurisdiction, and the country's 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf; todas las aguas de Filipinas, incluidas el agua sobre las cuales la Argentina tiene soberanía y jurisdicción, y el país de 200 millas náuticas zona económica exclusiva (ZEE) y la plataforma continental;
- b. all aquatic and fishery resources whether inland, coastal or offshore fishing areas,
- b. including but not limited to fishponds, fish pens/cages; and toda la pesca y recursos acuáticos continentales si, en el mar o las zonas de pesca costeras, incluyendo pero no limitado a, estanques, corrales de peces / jaulas, y
- c. all lands devoted to aquaculture, or businesses and activities relating to fishery,
- c. whether private or public lands. todas las tierras dedicadas a la acuicultura, o las empresas y las actividades relacionadas con la pesca, ya sea pública o terrenos privados.

Sec. Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. **4.** Definición de términos. - As used in this Code, the following terms and phrases shall mean as follows: - A los fines del presente Código, los siguientes términos y frases, se entenderá como sigue:

1. *Ancillary Industries* - firms or companies related to the supply, construction and
1. maintenance of fishing vessels, gears, nets and other fishing paraphernalia; fishery machine shops; and other facilities such as hatcheries, nurseries, feed plants, cold storage, and refrigeration, processing plants and other pre-harvest and post harvest facilities. *Industrias auxiliares* - a las empresas o empresas relacionadas con el suministro, construcción y mantenimiento de buques de pesca, artes, redes de pesca y demás parafernalia; máquina de tiendas de la pesca, y otras instalaciones como criaderos, viveros, fábricas de piensos, almacenamiento en frío y refrigeración, plantas de procesamiento y otros antes de la cosecha y la cosecha de postproducción.
2. *Appropriate Fishing Technology* - adaptable technology, both in fishing and

2. ancillary industries, that is ecologically sound, locally source-based and labor intensive. *Adecuadas de Tecnología Pesquera* - tecnología adaptable, tanto en la pesca y las industrias auxiliares, que son ecológicamente correctos, a nivel local basado en fuentes y mano de obra intensiva.
3. *Aquaculture* - fishery operations involving all forms of raising and culturing
3. fish and other fishery species in fresh, brackish and marine areas. *Acuicultura* - Las operaciones de pesca en las diversas formas de criar y cultivar peces y otras especies en la pesca, aguas salobres y las zonas marinas frescas.
4. *Aquatic Pollution* - the introduction by human or machine, directly or
4. indirectly, of substances or energy to the aquatic environment which result or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as to harm living and non-living aquatic resources, pose potential and/or real hazard to human health, hindrance to aquatic activities such as fishing and navigation, including dumping/disposal of waste and other marine litters, discharge of petroleum or residual products of petroleum or carbonaceous materials/substances and other radioactive, noxious or harmful liquid, gaseous or solid substances, from any water, land or air transport or other human-made structure. Deforestation, unsound agricultural practices such as the use of banned chemicals and excessive use of chemicals, intensive use of artificial fish feed, and wetland conversion, which cause similar hazards and deleterious effects shall also constitute aquatic pollution.
Contaminación acuática - la introducción por el hombre o la máquina, directa o indirectamente, de sustancias o energía para el medio acuático que resulten o puedan resultar en efectos nocivos tales como daños a los vivos y no vivos de los recursos acuáticos, representan potenciales y / o reales peligro para la salud humana, obstaculización de las actividades acuáticas como la pesca y la navegación, incluido el dumping y disposición de residuos y otras basuras marinas, el vertido de petróleo o productos residuales de petróleo o de materiales carbonosos / sustancias radiactivas y otros, nocivos o perjudiciales líquido, gaseoso o sustancias sólidas, desde el agua, la tierra o el aire de transporte o por el hombre otra estructura. La deforestación, malas prácticas agrícolas, tales como el uso de productos químicos prohibidos y el uso excesivo de productos químicos, la utilización intensiva de alimentos para peces artificiales, y la conversión de humedales, lo que causa similar los peligros y efectos nocivos constituirá también una contaminación de las aguas.
5. *Aquatic resources* - includes fish, all other aquatic flora and fauna and other
5. living resources of the aquatic environment, including but not limited to salt and corals. *Los recursos acuáticos* - incluye el pescado, todos los acuáticos otras especies de flora y fauna y la vida de otros recursos del medio acuático, incluyendo pero no limitado a la sal y los corales.
6. *Artificial Reefs* - any structure of natural or man-made materials placed on a
6. body of water to serve as shelter and habitat, source of food, breeding areas for fishery species and shoreline protection. *Arrecifes Artificiales* - cualquier estructura de materiales o de origen humano-natural colocado en un cuerpo de agua para servir como refugio y hábitat, fuente de alimento, áreas de reproducción para especies de la pesca y la protección del litoral.
7. *Catch Ceilings* - refer to the annual catch limits allowed to be taken, gathered or
7. harvested from any fishing area in consideration of the need to prevent overfishing and harmful depletion of breeding stocks of aquatic organisms.
Techos de captura - se refieren a la captura anual límites permitidos a tomar,

recogida o cosecha de cualquier área de pesca en la consideración de la necesidad de evitar el agotamiento de la pesca excesiva y perjudicial de existencias de cría de organismos acuáticos.

8. *Closed Season* - the period during which the taking of specified fishery species by a specified fishing gear is prohibited in a specified area or areas in Philippine waters. *Cerrada la temporada* - el período durante el cual la pesca de determinadas especies que se especifican por una pesca prohibidos artes es la recogida en un área específica o las áreas en las aguas de Filipinas.
9. *Coastal Area/Zone* - is a band of dry land and adjacent ocean space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic processes and uses, and vice versa; its geographic extent may include areas within the landmark limit of one (1) kilometer from the shoreline at high tide to include mangrove swamps, brackishwater ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches and other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds and other soft-bottom areas. *De las Zonas Costeras / Zona* - es una banda de tierras áridas y espacio oceánico adyacente (agua y tierra sumergida) en que los procesos terrestres y los usos afectan directamente a los procesos oceánicos y usos, y viceversa, y su extensión geográfica puede incluir áreas en el plazo de un hito (1) kilómetro de la costa con la marea alta que incluyen manglares, estanques de agua salobre, los pantanos de nipa, ríos estuarios, playas y otras áreas dentro de un límite exterior de la isóbata de 200 metros de los arrecifes de coral, apartamentos de algas, praderas de pastos marinos y otros blandos las zonas de fondo.
10. *Commercial Fishing* - the taking of fishery species by passive or active gear for trade, business or profit beyond subsistence or sports fishing, to be further classified as: *Industria pesquera* - La captura de especies de la pesca por activa o artes fijos para el comercio, negocio o beneficios más allá de la subsistencia o la pesca deportiva, para ser clasificados como:
 1. 1. Small scale commercial fishing - fishing with passive or active gear utilizing fishing vessels of 3.1 gross tons (GT) up to twenty (20) GT; Pequeña escala de pesca comercial - la pesca con artes fijos o activos que utilizan los buques de pesca de 3,1 toneladas de arqueo bruto (GT) hasta veinte (20) GT;
 2. 2. Medium scale commercial fishing - fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of 20.1 GT up to one hundred fifty (150) GT; and Medio escala de pesca comercial - la pesca que utilizan artes móviles y los buques de hasta 20,1 GT ciento cincuenta (150) GT, y
 3. 3. Large scale commercial fishing - fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of more than one hundred fifty (150) GT. La pesca comercial a gran escala - la utilización de artes de pesca activos y los buques de más de ciento cincuenta (150) GT.
11. *Commercial scale* - a scheme of producing a minimum harvest per hectare per year of milkfish or other species including those raised in pens, cages, and tanks to be determined by the Department in consultation with the concerned sectors. *Comercial escala* - de un sistema de producción de una cosecha mínima por hectárea y por año de chano o de otras especies, incluidas las planteadas en los corrales, las jaulas y tanques que se determinen por el Departamento en consulta con los sectores afectados.
12. *Coral* - the hard calcareous substance made up of the skeleton of marine

12. coelenterate polyps which includes reefs, shelves and atolls or any of the marine coelenterate animals living in colonies where their skeletons form a stony mass.
Coral - el calcáreo sustancia dura formada por el esqueleto de los pólipos marinos celenterados que incluye los arrecifes, los estantes y los atolones o cualquiera de los celenterados animales marinos que viven en colonias donde sus esqueletos forman una masa de piedra. They include: (a) skeletons of anthozoan coelenterates characterized as having a rigid axis of compact calcareous or horny spicules, belonging to the genus corallium as represented by the red, pink and white corals which are considered precious corals; (b) skeletons of anthozoan coelenterates characterized by thorny, horny axis such as the antipatharians represented by the black corals which are considered semi-precious corals; and (c) ordinary corals which are any kind of corals that are not precious nor semi-precious. Estos incluyen: (a) esqueletos de cnidarios antozoos caracterizan por tener un eje rígido de pacto o córnea espículas calcáreas, que pertenece a género Corallium, representada por el, rosados y blancos corales rojos que se consideran los corales preciosos; (b) esqueletos de antozoos celenterados caracteriza por espinosos, eje caliente como el antipatarios representado por el coral negro que se consideran semi-preciosas corales, y (c) Los corales ordinario, todo tipo de corales que no son preciosos ni semipreciosas.
13. *Coral Reef* - a natural aggregation of coral skeleton, with or without living coral
13. polyps, occurring in intertidal and subtidal marine waters. *Arrecifes de Coral* - una agrupación natural de esqueleto de coral, con o sin pólipos vivos de coral, que ocurren en las aguas marinas submareales e intermareales.
14. *Demarcated areas* - boundaries defined by markers and assigned exclusively to
14. specific individuals or organizations for certain specified and limited uses such as: *zonas demarcadas* - los límites definidos por los marcadores y se destinan exclusivamente a las personas u organizaciones específicas para determinados usos específicos y limitados, tales como:
 - a. a. Aquaculture, sea ranching and sea farming; La acuicultura, la ganadería y la agricultura mar el mar;
 - b. b. Fish aggregating devices; Dispositivos de concentración de peces;
 - c. c. Fixed and passive fishing gears; and a Fijos y artes de pesca pasiva, y un
 - d. d. Fry and fingerling gathering. Fry y la recolección de alevines.
15. *Department* - shall mean the Department of Agriculture. *Departamento* -
15. significará el Departamento de Agricultura.
16. *Electrofishing* - the use of electricity generated by batteries, electric generators
16. and other source of electric power to kill, stupefy, disable or render unconscious fishery species, whether or not the same are subsequently recovered.
Electropesca - el uso de electricidad generada por baterías, generadores eléctricos y otras fuentes de energía eléctrica a matar, causar estupor, deshabilitar o hacer de la pesca de especies inconsciente, si la misma se recuperó posteriormente.
17. *Endangered, Rare and/or Threatened Species* - aquatic plants, including some
17. varieties of corals and sea shells in danger of extinction as provided for existing fishery laws, rules and regulations or in the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and in the Convention of the International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora

and Fauna (CITES). *Peligro, raras y/o especies amenazadas* - plantas acuáticas, incluyendo algunas variedades de corales y conchas marinas en peligro de extinción a lo dispuesto por las leyes de la pesca existentes, las normas y reglamentos o en las Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre de la Oficina del Departamento de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DENR) y en la Convención del Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna (CITES).

18. *Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)* - as area beyond and adjacent to the territorial
18. sea which shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines as defined under existing laws. *Zona Económica Exclusiva (ZEE)* - como el área más allá y adyacente al mar territorial que no se extenderá más allá de 200 millas marinas contadas desde las líneas de base tal como se definen bajo las leyes existentes.
19. *FARMC's* - the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils.
19. *FARMC* - el Acuáticos y Pesqueros Consejos de Gestión de Recursos.
20. *Farm-to-Market Roads* - shall include roads linking the fisheries production
20. sites, coastal landing points and other post-harvest facilities to major market and arterial roads and highways. *-To-Market Caminos Rurales* - incluirán las carreteras gusto de los sitios de producción de la pesca, los puntos de desembarque costeros y de post-cosecha-otros servicios a los principales mercados y las carreteras principales y autopistas.
21. *Fine Mesh Nets* - net with mesh size of less than three centimeters (3 cm.)
21. measured between two (2) opposite knots of a full mesh when stretched or as otherwise determined by the appropriate government agency. *Malla fina* - net con malla inferior a tres centímetros (3 cm.) Medida entre dos (2) nudos opuestos de una malla completa cuando se estira o según lo determinado por la agencia gubernamental apropiada.
22. *Fish and Fishery/Aquatic Products* - include not only finfish but also mollusk,
22. crustaceans, echinoderms, marine mammals, and all other species of aquatic flora and fauna and all other products of aquatic living resources in any form. *Pescado y productos pesqueros / acuáticos* - no sólo incluyen a los peces, sino también de moluscos, crustáceos, equinodermos, mamíferos marinos, y todas las demás especies de flora y fauna acuáticas y todos los demás productos de los recursos vivos acuáticos en cualquier forma.
23. *Fish cage* - refers to an enclosure which is either stationary or floating made up
23. of nets or screens sewn or fastened together and installed in the water with opening at the surface or covered and held in a place by wooden/bamboo posts or various types of anchors and floats. *jaula de peces* - se refiere a un recinto que puede ser fija o flotante formada por redes o mallas cosido o ensamblarse e instalarse en el agua con abertura en la superficie o cubrirse y mantenerse en un lugar de madera y puestos de bambú o varios tipos de anclajes y carrozas.
24. *Fish Coral or "Baklad"* - a stationary weir or trap devised to intercept and
24. capture fish consisting of rows of bamboo stakes, plastic nets and other materials fenced with split bamboo mattings or wire mattings with one or more enclosures, usually with easy entrance but difficult exit, and with or without leaders to direct the fish to the catching chambers, purse or bags. *Peces coralinos o "Baklad"* - una presa fija o trampa ideada para interceptar y capturar a los peces consistentes en hileras de estacas de bambú, redes de plástico y otros materiales de cercado con esteras de bambú partido o esteras de alambre con

- una o más cajas, por lo general con entrada fácil, pero difícil salida, y con o sin líderes para dirigir a los peces a la captura de las cámaras, cartera o equipaje.
25. *Fish Fingerlings* - a stage in the life cycle of the fish measuring to about 6-13 cm. *Los alevines de peces* - una etapa en el ciclo de vida de los peces de medida a unos 6-13 cm. depending on the species. dependiendo de la especie.
26. *Fish Fry* - a stage at which a fish has just been hatched usually with sizes from 1-2.5 cm. *Pescado Frito* - una fase en la que sólo un pez urdida por lo general con un tamaño de 1 a 2,5 cm.
27. *Fish pen* - an artificial enclosure constructed within a body of water for culturing fish and fishery/aquatic resources made up of poles closely arranged in an enclosure with wooden materials, screen or nylon netting to prevent escape of fish. *pluma de pescado* - un recinto artificial construida dentro de un cuerpo de agua para el cultivo de peces y la pesca y recursos acuáticos formado por postes de cerca dispuestos en una caja con materiales de madera, pantalla o red de nylon para evitar el escape de peces.
28. *Fisherfolk* - people directly or personally and physically engaged in taking and/or aquatic resources. *Pescadores* - las personas directa o personalmente y físicamente participan en la adopción y / o los recursos acuáticos.
29. *Fisherfolk Cooperative* - a duly registered association of fisherfolk with a common bond of interest, who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a lawful common social or economic end, making equitable contribution to the capital requirement and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertakings in accordance with universally accepted cooperative principles. *Pescadores Cooperativa* - una asociación debidamente registrada de los pescadores con un vínculo común de interés, que se agrupan voluntariamente para lograr un legítimo social o económica fin común, por lo que la contribución equitativa a las exigencias de capital y la aceptación de una parte equitativa de los riesgos y beneficios de la empresas de conformidad con los principios cooperativos universalmente aceptados.
30. *Fisherfolk Organizations* - an organized group, association, federation, alliance or an institution of fisherfolk which has at least fifteen (15) members, a set of officers, a constitution and by-laws, an organizational structure and a program of action. *Organizaciones de Pescadores* - un grupo organizado, asociación, federación, alianza o una institución de pescadores que tiene por lo menos quince (15) miembros, un conjunto de oficiales, una constitución y los estatutos, una estructura organizativa y un programa de acción.
31. *Fisheries* - refers to all activities relating to the act or business of fishing, culturing, preserving, processing, marketing, developing, conserving and managing aquatic resources and the fishery areas, including the privilege to fish or take aquatic resource thereof. *Pesca* - se refiere a todas las actividades relacionadas con el acto o negocio de la pesca, el cultivo, conservación, transformación, comercialización, desarrollo, conservación y gestión de los recursos acuáticos y las zonas de pesca, incluyendo el privilegio de pescar o tomar de los recursos acuáticos de la misma.
32. *Fish Pond* - a hand-based facility enclosed with earthen or stone material to impound water for growing fish. *Estanque de Pez* - una instalación basada en la mano cerrada con material de barro o piedra para embalsar el agua para el cultivo de peces.

33. *Fishing Boat/Gear License* - a permit to operate specific types of fishing boat/gear for specific duration in areas beyond municipal waters for demersal or pelagic fishery resources. *Barco de pesca / Gear License* - un permiso de utilización para determinados tipos de barco de pesca / artes de duración determinada en las zonas fuera de las aguas municipales para la pesca pelágica o recursos demersales.
34. *Fishery Management Areas* - a bay, gulf, lake or any other fishery area which may be delineated for fishery resource management purposes. *Áreas de Administración Pesquera* - una bahía, golfo, lago o cualquier otra área de la pesca de otro tipo que pueden ser delineadas para los recursos con fines de gestión de la pesca.
35. *Fishery Operator* - one who owns and provides the means including land, labor, capital, fishing gears, and vessels, but does not personally, engage in fishery. *Pesca del operador* - quien posee y proporciona los medios como la tierra, trabajo, capital, artes de pesca y buques, pero no personalmente, participar en la pesca.
36. *Fishery Refuge and Sanctuaries* - a designated area where fishing or other forms of activities which may damage the ecosystem of the area is prohibited and human access may be restricted. *Refugio de Pesca y santuarios* - un área designada donde otras formas de actividades que puedan dañar el ecosistema de la zona está prohibida la pesca o humanos y el acceso puede ser restringido.
37. *Fishery Reserve* - a designated area where activities are regulated and set aside for educational and research purposes. *Reserva Pesquera* - un área designada donde las actividades están reguladas y dejar de lado los propósitos de investigación y educativos.
38. *Fishery Species* - all aquatic flora and fauna including, but not restricted to, fish, algae, coelenterates, mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms and cetaceans. *Especies de la pesca* - toda la flora y fauna acuáticas, incluyendo pero no limitado a, los peces, algas, celentéreos, moluscos, crustáceos, equinodermos y los cetáceos.
39. *Fishing* - the taking of fishery species from their wild state or habitat, with or without the use of fishing vessels. *Pesca* - a la adopción de las especies de la pesca de su estado silvestre o su hábitat, con o sin el uso de buques de pesca.
40. *Fishing gear* - any instrument or device and its accessories utilized in taking fish and other fishery species. *Las artes de pesca* - como cualquier otro instrumento o dispositivo y sus accesorios utilizados en la captura de peces y la pesca de otras especies.
 - a. Active fishing gear - is a fishing device characterized by gear movement, and/or the pursuit of the target species by towing, lifting, and pushing the gears, surrounding, covering, dredging, pumping and scaring the target species to impoundments; such as, but not limited to, trawl, purse seines, Danish seines, bag nets, paaling, drift gill net and tuna longline. artes de pesca activos - es un dispositivo de pesca se caracteriza por el movimiento de engranajes, y / o la búsqueda de las especies objetivo de remolque, elevación, y empujando los engranajes, los alrededores, que abarca, el dragado, el bombeo y asustando a las especies objetivo de embalses; como tal pero no limitado a, de arrastre, de cerco, redes de tiro danesas, redes de bolsa, paaling, red de enmalle de deriva y palangres de atún.

b. Passive fishing gear - is characterized by the absence of gear movements and/or the pursuit of the target species; such as, but not limited to hook and line, fishpots, traps and gill nets across the patch of the fish. artes de pesca pasiva - se caracteriza por la ausencia de movimientos de artes y / o la búsqueda de las especies objetivo, tales como, pero no limitado a anzuelo y línea, fishpots, trampas y redes de enmalle a través de la revisión de los peces.

41. *Fishing vessel* - any boat, ship or other watercraft equipped to be used for taking of fishery species or aiding or assisting one (1) or more vessels in the performance of any activity relating to fishing, including, but not limited to, preservation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation and/or processing. *buque pesquero* - cualquier barco, buque o watercraft otros preparados para utilizarse tanto para las especies de pesca o de la ayuda o la asistencia a un (1) o más vasos en el ejercicio de cualquier actividad relacionada con la pesca, incluyendo, pero sin limitarse a, la preservación, el suministro, almacenamiento, refrigeración, transporte y / o transformación.
42. *Fishing with Explosives* - the use of the dynamite, other explosives or other chemical compounds that contains combustible elements or ingredients which upon ignition by friction, concussion, percussion or detonation of all or parts of the compound, will kill, stupefy, disable or render unconscious any fishery species. *La pesca con explosivos* - el uso de la dinamita, explosivos o de otros compuestos químicos que contiene otros elementos combustibles o los ingredientes que de encendido a por la fricción, conmoción, percusión o la detonación de la totalidad o parte del compuesto, se matan, estupefacto, desactivar o dejar inconsciente cualquiera de las especies de la pesca. It also refers to the use of any other substance and/or device which causes an explosion that is capable of producing the said harmful effects on any fishery species and aquatic resources and capable of damaging and altering the natural habitat. También se refiere a la utilización de cualquier otra sustancia y / o dispositivo que provoca una explosión que es capaz de producir dichos efectos nocivos en cualquiera de las especies de la pesca y los recursos acuáticos y capaz de dañar y alterar el hábitat natural.
43. *Fishing with Noxious or Poisonous Substances* - the use of any substance, plant extracts or juice thereof, sodium cyanide and/or cyanide compounds or other chemicals either in a raw or processed form, harmful or harmless to human beings, which will kill, stupefy, disable or render unconscious any fishery species and aquatic resources and capable of damaging and altering the natural habitat. *La pesca con sustancias nocivas o venenosas* - la utilización de cualquier sustancia, extractos de plantas o jugo de la misma, el cianuro de sodio y / o compuestos de cianuro u otras sustancias químicas, ya sea en una forma cruda o procesada, perjudiciales o inocuos para los seres humanos, lo que matar, causar estupor, desactivar o dejar inconsciente cualquier especie de la pesca y los recursos acuáticos y capaz de dañar y alterar el hábitat natural.
44. *Fishworker* - a person regularly or not regularly employed in commercial fishing and related industries, whose income is either in wage, profit-sharing or stratified sharing basis, including those working in fish pens, fish cages, fish corrals/traps, fishponds, prawn farms, sea farms, salt beds, fish ports, fishing boat or trawlers, or fish processing and/or packing plants. Excluded from this category are administrators, security guards and overseers. *Trabajadores de la*

pesca - una persona con regularidad o no un empleo regular la pesca comercial y las industrias conexas, cuyos ingresos ya sea en salarios, reparto o distribución estratificada base de beneficios, incluidos los que trabajan en los corrales de peces, las jaulas, corrales de pesca / trampas, estanques, criaderos de camarones , granjas del mar, salinas, puertos pesqueros, barcos de pesca o de arrastre, o de transformación de pescado y / o plantas de envasado. Se excluyen de esta categoría son los administradores, los guardias de seguridad y supervisores.

45. *Food Security* - refers to any plan, policy or strategy aimed at ensuring
45. adequate supplies of appropriate food at affordable prices. *Seguridad Alimentaria* - se refiere a cualquier plan, política o estrategia destinada a garantizar un suministro suficiente de alimentos adecuados a precios asequibles. Food security may be achieved through self-sufficiency (ie ensuring adequate food supplies from domestic production), through self-reliance (ie ensuring adequate food supplies through a combination of domestic production and importation), or through pure importation La seguridad alimentaria puede lograrse a través de la autosuficiencia (es decir, garantizar un suministro adecuado de alimentos de producción nacional), a través de la autosuficiencia (es decir, garantizar un suministro adecuado de alimentos a través de una combinación de la producción nacional y de importación), o mediante la importación pura
46. *Foreshore Land* - a string of land margining a body of water, the part of a
46. seashore between the low-water line usually at the seaward margin of a low tide *Playa del terreno* - una cadena de tierras márgenes de un cuerpo de agua, parte de una playa de aguas entre la línea de más baja generalmente en el margen hacia el mar de una marea baja terrace and the upper limit of wave wash at high tide usually marked by a beach scarp or berm. terraza y el límite superior de la ropa de las olas de la marea alta generalmente marcada por una rampa de playa o berma.
47. *Fully-developed Fishpond Area* - a clean leveled area enclosed by dikes, at
47. least one foot higher than the highest floodwater level in the locality and strong enough to resist pressure at the highest flood tide; consists of at least a nursery pond, a transition pond, a rearing pond or a combination of any or all said classes of ponds, and a functional water control system and producing in a commercial scale. *Totalmente desarrollado estanque zona* - un área limpia nivelada rodeada por diques, por lo menos un pie más alto que el nivel más alto de agua de la inundación en la localidad y lo suficientemente fuerte para resistir la presión de la marea en pleamar más alta; consta de al menos un estanque de cría, una transición del estanque , un estanque de cría o de una combinación de cualquiera o todas las clases mencionadas lagunas, y un sistema de control de agua funcional y la producción en escala comercial.
48. *Gross Tonnage* - includes the underdeck tonnage, permanently enclosed spaces
48. above the tonnage deck, except for certain exemptions. *De arqueo bruto* - incluye el tonelaje bajo cubierta, de manera permanente en espacios cerrados por encima de la cubierta de arqueo, salvo en determinados supuestos. In broad terms, all the vessel's 'closed-in' spaces expressed in volume terms on the bases of one hundred cubic feet (that equals one gross ton). En términos generales, todas las del buque 'cerrado en "espacios expresado en términos de volumen en las bases de cien pies cúbicos (que es igual a una tonelada bruta).

49. *Inland Fishery* - the freshwater fishery and brackishwater fishponds. *Pesca*
49. *Continental* - La "pesca de agua dulce y estanques de agua salobre.
50. *Lake* - an inland body of water, an expanded part of a river, a reservoir formed
50. by a dam, or a lake basin intermittently or formerly covered by water. *Lagos* - un cuerpo de agua interior, una parte ampliada de un río, un embalse formado por una presa, o una cuenca del lago de forma intermitente o hayan cubierto por agua.
51. *Limited Access* - a fishery policy by which a system of equitable resource use
51. and allocation is established by law through fishery rights granting and licensing procedure as provided by this Code. *Acceso limitado* - una política de pesca por la que se de una equitativa asignación de recursos y la utilización se establece un sistema por ley mediante la concesión de derechos de pesca y licencias de procedimiento previstas por este Código.
52. *Mangroves* - a community of intertidal plants including all species of trees,
52. shrubs, vines and herbs found on coasts, swamps, or border of swamps. *Los manglares* - una comunidad de plantas intermareales incluyendo todas las especies de árboles, arbustos, enredaderas y hierbas encontradas en las costas, pantanos, o el borde de los pantanos.
53. *Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)* - is the largest average quantity of fish that
53. can be harvested from a fish stocks/resource within a period of time (eg one year) on a sustainable basis under existing environmental conditions.
- Rendimiento Máximo Sostenible (RMS)* - es la mayor cantidad promedio de los peces que pueden ser cosechadas a partir de una las poblaciones de peces / recursos dentro de un período de tiempo (por ejemplo un año) sobre una base sostenible en las actuales condiciones ambientales.
54. *Migratory species* - refers to any fishery species which in the course of their
54. life could travel from freshwater; to marine water or vice versa, or any marine species which travel over great distances in waters of the ocean as part of their behavioral adaptation for survival and speciation: *Las especies migratorias* - se refiere a cualquier especie de la pesca que en el curso de su vida podría viajar de agua dulce; a aguas marinas o viceversa, o cualquier otra especie marina, que pueden desplazarse a grandes distancias en aguas del océano como parte de su adaptación para la supervivencia y el comportamiento especiación:
- (a) Anadromous species - marine fishes which migrate to freshwater
- (A) areas to spawn; especies anádromas - peces marinos que emigran a las zonas de agua dulce para desovar;
- (b) Catadromous species - freshwater fishes which migrate to marine
- (B) areas to spawn; especies catádromas - peces de agua dulce que emigran a las zonas marinas para desovar;
55. *Monitoring, control and surveillance* - *Supervisión, control y la vigilancia* -
- 55.
- a) Monitoring - the requirement of continuously observing: (1) fishing effort
- a) which can be expressed by the number of days or hours of fishing, number of fishing gears and number of fisherfolk; (2) characteristics of fishery resources; and (3) resource yields (catch); Monitoreo - la exigencia de observar continuamente: (1) el esfuerzo pesquero que se puede expresar por el número de días o de horas de pesca, el número de artes de pesca y el número de pescadores; (2) Características de los recursos pesqueros, y (3)

los rendimientos de los recursos (captura);

- b) Control - the regulatory conditions (legal framework) under which the exploitation, utilization and disposition of the resources may be conducted; and Control - las condiciones de reglamentación (marco jurídico) en las que la explotación, la disposición de los recursos puede ser la utilización y la llevó a cabo, y
 - c) Surveillance - the degree and types of observations required to maintain compliance with regulations. Vigilancia - el grado y tipo de observaciones requeridas para mantener el cumplimiento con las regulaciones.
56. *Municipal fisherfolk* - persons who are directly or indirectly engaged in municipal fishing and other related fishing activities. *Municipal de pescadores* - las personas que están directa o indirecta, están comprometidos en la pesca y otras actividades municipales relacionadas con la pesca.
57. *Municipal fishing* - refers to fishing within municipal waters using fishing vessels of three (3) gross tons or less, or fishing not requiring the use of fishing vessels. *Municipal de pesca* - se refiere a la pesca en las aguas municipales utilizando los buques pesqueros de tres (3) toneladas de arqueo bruto igual o inferior, o la pesca que no requieren el uso de buques de pesca.
58. *Municipal waters* - include not only streams, lakes, inland bodies of water and tidal waters within the municipality which are not included within the protected areas as defined under Republic Act No. 7586 (The NIPAS Law), public forest, timber lands, forest reserves or fishery reserves, but also marine waters included between two (2) lines drawn perpendicular to the general coastline from points where the boundary lines of the municipality touch the sea at low tide and a third line parallel with the general coastline including offshore islands and fifteen (15) kilometers from such coastline. *aguas municipales* - no sólo incluyen los arroyos, lagos, aguas interiores y aguas de las mareas en el municipio que no estén incluidas dentro de las áreas protegidas definidas en Ley de la República No. 7586 (Ley Nipás), bosque pública, tierras forestales, reservas forestales o reservas de la pesca, pero las aguas marinas también se incluyen entre los dos (2) líneas, perpendicular a la costa en general de los puntos donde las líneas limítrofes del municipio tocar el mar con marea baja y una línea paralela con la tercera línea de costa en general, incluidas las islas mar adentro y las quince (15) kilómetros de costas tales. Where two (2) municipalities are so situated on opposite shores that there is less than thirty (30) kilometers of marine waters between them, the third line shall be equally distant from opposite shore of the respective municipalities. Cuando dos (2) los municipios son tan situado en orillas opuestas que hay menos de treinta (30) kilómetros de aguas marinas entre ellas, la tercera línea será la misma distancia de la orilla opuesta de los municipios respectivos.
59. *Non-governmental organization (NGO)* - an agency, institution, a foundation or a group of persons whose purpose is to assist peoples organizations/associations in various ways including, but not limited to, organizing, education, training, research and/or resource accessing. *Organización no gubernamental (ONG)* - una agencia, institución, una fundación o un grupo de personas cuya finalidad es ayudar a las organizaciones de pueblos o asociaciones de varias maneras, incluyendo pero no limitado a, organización, educación, formación, investigación y / o

recursos acceso.

- 60. *Payao* - a fish aggregating device consisting of a floating raft anchored by a weighted line with suspended materials such as palm fronds to attract pelagic and schooling species common in deep waters. *Payao* - una concentración de peces, constituida por una balsa flotante anclado por una línea ponderada con materiales en suspensión, como hojas de palma para atraer a las especies pelágicas y de escolaridad común en aguas profundas.
- 61. *Pearl Farm Lease* - public waters leased for the purpose of producing cultured pearls. *Perla Granja de arrendamiento* - aguas públicas arrendadas con el fin de producir las perlas cultivadas.
- 62. *People's Organization* - a bonafide association of citizens with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership and structure. *Organización Popular* - una asociación de buena fe de los ciudadanos con capacidad demostrada para promover el interés público y con el liderazgo de identificación, composición y estructura. Its members belong to a sector/s voluntarily band themselves together to work for and by themselves for their own upliftment, development and greater good. Sus miembros pertenecen a un sector de la / s voluntariamente se agrupan para trabajar para y por ellos mismos para su elevación, desarrollo y bien común.
- 63. *Person* - natural or juridical entities such as individuals, associations, partnership, cooperatives or corporations. *Persona* - o jurídicas entidades naturales, como individuos, asociaciones, asociaciones, cooperativas o corporaciones.
- 64. *Philippine waters* - include all bodies of water within the Philippine territory such as lakes, rivers streams, creeks, brooks, ponds, swamps, lagoons, gulfs, bays and seas and other bodies of water now existing or which may hereafter exist in the provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays and the waters around, between and connecting the islands of the archipelago regardless of their breadth and dimensions, the territorial sea, the sea beds, the insular shelves, and all other waters over which the Philippines has sovereignty and jurisdiction including the 200-nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone and the continental shelf. *las aguas de Filipinas* - comprenderán todas las masas de agua en el territorio de Filipinas, tales como lagos, ríos arroyos, quebradas, arroyos, estanques, pantanos, lagunas, golfos, bahías y mares y otros cuerpos de agua existentes en la actualidad o que en adelante puedan existir en las provincias, ciudades, municipios y barangays y las aguas alrededor, entre y que conectan las islas del archipiélago, independientemente de su anchura y dimensiones, el mar territorial, los fondos marinos, las plataformas insulares, y todas las aguas sobre los cuales la Argentina tiene soberanía y jurisdicción incluidos los náuticos 200 millas la zona económica exclusiva y la plataforma continental.
- 65. *Post-harvest facilities* - these facilities include, but are not limited to, fishport, fishlanding, ice plants and cold storages, fish processing plants. *A la cosecha instalaciones Post* - estas instalaciones incluyen, pero no limitado a, FishPort, fishlanding, fábricas de hielo y almacenes frigoríficos, plantas de procesamiento de pescado.
- 66. *Purse Seine* - a form of encircling net having a line at the bottom passing through rings attached to the net, which can be drawn or pursed. In general, the net is set from a boat or pair of boats around the school of fish. The bottom

of the net is pulled closed with the purse line. *Con red de cerco* - una forma de red de cerco con una línea en la parte inferior que pasa por anillas sujetas a la red, que puede ser estirado o fruncidos. En general, la red se establece desde un barco o un par de barcos de todo el banco de peces. El fondo de la red se tira se cerró con la jareta. The net is then pulled aboard the fishing boat or boats until the fish are concentrated in the bunt or fish bag. La red es jalada a bordo del barco de pesca o embarcaciones hasta que los peces se concentran en el toque de bola o una bolsa de pescado.

67. *Resource Rent* - the difference between the value of the products produced from harvesting a publicly owned resource less the cost of producing it, where cost includes the normal return to capital and normal return to labor. *Recursos alquiler* - la diferencia entre el valor de los productos producidos a partir de la explotación de un recurso de propiedad pública, menos el costo de producirlo, donde el costo incluye el retorno normal al capital y rendimiento normal del trabajo.
68. *Sea farming* - the stocking of natural or hatchery-produced marine plants or animals, under controlled conditions, for purposes of rearing and harvesting, but not limited to commercially-important fishes, mollusks (such as pearl and giant clam culture), including seaweeds and seagrass. *cría de Mar* - el almacenamiento de las plantas producidas en criaderos marinos o naturales, o los animales, en condiciones controladas, con fines de cría y la cosecha, pero no limitado a los peces comercialmente importantes, moluscos (como la almeja gigante de la cultura y la perla), incluyendo algas y de yerbas marinas.
69. *Sea ranching* - the release of the young of fishery species reared in hatcheries and nurseries into natural bodies of water for subsequent harvest at maturity or the manipulation of fishery habitat, to encourage the growth of the wild stocks. *Mar cría en granjas* - la liberación de las crías de las especies de la pesca criados en criaderos y viveros en los cuerpos naturales de agua para la cosecha siguiente al vencimiento o la manipulación del hábitat de la pesca, para fomentar el crecimiento de las poblaciones silvestres.
70. *Secretary* - the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. *Secretario* - Secretario del Departamento de Agricultura.
71. *Superlight* - also called magic light, is a type of light using halogen or metal halide bulb which may be located above the sea surface or submerged in the water. *Superlight* - también llamada luz mágica, es un tipo de luz halógena con lámpara de halógenos metálicos o que pueden estar ubicadas por encima de la superficie del mar o sumergidos en el agua. It consists of a ballast, regulator, electric cable and socket. The source of energy comes from a generator, battery or dynamo coupled with the main engine. Consiste en un lastre, regulador, cable eléctrico y enchufe. La fuente de energía proviene de un generador, una batería o dinamo, junto con el motor principal.
72. *Total Allowable Catch (TAC)* - the maximum harvest allowed to be taken during a given period of time from any fishery area, or from any fishery species or group of fishery species, or a combination of area and species and normally would not exceed the MSY. *Total Admisible de Capturas (TAC)* - la cosecha máximo permitido que deben tomarse durante un período determinado de tiempo desde cualquier área de la pesca, o la pesca de cualquier especie o grupo de especies de la pesca, o una combinación de zonas y especies y, normalmente, no superaría el RMS .

73. *Trawl* - an active fishing gear consisting of a bag shaped net with or without otter boards to open its opening which is dragged or towed along the bottom or through the water column to take fishery species by straining them from the water, including all variations and modifications of trawls (bottom, mid-water, and baby trawls) and tow nets. *De arrastre* - un arte de pesca activa que consiste en una bolsa de red con o sin forma de las puertas para abrir su apertura que se arrastra o arrastre a lo largo de la parte inferior o a través de la columna de agua a tomar las especies de la pesca por el esfuerzo que desde el agua, incluyendo todas las variaciones y modificaciones de redes de arrastre (abajo, a mitad de agua y redes de arrastre de bebé) y cables de las redes.

CHAPTER II CAPÍTULO II

UTILIZATION, MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION AND ALLOCATION SYSTEM OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES Utilización, manejo, desarrollo, conservación y sistema de asignación de Pesca y Recursos Acuáticos

SEC. 5. Use of Philippine Waters - The use and exploitation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters shall be reserved exclusively to Filipinos: Provided, however, That research and survey activities may be allowed under strict regulations, for purely research, scientific, technological and educational purposes that would also benefit Filipino citizens. **SEC. 5. Uso de las Aguas de Filipinas** - El uso y la explotación de la pesquería y los recursos acuáticos en las aguas de Filipinas, estará reservado exclusivamente a los filipinos: Disponiéndose, sin embargo, la investigación y peritaje de las actividades que pueden realizarse con arreglo a normas estrictas, por razones puramente de investigación, científicas y educativas con fines tecnológicos que también beneficiaría a los ciudadanos filipinos.

SEC. 6. Fees and Other Fishery Charges. - The rentals for fishpond areas covered by the Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA) and license fees for Commercial Fishing Boat Licenses (CFBL) shall be set at levels that reflect resource rent accruing from the utilization of resources and shall be determined by the Department: Provided, that the Department also prescribe fees and other fishery charges and issue the corresponding license or permit for fishing gear, fishing accessories and other fishery activities beyond the municipal waters shall be determined by the Local Government Units (LGUs) in consultation with the FARMCs. The FARMCs may also recommend the appropriate license fees that will be imposed. **SEC. 6. Tasas y Otros Cargos de la pesca.** - Los alquileres en las zonas estanque cubierto por el Contrato de Arrendamiento estanque (FLA) y derechos de licencia comercial para el barco de pesca Licencias (CFBL) se establecen en niveles que reflejan renta de los recursos resultantes de la utilización de recursos y se determinará por el Departamento: Disponiéndose, que el Departamento también prescriben las tasas y otros cargos de la pesca y emitir la correspondiente licencia o permiso de artes de pesca, accesorios de pesca y otras actividades de la pesca fuera de las aguas municipales serán determinados por las unidades locales de Gobierno (UAL) en consulta con el FARMCs. El FARMCs también puede recomendar los derechos de licencia apropiados que se impongan.

SEC. 7. Access to Fishery Resources. - The Department shall issue such number of licenses and permits for the conduct of fishery activities subject to the limits of the

MSY of the resource as determined by scientific studies or best available evidence.

SEC. 7. Acceso a los Recursos Pesqueros. - El Departamento emitirá tal número de licencias y permisos para la realización de actividades de pesca dentro de los límites del rendimiento máximo sostenible de los recursos según lo determinado por estudios científicos o la mejor evidencia disponible. Preference shall be given to resource users in the local communities adjacent or nearest to the municipal waters. Se dará preferencia a los usuarios de los recursos en las comunidades locales adyacentes o más cercana a las aguas municipales.

SEC. 8 . Catch Ceiling Limitations. - The Secretary may prescribe limitations or quota on the total quantity of fish captured, for a specified period of time and specified area based on the best available evidence. Such a catch ceiling may be imposed per species of fish whenever necessary and practicable: Provided, however, that in municipal waters and fishery management areas, and waters under the jurisdiction of special agencies, catch ceilings may be established upon the concurrence and approval or recommendation of such special agency and the concerned LGU in consultation with the FARMC for conservation or ecological purposes.

SEC. 9 . Establishment of Closed Season. - The Secretary may declare, through public notice in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in public service announcements, whichever is applicable, at least (5) days before the declaration, a closed season in any or all Philippine waters outside the boundary of municipal waters and in bays, for conservation and ecological purposes. The Secretary may include waters under the jurisdiction of special agencies, municipal waters and bays, and/or other areas reserved for the use of the municipal fisherfolk in the areas to be covered by closed season: Provided, however, That this shall be done only upon the concurrence and approval or recommendation of such special agency and the concerned LGU and FARMC: Provided, further, That in municipal waters, fishery management areas and other areas reserved for the use of the municipal fisherfolk, closed season may be established by the concerned LGU in consultation with the FARMC for conservation or ecological purposes. **SEC. 9. Establecimiento de veda.** - El Secretario podrá declarar, mediante notificación pública en arrendamiento a dos (2) periódicos de circulación general o en anuncios de servicio público, cualquiera que sea aplicable, por lo menos (5) días antes de la declaración, un temporada de veda en cualquiera o en todas las aguas de Filipinas fuera de los límites de las aguas municipales y en las bahías, para fines de conservación y ecológica. El Secretario podrá incluir las aguas bajo la jurisdicción de las agencias especiales, las aguas municipales y bahías, y / u otras áreas reservadas para el uso de los pescadores municipales en las áreas a ser cubiertas por temporada de veda: Disponiéndose, sin embargo, que esto se hará sólo con la anuencia y la aprobación o recomendación de dicho organismo especial que se trate y la UAL y FARMC: Disponiéndose, además, que en las aguas municipales , gestión de las áreas de la pesca y otras áreas reservadas para el uso de los pescadores municipales, veda puede ser establecido por la UAL que se trate en consulta con el FARMC para la conservación o la ecológica. The FARMCs may also recommend the establishment of closed seasons in municipal waters, fisheries management and other areas reserved for the use of municipal fisherfolk. El FARMCs también puede recomendar el establecimiento de temporadas de veda en las aguas municipales, la gestión de la pesca y otras áreas reservadas para el uso de los pescadores municipales.

SEC. 10 . Introduction of Foreign Aquatic Species. - No foreign finfish, mollusk, crustacean or aquatic plants shall be introduced in Philippine waters without a sound ecological, biological and environmental jurisdiction based on scientific studies subject to the bio-safety standards as provided for by existing laws: Provided, however, That the Department may approve the introduction of foreign aquatic species for scientific/research purposes. **SEC. 10. Introducción de especies acuáticas de Relaciones Exteriores.** - No hay peces extranjeros, moluscos, crustáceos o plantas acuáticas se introdujo en las aguas de Filipinas sin hacer ruido ecológicos, biológicos y ambientales jurisdicción sobre la base de estudios científicos con sujeción a las normas de seguridad bio-según lo previsto por las legislaciones vigentes: Disponiéndose, sin embargo, que el Departamento puede aprobar la introducción de especies acuáticas para extranjeros con fines de investigación científica /.

SEC. 11 . Protection of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species . **SEC. 11. Protección de especies raras, amenazadas y en peligro las especies.** - The Department shall declare closed seasons and take conservation and rehabilitation measures for rare, threatened and endangered species, as it may determine, and shall ban the fishing and/or taking of rare, threatened and/or endangered species, including their eggs/offspring as identified by existing laws in concurrence with concerned government agencies. - El Departamento deberá declarar vedas y tomar medidas de conservación y rehabilitación de las especies raras, amenazadas y en peligro de extinción, ya que puede determinar, y prohibirá la pesca y / o toma de especies raras, amenazadas y / o especies en peligro de extinción, incluidos sus huevos / crías señalados por las leyes vigentes en concurrence con los organismos gubernamentales competentes.

SEC. 12 . Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) . **SEC. 12. Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS).** - All government agencies as well as private corporations, firms and entities who intend to undertake activities or projects which will affect the quality of the environment shall be required to prepare a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to undertaking such development activity. - Todos los organismos gubernamentales, así como empresas privadas, empresas y entidades que pretendan realizar actividades o proyectos que afectan a la calidad del medio ambiente se debe preparar un informe detallado de Impacto Ambiental (EIA) antes de emprender actividades de desarrollo tales. The preparation of the EIS shall form an integral part of the entire planning process pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Decree No. La preparación de la EIS será parte integrante del proceso de planificación de conformidad con lo dispuesto en el Decreto Presidencial N ° 1586 as well as its implementing rules and regulations. 1586, así como sus normas y reglamentos de aplicación.

SEC. 13 . Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) . **SEC. 13. Certificado de Cumplimiento Ambiental (CEC).** - All Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) shall be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for review and evaluation. - Todos declaraciones de impacto ambiental (EIA) se presentará al Departamento de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DENR) para su revisión y evaluación. No persons, natural or juridical, shall undertake any development project without first securing an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Secretary of the DENR. Ninguna persona, natural o jurídica, se compromete cualquier proyecto de desarrollo, sin asegurar primero un Certificado de Cumplimiento Ambiental (CEC) de la Secretaria de la DENR.

SEC. 14. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Philippine Waters. - A monitoring, control and surveillance system shall be established by the Department in coordination with LGUs, FARMCs, the private sector and other agencies concerned to ensure that the fisheries and aquatic resources in Philippine waters are judiciously and wisely utilized and managed on a sustainable basis and conserved for the benefit and enjoyment exclusively of Filipino citizens. **SEC. 14. Seguimiento, Control y Vigilancia de las Aguas de Filipinas.** - Un seguimiento, control y sistema de vigilancia se establecerá por el Departamento en coordinación con las administraciones locales, FARMCs, el sector privado y otros organismos interesados para asegurar que la pesca y recursos acuáticos Philippine waters are judiciously and wisely utilized and managed on a sustainable basis and conserved for the benefit and enjoyment exclusively of Filipino citizens.

SEC. 15. Auxiliary Invoices - All fish and fishery products must have an auxiliary invoice to be issued by the LGUs or their duly authorized representatives prior to their transport from their point of origin to their point of destination in the Philippines and/or export purposes upon payment of a fee to be determined by the LGUs to defray administrative costs therefor.

ARTICLE I

MUNICIPAL FISHERIES

SEC . 16. Jurisdiction of Municipal/City Governments. - The municipal/city government shall have jurisdiction over municipal waters as defined in this Code. **SEC. 16. Competencia Municipal y los gobiernos de la ciudad.** - El municipio o el gobierno de la ciudad tendrá jurisdicción sobre las aguas municipales tal como se definen en el presente Código. The municipal/city government, in consultation with the FARMC shall be responsible for the management, conservation, development, protection, utilization, and disposition of all fish and fishery/aquatic resources within their respective municipal waters.

The municipal/city government may, in consultation with the FARMC, enact appropriate ordinances for this purpose and in accordance with the National Fisheries Policy. The ordinances enacted by the municipality and component city shall be reviewed pursuant to Republic Act No. 7160 by the sanggunian of the province which has jurisdiction over the same.

The LGUs shall also enforce all fishery laws, rules and regulations as well as valid fishery ordinances enacted by the municipality/city council.

The management of contiguous fishery resources such as bays which straddle several municipalities, cities or provinces, shall be done in an integrated manner, and shall not be based on political subdivisions of municipal waters in order to facilitate their management as single resource systems. The LGUs which share or border such resources may group themselves and coordinate with each other to achieve the objectives of integrated fishery resource management. The Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (IFARMCs) established under Section 76 of this Code shall serve as the venues for close collaboration among LGUs in the management of contiguous resources.

SEC. 17. Grant of Fishing Privileges in Municipal Waters. - The duly registered fisherfolk organizations/cooperatives shall have preference in grant of fishery rights by the Municipal/City Council pursuant to Section 149 of the Local Government Code:

Provided, That in areas where there are special agencies or offices vested with jurisdiction over municipal waters by virtue of special laws creating these agencies such as, but not limited to, the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, said offices and agencies shall continue to grant permits for proper management and implementation of the aforementioned structures.

SEC. 18. Users of Municipal Waters. - All fishery activities in municipal waters, as defined in this Code, shall be utilized by municipal fisherfolk and their cooperatives/organizations who are listed as such in the registry of municipal fisherfolk.

The municipal or city government, however, may, through its local chief executive and acting pursuant to an appropriate ordinance, authorize or permit shall and medium commercial fishing vessels to operate within the ten point one (10.1) to fifteen (15) kilometer area from the shoreline in municipal waters as defined herein, provided, that all the following are met:

- a. no commercial fishing in municipal waters with depth less than seven (7) fathoms as
- a. certified by the appropriate agency;
- b. fishing activities utilizing methods and gears that are determined to be consistent
- b. with national policies set by the Department;
- c. prior consultation, through public hearing, with the M/CFARMC has been
- c. conducted; and
- d. the applicant vessel as well as the ship owner, employer, captain and crew have been
- d. certified by the appropriate agency as not having violated this Code, environmental laws and related laws.

In no case shall the authorization or permit mentioned above be granted for fishing in bays as determined by the Department to be in an environmentally critical condition and during closed season as provided for in Section 9 of this Code.

SEC. 19. Registry of Municipal Fisherfolk. - The LGU shall maintain a registry of municipal fisherfolk, who are fishing or may desire to fish in municipal waters for the purpose of determining priorities among them, of limiting entry into the municipal waters, and of monitoring fishing activities and/or other related purposes: Provided, That the FARMC shall submit to the LGU the list of priorities for its consideration.

Such list or registry shall be updated annually or as may be necessary, and shall be posted in barangay halls or other strategic locations where it shall be open to public inspection, for the purpose of validating the correctness and completeness of the list. The LGU, in consultation with the FARMCs, shall formulate the necessary mechanisms for inclusion or exclusion procedures that shall be most beneficial to the resident municipal fisherfolk. The FARMCs may likewise recommend such mechanisms.

The LGUs shall also maintain a registry of municipal fishing vessels by type of gear and other boat particulars with the assistance of the FARMC.

SEC. 20. Fisherfolk Organizations and/or Cooperatives. - Fisherfolk organizations/cooperatives whose members are listed in the registry of municipal fisherfolk, may be granted use of demarcated fishery areas to engage in fish capture, mariculture and/or fish farming: Provided, however, That an organization/cooperative member whose household is already a possession of a fishery right other than for fish capture cannot enjoy the fishing rights granted to the organization or cooperative.

SEC. 21. Priority of Resident Municipal Fisherfolk. - Resident municipal Fisherfolk of the municipality concerned and their organizations/cooperatives shall have priority to exploit municipal and demarcated fishery areas of the said municipality.

SEC. 22. Demarcated Fishery Right. - The LGU concerned shall grant demarcated fishery rights to fishery organizations/cooperatives for mariculture operation in specific areas identified by the Department.

SEC. 23. Limited Entry Into Overfished Areas. Whenever it is determined by the LGUS and the Department that a municipal water is overfished based on available data or information or in danger of being overfished, and that there is a need to regenerate the fishery resources in that water, the LGU shall prohibit or limit fishery activities in the said waters.

SEC. 24. Support to Municipal Fisherfolk. - The Department and the LGUs shall provide support to municipal fisherfolk through appropriate technology and research, credit, production and marketing assistance and other services such as, but not limited to training for additional/supplementary livelihood.

SEC 25. Rights and Privileges of Fishworkers. - The fishworkers shall be entitled to the privileges accorded to other workers under the Labor Code, Social Security System and other benefits under other laws or social legislation for workers: *Provided*, That fishworker on board ant fishing vessels engaged in fishing operations are hereby covered by the Philippine Labor Code, as amended.

ARTICLE II

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

SEC. 26. Commercial Fishing Vessel License and Other Licenses. - No person shall operate a commercial fishing vessel, pearl fishing vessel or fishing vessel for scientific, research or educational purposes, or engage in any fishery activity, or seek employment as a fishworker or pearl driver without first securing a license from the Department, the period of which shall be prescribed by the Department: Provided, that no such license shall be required of a fishing vessel engaged in scientific research or educational purposes within Philippine waters and pursuant to an international agreement of which the Philippines is a signatory and which agreement defines the status, privileges and obligations of said vessel and its crew and the non-Filipino officials of the international agency under which vessel operates: *Provided, further* , that members of the crew of a fishing vessel used for commercial fishing except the duly licensed and/or authorized patrons, marine engineers, radio operators and cooks shall be considered as fisherfolk: *Provided, furthermore* , that all skippers/master fishers shall be required to undertake an orientation training on detection of fish caught by illegal means before they can be

issued their fishworker licenses: *Provided, finally* , that the large commercial fishing vessel license herein authorized to be granted shall allow the licensee to operate only in Philippine waters seven (7) or more fathoms deep, the depth to be certified by the NAMRIA, and subject to the conditions that may be stated therein and the rules and regulations that may be promulgated by the Department.

SEC. 27. Persons Eligible for Commercial Fishing Vessel License. - No commercial fishing vessel license shall be issued except to citizens of the Philippines, partnership or to associations, cooperatives or corporations duly registered in the Philippines at least sixty percent (60%) of the capital stock of which is owned by Filipino citizens. No person to whom a license has been issued shall sell, transfer or assign, qualified to hold a license. Any such transfer, sale or assignment shall be null and void and shall not be registered in the books of the association, cooperative or corporation.

For purposes of commercial fishing, fishing vessel owned by citizens of the Philippines, partnerships, cooperation, cooperatives or association qualified under this section shall secure Certificates or Philippine Registry and such other documents as are necessary for fishing operations from the concerned agencies: *Provided*, that the commercial fishing vessel license shall be valid for a period to be determined by the Department.

SEC. 28. Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration . - The registration, documentation, inspection and manning of the operation of all types of fishing vessels plying Philippine waters shall be in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC 29 . Registration and Licensing of Fishing Gears Used in Commercial Fishing. - Before a commercial fishing holding a commercial fishing vessel license may begin fishing operations in Philippine waters, the fishing it will utilize in fishing shall be registered and a license granted therefore. The Department shall promulgate guidelines to implement this provision within sixty (60%) days from approval of this Code.

SEC. 30. Renewal of Commercial Boats License. - The commercial fishing boats license shall be renewed every three (3) years.

The owner/operator of a fishing vessel has a period of sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the license within which to renew the same.

SEC. 31. Report of Transfer of Ownership. - The owner/operator of a registered fishing vessel shall notify the Department in writing of the transfer of the ownership of the vessel of a copy of such document within ten (10) days after its transfer to another person.

SEC. 32. Fishing by Philippine Commercial Fishing Fleet in International Waters. - Fishing vessels or waters of other countries which allow such fishing operation: *Provided* , that they comply with the safety, manning and other requirements of the Philippine Coast Guard, Maritime Industry Authority and other agencies concerned: *Provided*, however, that they secure an international fishing permit and certificate of clearance from the Department: *Provided, further* , that the fish caught by such vessels shall be considered as caught in Philippine waters therefore not subject to all import duties and taxes only when the same Is landed in duly designated fish landing and fish ports in the Philippines: *Provided furthermore* , that landing ports established by

canneries, seafood processors and all fish landing sites established prior to the effectivity of this Code shall be considered authorized landing sites: Provided finally, that fishworkers on board Philippine registered fishing vessels conducting fishing activities beyond the Philippine Exclusive Zone are not considered as overseas Filipino workers.

SEC. 33. Importation of Fishing Vessels or Construction of New Fishing Boats. - Prior to the importation of fishing vessels and the construction of new fishing vessels, the approval/clearance of the Department must first be obtained.

SEC. 34. Incentives for Municipal and Small Scale Commercial Fisherfolk . - Municipal and small scale commercial fisherfolk shall be granted incentive which shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. at least ten percent (10%) of the credit and the guarantee funds of government
- a. financing institutions shall be made available for post harvest and marketing projects for the purpose of enhancing our fisherfolk competitiveness by reducing post-harvest losses. Qualified projects shall include, but shall not be limited to, ice plants, cold storage, canning, warehouse, transport and other related infrastructure projects and facilities, and
- b. the Department shall undertake the following programs:
 - b.
 1. a capability building program for targeted parties shall be developed by the
 1. Department to promote greater bankability and worthiness of municipal and small scale commercial fishers. Such program shall include organizing activities, technology transfer, and skills training related to commercial fishing as well as credit management. Groups and cooperatives organized under the program shall have priority access over credit and guarantee funds established under this Code; and
 2. an information campaign shall be conducted to promote the capability-building
 2. and credit programs. The campaign shall ensure greater information dissemination and accessibility to targeted fisherfolk.

SEC. 35. Incentives for Commercial Fishers to Fish Further into the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). - In order to encourage fishing vessel operators to fish farther in the EEZ and beyond, new incentives for improvement of fishing vessels and acquisition of fishing equipment shall be granted in addition to incentives already available from the Board of Investments (BOI). Such incentives shall be granted subject to exhaustive evaluation of resource and exploitation conditions in the specified areas of fishing operators. The incentive shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. long terms supported by guarantee facilities to finance the building and acquisition
- a. and/or improvement of fishing vessel and equipment;
- b. commercial fishing vessel operators of Philippine registry shall enjoy a limited
- b. period of tax and duty exemptions on the importation of fishing vessels not more than five (5) years old, equipment and paraphernalia, the period of exemption and guidelines shall be fixed by the Department within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Code.

- c. commercial fishing operator of Philippine registry engaged in fisheries in the high seas shall be entitled to duty and tax rebates on fuel consumption for commercial fisheries operations. Guidelines shall be promulgated within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Code by the Department; and
- d. all applicable incentives available under the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987:
- d. Provided, that the fishing operation project is qualified for registration and is duly registered with the BOI.

SEC. 36. Complement of Fishing Vessels. - Every commercial fishing vessel of Philippine registry when actually operated, shall be manned in accordance with the requirements of the Philippine Merchant Marine rules and regulations.

SEC. 37. Medical Supplies and Life-Saving Devices. - All fishing vessels shall be provided with adequate medical supplies and life-saving devices to determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Center: Provided, that a fishing vessel of twenty (20) GT or more shall have as a member of its crew a person qualified as a first aider duly certified by the Philippine National Red Cross.

SEC. 38. Reportorial Requirements . - Each commercial fishing vessel shall keep a daily record of fish catch and spoilage, landing points, and quantity and value of fish caught, and off-loaded for transshipment, sale and/or other disposal. Detailed information shall be duly certified by the vessel's captain and transmitted monthly to the officer or representative of the Department, at the nearest designated landing point.

SEC. 39. Report of Meteorological and Other Data. - All vessels and crafts passing navigational lanes or engaged in fisheries activity shall be required to contribute or meteorological and other data, and shall assist the Department in documentation or reporting of information vital to navigation and the fishing industry.

SEC. 40. Color Code and Radio Frequency. - For administrative efficiency and enforcement of regulations, registered fishing vessels shall bear a color code as may be determined by the Department and may be assigned a radio frequency specific and distinct to its area of operation.

SEC. 41. Passage . - Commercial and other passage not in the regular conduct of fisheries activity shall be made at designated navigational lanes.

SEC. 42. Transshipment. - Foreign fishing vessels wishing to avail of land, air and sea facilities available in the Philippines to transport fishery products which are caught outside Philippine territorial waters to its final destination shall call only at duly designated government-owned or controlled regional fishport complexes after securing clearance from the Department.

SEC. 43 . Operation of Radio Communication Facilities on Board Fishing Vessels. - The Department shall promulgate guidelines in the operation of radio communication facilities on board fishing vessels and the assignment of radio frequencies specific and distinct to area of operation in coordination with the National Telecommunications Commission.

SEC. 44. Use of Superlight. - The number and wattage of superlights used in commercial fishing vessels shall be regulated by the Department: Provided, That the use of superlights is banned within municipal waters and bays.

ARTICLE III

AQUACULTURE

SEC. 45. Disposition of Public Lands for Fishery Purpose. - Public lands such as tidal swamps, mangroves, marshes, foreshore lands and ponds suitable for fishery operations shall not be disposed or alienated. Upon effectivity of this Code, FLA may be issued for public lands that may be declared available for fishpond development primarily to qualified fisherfolk cooperative/associations: *Provided, however* , that upon the expiration of existing FLAs the current lessees shall be given priority and be entitled to an extension of twenty-five (25) years in the utilization of their respective leased areas.

There after, such FLAs shall be granted to any Filipino citizen with preference, primarily to qualified fisherfolk cooperatives/associations as well as small and medium enterprises as defined under Republic Act No. 8289: *Provided, further* , that the Department shall declare as reservation, portions of available public lands certified as suitable for fishpond purposes for fish sanctuary, conservation, and ecological purposes: *Provided, finally* , that two (2) years after the approval of this Act, no fish pens or fish cages or fish traps shall be allowed in lakes.

SEC. 46. Lease of Fishponds. - Fishpond leased to qualified persons and fisherfolk organizations/cooperatives shall be subject to the following conditions:

- a. Areas leased for fishpond purposes shall be no more than 50 hectares for individuals and 250 hectares for corporations or fisherfolk organizations;
- b. The lease shall be for a period of twenty-five (25) years and renewable for another twenty-five (25) years: Provided, that in case of the death of the lessee, his spouse and/or children, as his heirs, shall have preemptive rights to the unexpired term of his Fishpond Lease Agreement subject to the same terms and conditions provided herein provided that the said heirs are qualified;
- c. Lease rates for fishpond areas shall be determined by the Department: Provided, that all fees collected shall be remitted to the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute and other qualified research institutions to be used for aquaculture research development;
- d. The area leased shall be developed and producing on a commercial scale within three (3) years from the approval of the lease contract: Provided, however, That all areas not fully producing within five (5) years from the date of approval of the lease contract shall automatically revert to the public domain for reforestation;
- e. The fishpond shall not be subleased, in whole or in part, and failure to comply with this provision shall mean cancellation of FLA;
- f. The transfer or assignment of rights to FLA shall be allowed only upon prior written approval of the Department;
- g. The lessee shall undertake reforestation for river banks, bays, streams and seashore fronting the dike of his fishpond subject to the rules and regulations to be promulgated thereon; and

- h. The lessee shall provide facilities that will minimize environmental pollution, ie,
h. settling ponds, reservoirs, etc: Provided, That failure to comply with this provision shall mean cancellation of FLA.

SEC. 47. Code of Practice for Aquaculture. - The Department shall establish a code of practice for aquaculture that will outline general principles and guidelines for environmentally-sound design and operation to promote the sustainable development of the industry. Such Code shall be developed through a consultative process with the DENR, the fishworkers, FLA holders, fishpond owners, fisherfolk cooperatives, small-scale operators, research institutions and the academe, and other potential stakeholders. The Department may consult with specialized international organizations in the formulation of the code of practice.

SEC. 48. Incentives and Disincentives for Sustainable Aquaculture Practices . - The Department shall formulate incentives and disincentives, such as, but not limited to, effluent charges, user fees and negotiable permits, to encourage compliance with the environmental standards and to promote sustainable management practices.

SEC. 49. Reversion of All Abandoned, Undeveloped or Underutilized Fishponds. - The DENR, in coordination with the Department , LGUs, other concerned agencies and FARMCs shall determine which abandoned, undeveloped or underutilized fishponds covered by FLAs can be reverted to their original mangrove state and after having made such determination shall take all steps necessary to restore such areas in their original mangrove state.

SEC. 50. Absentee Fishpond Lease Agreement Holders . - Holders of fishpond lease agreements who have acquired citizenship in another country during the existence of the FLA shall have their lease automatically cancelled and the improvements thereon to be forfeited in favor of the government and disposed of in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated thereon.

SEC. 51. License to Operate Fish Pens, Fish Cages, Fish Traps and Other Structures for the Culture of Fish and Other Fishery Products . - Fish pens, fish cages, fish traps and other structures for the culture of fish and other fishery products shall be constructed and shall operate only within established zones duly designated by LGUs in consultation with the FARMCs concerned consistent with national fisheries policies after the corresponding licenses thereof have been secured. The area to be utilized for this purpose for individual person shall be determined by the LGUs in consultation with the concerned FARMC: *Provided, however* , That not over ten percent (10%) of the suitable water surface area of all takes and rivers shall be allotted for aquaculture purpose like fish pens, fish cages and fish traps; and the stocking density and feeding requirement which shall be controlled and determined by its carrying capacity: *Provided further* , That fish pens and fish cages located outside municipal waters shall be constructed and operated only within fish pen and fish cage belts designated by the Department and after corresponding licenses therefore have been secured and the fees thereof paid.

SEC. 52. Pearl Farm Leases. - The foregoing provisions not with standing, existing pearl farm leases shall be respected and allowed to operate under the terms thereof. New

leases may be granted to qualified persons who possess the necessary capital and technology, by the LGUs having jurisdiction over the area.

SEC. 53. Grant of Privileges for Operations of Fish Pens, Cages, Corrals/Traps and Similar Structures. - No new concessions, licenses, permits, leases and similar privileges for the establishment or operation of fish pens, fish cages, fish corrals/traps and other similar structures in municipal areas shall be granted except to municipal fisherfolk and their organizations.

SEC. 54. Insurance for Fishponds, Fish Cages, and Fish Pens, Inland fishponds, fish cages and fish pens shall be covered under the insurance program of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation for losses caused by *force majeure* and fortuitous events.

SEC. 55. Non-Obstruction to Navigation . - Nothing in the foregoing sections shall be construed as permitting the lessee, licensee, or permittee to undertake any construction which will obstruct the free navigation in any river, lakes or bays flowing through or adjoining the fish pens, fish cages, fish traps, and fishponds, or impede the flow of the tide to and from the area. Any construction made in violation hereof shall be removed upon the order of the Department in coordination with the other government agencies concerned at the expense of the lessee, or occupants thereof, whenever applicable. The Department shall within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Code formulate and implement rules and regulations for the immediate dismantling of existing obstruction to navigation.

SEC. 56 . Non-Obstruction to Defined Migration Paths. - Nothing in the foregoing sections shall be construed as permitting the lessee, permittee, or licensee to undertake any construction which will obstruct any defined migration path of migratory fish species such as river mouths and estuaries within a distance determined by the concerned LGUs in consultation with and upon the recommendation of the FARMCs.

SEC. 57. Registration of Fish Hatcheries and Private Fishponds, etc. - All fish hatcheries, fish breeding facilities and private fishponds must be registered with the LGUs which shall prescribe minimum standards for such facilities in consultation with the Department: *Provided* , that the Department shall conduct a yearly inventory of all fishponds, fish pens and fish cages whether in public or private lands: *Provided, further*, that all fishpond, fish pen and fish cage operators shall annually report to the Department the type of species and volume of production in areas devoted to aquaculture.

ARTICLE IV

POST-HARVEST FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND TRADES

SEC. 58. Comprehensive Post-harvest and Ancillary Industries Plan. - The Department shall conduct a regular study of fisheries post-harvest operations and ancillary industries, in the formulation of a comprehensive plan for post-harvest and ancillary industries. It shall take into account, among others, the following:

- a. detailed and clear guidelines on the distribution, construction maintenance and use of
- a. post-harvest infrastructure facilities;

- b. extension of credit and incentives for post-harvest operations;
- b.
- c. promotion and strengthening of semi-processing, processing and handling;
- c.
- d. development of domestic fishmeal industry;
- d.
- e. development of fisheries ship-building and repair as a viable industry;
- e.
- f. development and strengthening of marketing facilities and activities, including the
- f. pricing system, with emphasis on collective marketing and the elimination of middlemen;
- g. increased participation of cooperatives and non-governmental organizations in post-
- g. harvest operations and ancillary industries;
- h. integration of fisheries post-harvest operations into the national fisheries plan.
- h.

SEC. 59. Establishment of Post-Harvest Facilities for Fishing Communities. - The LGUs shall coordinate with the private sector and other concerned agencies and FARMCs in the establishment of post-harvest facilities for fishing landing sites, fish ports, ice plants and cold storage and other fish processing establishments to serve primarily the needs of municipal fisherfolk: Provided, that such post-harvest facilities shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Post-harvest and Ancillary Industries Plan.

SEC. 60. Registration and Licensing of all Post-Harvest Facilities. - All post-harvest facilities such as fish processing plants, ice plants, and cold storage's, fish ports/landings and other fishery business establishments must register with and be licensed by the LGUs which shall prescribe minimum standards for such facilities in consultation with the Department.

SEC. 61. Importation and Exportation of Fishery Products . - -

- a. Export of fishery products shall be regulated whenever such exportation affects
- a. domestic food security and production: Provided, the exportation of live fish shall be prohibited except those which are hatched or propagated in accredited hatcheries and ponds.
- b. To protect and maintain the local biodiversity or ensure the sufficiency of domestic
- b. supply, spawners, breeders, eggs and fry of bangus, prawn and other endemic species, as may be determined by the department, shall not be exported or caused to be exported by any person;
- c. Fishery products may be imported only when the importation has been certified as
- c. necessary by the Department, in consultation with the FARMC, and all the requirements of this Code, as well as all existing rules and regulations have been complied with: Provided, that fish imports for canning/processing purposes only may be allowed without the necessary certification, but within the provisions of Section 61 (d) of this Code; and
- d. No person, shall import and/or export fishery products of whatever size, stage or
- d. form for any purpose without securing a permit from the Department.

The Department in consultation with the FARMC shall promulgate rules and regulations on importation and exportation of fish and fishery/aquatic resources with the Government's export/import simplification procedures.

SEC. 62. Instruments of Weights and Measures, and Quality Grades/Standards . - Standards for weights, volume and other measurements for all fishery transactions shall be set by the Department.

All fish and fishery products for export, import and domestic consumption shall meet the quality grades/standards as determined by the Department.

The LGU concerned shall, by appropriate ordinance, penalize fraudulent practices and unlawful possession or use of instrument of weights and measures.

CHAPTER III CAPÍTULO III

RECONSTITUTION OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES AND CREATION OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

ARTICLE I RECONSTITUTION OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

SEC. 63. Creation of the Position of Undersecretary for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. - There is hereby created in the Department of Agriculture the position of Undersecretary for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, solely for the purpose of attending to the needs of the fishing industry, to be appointed by the President. Such Undersecretary shall have the following functions :

- a. set policies and formulate standards for the effective, efficient and economical
- a. operations of the fishing industry in accordance with the programs of the government;
- b. exercise overall supervision over all functions and activities of all offices and
- b. instruments and other offices related to fisheries including its officers;
- c. establish , with the assistance of the director, such regional, provincial and other
- c. fishery officers as may be necessary and appropriate and organize the internal structure of BFAR in such manner as is necessary for the efficient and effective attainment of its objectives and purposes; and
- d. perform such other functions as maybe necessary or proper to attain the objectives of
- d. this Code.

SEC. 64. Reconstitution of the BFAR. - The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is hereby reconstituted as a line bureau under the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 65. Functions of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. - As a line bureau, the BFAR shall have the following functions;

- a. prepare and implement a Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan;
- b. issue licenses for the operation of commercial fishing vessels;
- b.
- c. issue identification cards free of charge to fishworkers engaged in commercial fishing;
- d. monitor and review joint fishing agreements between Filipino citizens and foreigners
- d. who conduct fishing activities in international waters, and ensure that such agreements are not contrary to Philippine commitment under international treaties and convention on fishing in the high seas;
- e. formulate and implement a Comprehensive Fishery Research and Development Program, such as, but not limited to, sea farming, sea ranching, tropical/ornamental fish and seaweed culture, aimed at increasing resource productivity, improving resource use efficiency, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the country's fishery and aquatic resources;
- f. establish and maintain a Comprehensive Fishery Information System;
- f.
- g. provide extensive development support services in all aspect of fisheries production, processing and marketing;
- h. provide advisory services and technical assistance on the improvement of quality of fish from the time it is caught (ie on board fishing vessel, at landing areas, fish markets, to the processing plants and to the distribution and marketing chain);
- i. coordinate efforts relating to fishery production undertaken by the primary fishery producers, LGUs, FARMCs, fishery and organizations/cooperatives;
- j. advise and coordinate with LGUs on the maintenance of proper sanitation and hygienic practices in fish markets and fish landing areas;
- k. establish a corps of specialists in collaboration with the Department of National Defense, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Foreign Affairs for the efficient monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities within Philippine territorial waters and provide the necessary facilities, equipment and training therefor;
- l. implement an inspection system for import and export of fishery/aquatic products and fish processing establishments consistent with international standards to ensure product quality and safety;
- m. coordinate with LGUs and other concerned agencies for the establishment of productivity enhancing and market development program in fishing communities to enable women to engage in other fisheries/economics activities and contribute significantly to development efforts;
- n. enforce all laws, formulate and enforce all rules and regulations governing the conservation and management of fishery resources, except in municipal waters, and to settle conflicts of resource use and allocation in consultation with the NFARMC, LGUs and local FARMCs;
- o. develop value-added fishery-products for domestic consumption and export;
- o.
- p. recommend measures for the protection/enhancement of the fishery industries;
- p.

- q. assist the LGUs in developing their technical capability in the development,
- q. management, regulation, conservation and protection of the fishery resources;
- r. formulate rules and regulations for the conservation and management of straddling
- r. fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks; and
- s. perform such other related functions which shall promote the development,
- s. conservation, management, protection and utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources.

SEC. 66. Composition of BFAR. - As a line bureau, of the BFAR shall be headed by a Director and assisted by two (2) Assistant Directors who shall supervise the administrative and technical services of the bureau respectively. It shall establish regional, provincial and municipal offices as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively and efficiently the provisions of this Code.

SEC. 67. Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Service . - For purposes of monitoring and relating the importation and exportation of fish and fishery/aquatic resources, the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Service in the BFAR is hereby strengthened and shall have the following functions:

- a. conduct fisheries quarantine and quality inspection of all fish and fishery/aquatic
- a. products coming into and going out of the country by air or water transport, to detect the presence of fish pest and diseases and if found to harbor fish pests or diseases shall be confiscated and disposed of in accordance with environmental standards and practices;
- b. implement international agreements/commitments on bio-safety and bio-diversity as
- b. well as prevent the movement or trade of endemic fishery and aquatic resources to ensure that the same are not taken out of the country;
- c. quarantine such aquatic animals and other fishery products determined or suspect to
- c. be with fishery pests and diseases and prevent the movement or trade from and/or into the country of these products so prohibited or regulated under existing laws, rules and regulations as well as international agreements of which the Philippines is a State Party;
- d. examine all fish and fishery products coming into or going out of the country which
- d. may be a source or medium of fish pests or diseases and/or regulated by existing fishery regulations and ensure that the quality of fish import and export meet international standards; and
- e. document and authorized the movement or trade of fish and fishery products when
- e. found free of fish pest of diseases and collect necessary fees prescribed by law and regulations.

ARTICLE II

THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCILS (FARMCs)

SEC. 68. Development of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Municipal Waters and Bays. - Fisherfolk and their organizations residing within the geographical jurisdiction

of the barangays, municipalities or cities with the concerned LGUs shall develop the fishery/aquatic resources in municipal waters and bays.

SEC. 69. Creation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMCs). - FARMCs shall be established in the national level and in all municipalities/cities abutting municipal waters as defined by this code. The FARMCs shall be formed by fisherfolk organizations/cooperatives and NGOs in the locality and be assisted by the LGUs and other government entities. Before organizing FARMCs, the LGUs, NGOs, fisherfolk, and other concerned POs shall undergo consultation and orientation on the formulation of FARMCs.

SEC. 70. Creation and Composition of the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC). - There is hereby created a National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources management Council hereinafter referred to as NFARMC as a advisory/recommendatory body to the Department. The NFARMC shall be composed of fifteen (15) members consisting of:

- a. the Undersecretary of Agriculture, as Chairman;
- a.
- b. the Undersecretary of the Interior and Local Government;
- b.
- c. five (5) members representing the fisherfolk and fishworkers;
- c.
- d. five (5) members representing commercial fishing and aquaculture operators and the processing sectors;
- d.
- e. two (2) members from the academe; and
- e.
- f. one (1) representative of NGOs involved in fisheries.
- f.

The members of the NFARMC, except for the Undersecretary of Agriculture and Undersecretary of the Interior and Local Government, shall be appointed by the President upon the nomination of their respective organizations.

SEC. 71. Terms of Office. - The members of NFARMC, except the Undersecretary and the Undersecretary of the Interior and Local Government, shall serve for a term of three (3) years without reappointment.

SEC. 72 . Functions of the NFARMC. - The NFARMC shall be the following functions;

- a. assist in the formulation of national policies for the protection, sustainable
- a. development and management of fishery and aquatic resources for the approval of the Secretary;
- b. assist the Department in the preparation of the National Fisheries and Industry
- b. Development Plan; and
- c. perform such other functions as may be provided by law.
- c.

SEC. 73. The Municipal/City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (M/CFARMCs). - The M/CFARMCs shall be created in each of the municipalities and cities abutting municipal waters. However, the LGU may create the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (BFARMCs) and the Lakewide Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (LFARMCs) whenever necessary. Such BFARMCs and LFARMCs shall serve in an advisory capacity to the LGUs.

SEC. 74. Functions of the M/CFARMCs. - The M/CFARMCs shall exercise the following functions:

- a. assist in the preparation of the Municipal Fishery Development Plan and submit such plan to the Municipal Development Council;
- b. recommend the enactment of municipal fishery ordinances to the sangguniang bayan/sangguniang panlungsod through its Committee on Fisheries;
- c. assist in the enforcement of fishery laws, rules and regulations in municipal waters;
- d. advise the sangguniang bayan/panlungsod on fishery matters through its Committee on Fisheries, if such has been organized; and
- e. perform such other functions which may be assigned by the sangguniang bayan/panlungsod.

SEC. 75. Composition of the M/CFARMC. - The regular member of the M/CFARMCs shall be composed of :

- a. Municipal/City Planning Development Officer;
- b. Chairperson, Agriculture/Fishery Committee of the Sangguniang Bayan/Panlungsod;
- c. representative of the Municipal/City Development Councils;
- d. representative from the accredited non-government organization;
- e. representative from the private sector;
- f. representative from the Department of Agriculture; and
- g. at least eleven(11) fisherfolk representative (seven (7) municipal fisherfolk, one (1) fishworkers and three (3) commercial fishers) in each municipality/city which include representative from youth and women sector.

The Council shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to govern its proceedings and election.

SEC. 76. The Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (IFARMCs). - The IFARMCs shall be created in bays, gulf, lakes, and rivers and dams bounded by two (2) or more municipalities/cities.

SEC. 77. Functions of the IFARMCs. - The IFARMC shall have the following functions:

- a. assist in the preparation of the Integrated Fishery Development Plan and submit such plan to the concerned Municipal Development Councils;
- b. recommend the enactment of integrated fishery ordinances to the concerned sangguniang bayan/panlungsod through its Committee of Fisheries, if such has been organized;
- c. assist in the enforcement of fishery laws, rules and regulation in concerned municipal waters;
- d. advise the concerned sangguniang bayan/panlungsod on fishery matters through its Committee on Fisheries, if such has been organized; and
- e. perform such other functions which may be assigned by the concerned sangguniang bayan/panlungsod.

SEC. 78. Composition of the IFARMCs. - The regular members of the IFARMCs shall be composed of the following:

- a. the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture/Fisheries of the concerned sangguniang bayan/panlungsod;
- b. the Municipal/City Fisheries Officers of the concerned municipalities/cities;
- c. the Municipal/City Development Officers of the concerned municipalities/cities;
- d. one (1) representative from NGO;
- e. one (1) representative from private sector; and
- f. at least nine (9) representatives from the fisherfolk sector which include representatives from the youth and women sector.

The Council shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to govern its proceedings and election.

SEC. 79. Source of Funds of the FARMCs. - A separate fund for the NFARMC, IFARMCs and M/CFARMCs shall be established and administered by the Department from the regular annual budgetary appropriations.

CHAPTER IV

FISHERIES RESERVES, REFUGE AND SANCTUARIES

SEC. 80. Fishing Areas Reserves for Exclusive Use of Government. - The Department may designate area or areas in Philippine waters beyond fifteen (15) kilometers from shoreline as fishery reservation for the exclusive use of the government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities, for propagation, educational, research and scientific purpose: Provided, that in municipalities or cities, the concerned LGUs in consultation with the FARMCs may recommend to the Department that

portion of the municipal waters be declared as fishery reserves for special or limited use, for educational, research, and/or special management purpose. The FARMCs may recommend to the Department portions of the municipal waters which can be declared as fisheries reserves for special or limited use for educational, research and special management purpose.

SEC. 81. Fish Refuge and Sanctuaries. - The Department may establish fish refuge and sanctuaries to be administered in the manner to be prescribed by the BFAR at least twenty-five percent (25%) but not more than forty percent (40%) of bays foreshore lands, continental shelf or any fishing ground shall be set aside for the cultivation of mangroves to strengthen the habitat and the spawning grounds of fish. Within these areas no commercial fishing shall be allowed. All marine fishery reserves, fish sanctuaries and mangrove swamp reservations already declared or proclaimed by the President or legislated by the Congress of the Philippines shall be continuously administered and supervised by the concerned agency: *Provided* , however, that in municipal waters, the concerned LGU in consultation with the FARMCs may establish fishery refuge and sanctuaries: The FARMCs may also recommend fishery refuge and sanctuaries: *Provided, further* , that at least fifteen percent (15%) where applicable of the total coastal areas in each municipality shall be identified, based on the best available scientific data and in consultation with the Department, and automatically designated as fish sanctuaries by the LGUs in consultation with the concerned FARMCs

CHAPTER V

FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 82. Creation of a National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI)
- In recognition of the important role of fisheries research in the development, management, conservation and protection of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources, there is hereby created a National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI).

The Institute shall-form part of the National Research and Development Network of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

The Institute, which shall be attached in the Department, shall serve as the primary research arm of the BFAR. The overall governance of the Institute shall be vested in the Governing Board which shall formulate policy guidelines for its operation. The plans, programs and operational budget shall be passed by the Board. The Board may create such committees as it may deem necessary for the proper and effective performance of the functions. The composition of the Governing Board shall be as follows:

- a. Undersecretary for Fisheries - Chairman
- a.
- b. BFAR Director - Vice Chairman
- b.
- c. NFRDI Executive Director - Member
- c.
- d. PCAMRD Director General - Member

- d.
- e. Representative for the academe - Member
- e.
- f. four (4) representatives from the private sector who shall come from the following
- f. subsectors - Members

Municipal Fisherfolk
Commercial Fishing Operator
Aquaculture Operator
Post Harvest/Processors

The NFRDI shall have a separate budget specific to its manpower requirements and operations to ensure the independent and objective implementation of its research activities.

SEC. 83. Qualification Standard - The Institute shall be headed by an Executive Director to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the governing board. The Executive Director shall hold a Doctorate a degree in fisheries and or/other related disciplines. The organizational structure and staffing pattern shall be approved by the Department: Provided however. That the staffing pattern and remunerations for scientific and technical staff shall be based on the qualification standards for science and technology personnel.

SEC. 84. Research and Development Objectives - Researches to be done by the NFRDI are expected to result in the following:

- a. to raise the income of the fisherfolk and to elevate the Philippines among top five (5)
- a. in the world ranking in the fish productions;
- b. to make the country's fishing industry in the high seas competitive;
- b.
- c. to conduct social research on fisherfolk families for a better understanding of their
- c. conditions and needs and;
- d. to coordinate with the fisheries schools, LGUs and private sectors regarding the
- d. maximum utilization of available technology, including the transfer of such technology to the industry particularly the fisherfolk.

SEC. 85. Functions of t he NFRDI - As a national institute, the NFRDI shall have the following functions:

- a. establish a national infrastructure unit complete with technologically-advanced
- a. features and modern scientific equipment, which shall facilitate, monitor, and implement various research needs and activities of t he fisheries sector;
- b. provide a venue for intensive training and development of human resources in the
- b. field of fisheries, a repository of all fisheries research and scientific information;
- c. provide intensive training and development of human resources in the field of
- c. fisheries for the maximum utilization of available technology;
- d. hasten the realization of the economic potential of the fisheries sector by maximizing

- d. developmental research efforts in accordance with the requirements of the national fisheries conservation and development programs, also possibly through collaborate effort with international institutions; and
- e. formally establish strengthen and expand the network of fisheries-researching communities through effective communication linkages nationwide.

CHAPTER VI

PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

SEC. 86. Unauthorized Fishing or Engaging in other Unauthorized Fisheries Activities.

- No person shall exploit, occupy, produce, breed, culture, capture or gather fish, fry or fingerlings of any fishery species or fishery products, or engage in any fishery activity in Philippine waters without a license, lease or permit.

Discovery of any person in an area where he has no permit or registration papers for a fishing vessel shall constitute a prima facie presumption that the person and/or vessel is engaged in unauthorized fishing: Provided, That fishing for daily food sustenance or for leisure which is not for commercial, occupation or livelihood purposes may be allowed.

It shall be unlawful for any commercial fishing vessel to fish in bays and in such other fishery management areas which may herein-after be declared as over-exploited.

Any commercial fishing boat captain or the three (3) highest officers of the boat who commit any of the above prohibited acts upon conviction shall be punished by a fine equivalent to the value of catch or Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) whichever is higher, and imprisonment of six (6) months, confiscation of catch and fishing gears, and automatic revocation of license.

It shall be unlawful for any person not listed in the registry of municipal fisherfolk to engage in any commercial fishing activity in municipal waters. Any municipal fisherfolk who commits such violation shall be punished by confiscation of catch and a fine of Five hundred pesos (P500.00).

SEC. 87. Poaching in Philippine Waters .- It shall be unlawful for any foreign person, corporation or entity to fish or operate any fishing vessel in Philippine waters.

The entry of any foreign fishing vessel in Philippine waters shall constitute a prima facie evidence that the vessel is engaged in fishing in Philippine waters.

Violation of the above shall be punished by a fine of One Hundred Thousand US Dollar (US\$100,000.00), in addition to the confiscation of its catch, fishing equipment and fishing vessel: Provided, that the Department is empowered to impose an administrative fine of not less than Fifty Thousand US Dollar (US\$50,000.00) but not more than Two Hundred Thousand US Dollar (US\$200,000.00) or its equivalent in the Philippine Currency.

SEC. 88. Fishing Through Explosives, Noxious or Poisonous Substance, and/or Electricity. -

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to catch, take or gather or cause to be caught, taken or gathered, fish or any fishery species in Philippine waters with the use of electricity, explosives, noxious or poisonous substance such as sodium cyanide in the Philippine fishery areas, which will kill, stupefy, disable or render unconscious fish or fishery species: *Provided*, that the Department, subject to such safeguards and conditions deemed necessary and endorsement from the concerned LGUs may allow, for research, educational or scientific purposes only, the use of electricity, poisonous or noxious substances to catch, take or gather fish or fishery species: *Provide, further*, that the use of poisonous or noxious substances to eradicate predators in fishponds in accordance with accepted scientific practices and without causing adverse environmental impact in neighboring waters and grounds shall not be construed as illegal fishing.

It will likewise be unlawful for any person, corporation or entity to possess, deal in, sell or in any manner dispose of, any fish or fishery species which have been illegally caught, taken or gathered.

The discovery of dynamite, other explosives and chemical compounds which contain combustible elements, or noxious or poisonous substance, or equipment or device for electro-fishing in any fishing vessel or in the possession of any fisherfolk, operator, fishing boat official or fishworker shall constitute a prima facie evidence, that the same was used for fishing in violation of this Code. The discovery in any fishing vessel of fish caught or killed with the use of explosive, noxious or poisonous substances or by electricity shall constitute prima facie evidence that the fisherfolk, operator, boat official or fishworker is fishing the use thereof.

- (2) Mere possession of explosive, noxious or poisonous substances or electrofishing devices for illegal fishing shall be punishable by imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to two (2) years.
- (3) Actual use of explosives, noxious or poisonous substances or electrofishing devices for illegal fishing shall be punishable by imprisonment ranging from five (5) years to ten (10) years without prejudice to the filing of separate criminal cases when the use of the same result to physical injury or loss of human life.
- (4) Dealing in, selling, or in any manner disposing of, for profit, illegally caught/gathered fisheries species shall be punished by imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to two (2) years.
- (5) In all cases enumerated above, the explosives, noxious or poisonous substances and/or electrical devices, as well as the fishing vessels, fishing equipment and catch shall be forfeited.

SEC. 89 . Use of Fine Mesh Net . - It shall be unlawful to engage in fishing using nets with mesh smaller than that which may be fixed by the Department: *Provided*, that the prohibition on the use of fine mesh net shall not apply to the gathering of fry, glass eels, elvers, tabios, and alamang and such species which by their nature are small but already mature to be identified in the implementing rules and regulations by the Department.

Violation of the above shall subject the offender to a fine from Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or imprisonment from six (6) months to two (2) years or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court: *Provided* , that if the offense is committed by a commercial fishing vessel, the boat captain and the master fisherman shall also be subject to the penalties herein: *Provided, further* , that the owner/operator of the commercial fishing vessel who

violates this provision shall be subjected to the same penalties provided herein:
Provided, finally, that the Department is hereby empowered to impose upon the offender an administrative fine and/or cancel his permit or license or both.

SEC. 90 . Use of Active Gear in the Municipal Waters and Bays and Other Fishery Management Areas. - It shall be unlawful to engage in fishing municipal waters and in all bays as well as other fishery management areas using active fishing gears as defined in this Code.

Violators of the above prohibitions shall suffer the following penalties:

(1) The boat captain and master fisherman of the vessels who participated in the violation shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment from two (2) years to six (6) years;

(2) The owner/operator of the vessel shall be fined from Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) upon the discretion of the court.

If the owner/operator is a corporation, the penalty shall be imposed on the chief executive officer of the Corporation.

If the owner/operator is a partnership the penalty shall be imposed on the managing partner.

(3) The catch shall be confiscated and forfeited.

SEC. 91. Ban on Coral Exploitation and Exportation . - It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation to gather, possess, sell or export ordinary precious and semi-precious corals, whether raw or processed form, except for scientific or research purposes.

Violations of this provision shall be punished by imprisonment from six (6) months to two (2) years and a fine from Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, and forfeiture of the subject corals, including the vessel and its proper disposition.

The confiscated corals shall either be returned to the sea or donated to schools and museums for educational or scientific purposes or disposed through other means.

SEC. 92. Ban on Muro-Ami, Other Methods and Gear Destructive to Coral Reefs and Other Marine Habitat. - It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to fish with gear method that destroy coral reefs, seagrass beds, and other fishery marine life habitat as may be determined by the Department. "Muro-Ami" and any of its variation, and such similar gear and methods that require diving, other physical or mechanical acts to pound the coral reefs and other habitat to entrap, gather or catch fish and other fishery species are also prohibited.

The operator, boat captain, master fisherman, and recruiter or organizer of fishworkers who violate this provision shall suffer a penalty of two (2) years to ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to

Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court. The catch and gear used shall be confiscated.

It shall likewise be unlawful for any person or corporation to gather, sell or export white sand, silica, pebbles and any other substances which make up any marine habitat.

The person or corporation who violates this provision shall suffer a penalty of two (2) years to ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court. The substance taken from its marine habitat shall be confiscated.

SEC. 93 . Illegal Use of Superlights . - It shall be unlawful to engage in fishing with the use of superlights in municipal waters or in violation of the rules and regulations which may be promulgated by the Department on the use of superlights outside municipal waters.

Violations of this provision shall be punished by imprisonment from six (6) months to two (2) years or a fine of Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per superlight, or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the courts. The superlight, fishing gears and vessel shall be confiscated.

SEC. 94. Conversion of Mangroves . - It shall be unlawful for any person to convert mangroves into fishponds or for any other purposes.

Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) years and one (1) day to twelve (12) years and/or a fine of Eighty thousand pesos (P80,000.00): *Provided* , That if the area requires rehabilitation or restoration as determined by the court, the offender should also be required to restore or compensate for the restoration of the damage.

SEC. 95. Fishing in Overfished Area and During Closed Season . - It shall be unlawful to fish in overfished area and during closed season.

Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) months and one (1) day to six (6) years and/or fine of Six thousand pesos (P6,000.00) and by forfeiture of the catch and cancellation of fishing permit or license.

SEC. 96. Fishing in Fishery Reserves, Refuge and Sanctuaries . - It shall be unlawful to fish in fishery areas declared by the Department as fishery reserves, refuge and sanctuaries.

Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of two (2) years to six (6) years and/or fine of Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and by forfeiture of the catch and the cancellation of fishing permit or license.

SEC. 97 . Fishing or Taking of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species . - It shall be unlawful to fish or take rare, threatened or endangered species as listed in the CITES and as determined by the Department.

Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of twelve (12) years to twenty (20) years and/or a fine of One hundred and twenty thousand pesos (P120,000.00) and forfeiture of the catch, and the cancellation of fishing permit.

SEC. 98. Capture of Sabalo and Other Breeders/Spawners . - It shall be unlawful for any person to catch, gather, capture or possess mature milkfish or “sabalo” and such other breeders or spawners of other fishery species as may be determined by the Department: Provided, that catching of sabalo and other breeders/spawners for local breeding purposes or scientific or research purposes may be allowed subject to guidelines to be promulgated by the Department.

Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) months and one (1) day to eight (8) years and/or a fine of Eighty Thousand Pesos (P80,000.00) and forfeiture of the catch, and fishing equipment used and revocation of license.

SEC. 99 . Exportation of Breeders, Spawners, Eggs or Fry . - Exportation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry as prohibited in this Code shall be punished by imprisonment of eight (8) years, confiscation of the same or a fine equivalent to double the value of the same, and revocation of the fishing and/or export license/permit.

SEC. 100 . Importation or Exportation of Fish or Fishery Species . - Any importation or exportation of fish or fisheries species in violation of this Code shall be punished by eight years or imprisonment, a fine of Eighty Thousand Pesos (P80,000.00) and destruction of live fishery species or forfeiture of non-lived fishery species in favor of the department for its proper disposition: Provided, that violator of this provision shall be banned from being members or stock holders of companies currently engaged in fisheries or companies to be created in the future, the guidelines for which shall be promulgated by the Department.

SEC. 101 . Violation of Catch Ceilings . - It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in violation of catch ceilings as determined by the Department. Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) months and one (1) day to six (6) years and/or a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and forfeiture of the catch, and fishing equipment used and revocation of license.

SEC. 102 . Aquatic Pollution . - Aquatic pollution, as defined in this Code shall be unlawful.

Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) years and one (1) day to twelve (12) years and/or a fine of Eighty thousand pesos (P80,000.00) plus an additional fine of Eight thousand pesos (P8,000.00) per day until such violation ceases and the fines paid.

SEC. 103. Other Violations . - The following fisheries activities shall also be considered as a violation of this Code:

- a. Failure to Comply with Minimum Safety Standards. - The owner and captain of a
- a. commercial fishing vessel engaged in fishing who, upon demand by proper authorities, fails to exhibit or show proof of compliance with the safety standards

provided in this Code, shall be immediately prevented from continuing with his fishing activity and escorted to the nearest port or landing point. The license to operate the commercial fishing vessel shall be suspended until the safety standard has been complied with.

- b. Failure to Conduct a Yearly Report on all Fishponds, Fish Pens and Fish Cages. -
- b. The FLA of the holder who fails to render a yearly report shall be immediately canceled: Provided, That if the offender be the owner of the fishpond, fish pen or fish cage, he shall be subjected to the following penalties: (1) first offense, a fine of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per unreported hectare; (2) subsequent offenses, a fine of One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) per unreported hectare.
- c. Gathering and Marketing of Shell Fishes. - It shall be unlawful for any person to
- c. take, sell, transfer, or have in possession for any purpose any shell fish which is sexually mature or below the minimum size or above the maximum quantities prescribed for the particular species.
- d. Obstruction to Navigation or Flow and Ebb of Tide in any Stream, River, Lake or
- d. Bay. - It shall be unlawful for any person who causes obstruction to navigation or flow of ebb of tide.
- e. Construction and Operation of Fish Corals/Traps, Fish Pens and Fish Cages. - It
- e. shall be unlawful to construct and operate fish corrals/traps, fish pens and fish cages without a license/permit.

Subject to the provision of the subparagraph (b) of this section, violation of the above-enumerated prohibited acts shall subject the offender to a fine ranging from Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) or imprisonment from one (1) month and one (1) day to six (6) months, or both such line and imprisonment, upon the discretion of the Court: *Provided* , that the Secretary is hereby empowered to impose upon the offender an administrative fine of not more than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) or to cancel his permit or license, or to impose such line and to cancel his permit or license, in the discretion of the Secretary; *Provided, further* , that the Secretary, or his duly authorized representative, and law enforcement agents are hereby empowered to impound with the assistance of the Philippine Coast Guard, PNP-Maritime Command: *Provided, finally* , that any person who unlawfully obstructs or delays the inspection and/or movement is authorized under this Code, shall be subject to a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) or imprisonment of not more than two (2) years, or both such fine and imprisonment, upon the discretion of the Court.

Every penalty imposed for the commission of an offense shall carry with it the forfeiture of the proceeds of such offense and the instruments or tools with which it was committed.

Such proceeds and instruments or tools shall be confiscated and forfeited in favor of the Government, unless they be the property of a third person not liable for the offense, but those articles which are not subject of lawful commerce shall be destroyed.

SEC. 104. Commercial Fishing Vessel Operators Employing Unlicensed Fisherfolk or Fishworker or Crew. - The owner/operator of a commercial fishing vessel employing unlicensed fisherfolk of fishworker shall be fined Five hundred pesos (P500.00) each

for every month that the same has been employed and/or One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for every month for each unlicensed crew member who has been deployed.

SEC. 105. Obstruction of Defined Migration Paths. - Obstruction of any defined migration paths of anadromous, catadromous and other migratory species, in areas including, but not limited to river mouths and estuaries within a distance determined by the concerned FARMCs shall be punished by imprisonment of seven (7) years to twelve (12) years or a fine from Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or both imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court, and cancellation of permit/license, if any, and dismantling of obstruction shall be at his own expense and confiscation of same.

SEC. 106 . Obstruction to Fishery Law Enforcement Officer. - The boat owner, master or operator or any person acting on his behalf of any fishing vessel who evades, obstructs or hinder any fishery law enforcement officer of the Department to perform his duty, shall be fined Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00). In addition, the registration, permit and/or license of the vessel including the license of the master fisherman shall be canceled.

SEC. 107 . Promulgation of Administrative Orders . - For purposes of fishery regulation or other fishery adjustments, the Department in consultation with the LGUs and local FARMCs, shall issue Fishery Administrative Orders or regulations for the conservation, preservation, management and sustainable development of fishery and aquatic resources.

CHAPTER VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 108. Fisherfolk Settlement Areas . - The Department shall establish and create fisherfolk settlement areas in coordination with concerned agencies of the government, where certain areas of the public domain, specifically near the fishing grounds, shall be reserved for the settlement of the municipal fisherfolk. Nothing in this section shall be construed to vest ownership of any resettlement area to a municipal fisherfolk for whom said areas may have been reserved for or had been actually granted to.

SEC. 109 . Municipal Fisheries Grant Fund . - For the development, management and conservation of the municipal resources, there is hereby created a Fishery Grant Fund to finance fishery projects of the LGUs primarily for the upliftment of the municipal fisherfolk. The amount of One hundred million (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of the Departments allocation in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) to support the Grant Fund.

For this purpose, the Department may seek financial assistance from any source and may receive any donations therefore.

SEC. 110 . Fishery Loan and Guarantee Fund . - Pursuant to Section 7, Article XIII of the Constitution, there is hereby created and Fishery Loan and Guarantee Fund with an initial of One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00), which shall be administered by the Land Bank of the Philippines. The fund shall be made available for lending to

qualified borrowers to finance the development of the fishery industry under a program to be prescribed by the Department

For the same purpose, the Department may seek financial assistance from any source and may receive donation therefrom.

SEC. 111. Fishing Vessels Development Fund. - There is hereby created a Fishing Vessels Development Fund to enhance the building and/or acquisition of fishing vessels. This shall be a long-term loan facility that shall be administered by the Development Bank of the Philippines. The amount of Two hundred and fifty million pesos (P250,000,000.00) per year for five (5) years is hereby appropriated out of the Departments allocation in the GAA to support this Development Fund.

SEC. 112. Special Fisheries Science and Appropishtech Fund. - The Department shall provide subsidy for full technical and financial support to the development of appropriate technology, both in fishery and ancillary industries, that are ecologically sound, locally source-based and labor intensive, based on the requirement and needs of the FARMCs. An initial amount of One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) shall be authorized for the purpose of a Special Fisheries Science and Appropishtech Fund, and thereafter shall be included in the GAA.

SEC. 113. Aquaculture Investment Fund . - An Aquaculture Investment Fund in the minimum amount of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be established for soft loans which shall be extended to municipal fisherfolk and their organization who will engage in aquaculture, and for the development of underdeveloped or underutilized inland fishponds.

SEC. 114 . Other Fisheries Financing Facilities . - In addition to fisheries credit guarantee, grant and other similar facilities granted under this Code, qualified Filipino fisherfolk and fisheries enterprises shall enjoy such other facilities granted them under existing and/or new laws, specially as to rural credit, with preference being given to fisheries cooperatives.

SEC. 115. Professionalization of Fisheries Graduates. - There is hereby created a Fisheries Board of Examiners in the Professional Regulation Commission to upgrade the Fisheries Profession: *Provided, however* , That those who have passed the Civil Service Examination for Fisheries shall automatically be granted eligibility by the Fisheries Board of Examiners: *Provided, further* , That they have served the industry in either public or private capacity for not less than five (5) years: *Provided, finally*, That the first Board Examination for BS Fisheries Graduates shall be conducted within one (1) year from the approval of this Code.

SEC. 116 . Upgrading of the State Fisheries Schools/Colleges . - The Department, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall upgrade State Fisheries Schools/Colleges which provide both formal and non-formal educatio; *Provided, however* , That the CHED shall incorporate Appropishtech in the curricula of fisheries schools/colleges.

The Department and the CHED shall jointly formulate standards to upgrade all fisheries schools/colleges. Fisheries schools/colleges that do not meet minimum standards shall be closed.

SEC. 117 . Inclusion of Fisheries Conservation Subjects in School Curriculum. - Fisheries conservation subjects shall be incorporated in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools both private and public.

SEC. 118. Educational Campaign at all levels . - The Department, the CHED, the DECS and the Philippine Information Agency shall launch and pursue a nationwide educational campaign to:

- a. a. help realize the policies and implement the provisions of this Code;
- b. b. promote the development, management, conservation and proper use of the environment.
- c. c. promote the principle of sustainable development; and
- d. d. promote the development of truly Filipino-oriented fishing and ancillary industries.

SEC. 119. Infrastructure Support - The Department in cooperation with concerned agencies shall:

- a. prepare and implement a nationwide plan for the development of municipal fishing ports and markets;
- b. prioritize the construction of farm-to-market roads linking the fisheries production sites, coastal landing points and other post-harvest facilities to major market and arterial roads/highways;
- c. identify community infrastructure facilities such as fish landing points, ice plants and cold storage facilities in consultation with fishery cooperatives/associations and prepare plans and designs for their construction that would be consistent with international environmental standards and occupational safety in sanitation and environmental impact;
- d. establish and maintain quality laboratories in major fish ports and prescribe the highest standards for the operation and maintenance of such post-harvest facilities;
- e. arrange and make representations with appropriate funding institutions to finance such facilities for the use of the fishery cooperatives/associations.
- f. develop and strengthen marketing facilities and promote cooperative marketing systems; and
- g. promote and strengthen local fisheries ship-building and repair industry.
- g.

SEC. 120 . Extension Services . - The Department shall develop cost-effective, practical and efficient extension services on a sustained basis, in addition to those provided by state educational institutions, especially to municipal fisherfolk in undeveloped areas, utilizing practicable and indigenous resources and government agencies available, and based upon a system of self-reliance and self-help.

SEC. 121. Protection of Sensitive Technical Information. - The Department shall take such measure as may be necessary in order to protect trade, industrial and policy information of Filipino fisherfolk, fisheries owners/operators, entrepreneurs,

manufacturer and researchers, when disclosure of such information will injure the competitiveness or viability of domestic fisheries.

SEC. 122 . Assistance in Collecting Information. - The Department, in coordination with other government entities concerned, may require Filipino representatives abroad and foreign- based personnel to assist in the collection of fisheries data and information.

SEC. 123 . Charting of Navigational Lanes and Delineation of Municipal Waters. - The Department shall authorize the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) for the designation and charting of navigational lanes in fishery areas and delineation of municipal waters. The Philippine Coast Guard shall exercise and control supervision over such designated navigational lanes.

SEC. 124. Persons and Deputies Authorized to Enforce this Code and Other Fishery Laws, Rules and Regulations . - The law enforcement officers of the Department, the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police (PNP), PNP-Maritime Command, law enforcement officers of the LGUs and other government enforcement agencies, are hereby authorized to enforce this Code and other fishery laws, rules and regulations. Other competent government officials and employees, punong barangays and officers and members of fisherfolk associations who have undergone training on law enforcement may be designated in writing by the Department as deputy fish wardens in the enforcement of this Code and other fishery laws, rules and regulations.

SEC.125. Strengthening Prosecution and Conviction of Violators of Fishery Laws. - The Department of Justice (DOJ) shall embark on a program to strengthen the prosecution and conviction aspects of fishery law enforcement through augmentation of the current complement of state prosecutors and through their continuous training and reorientation on fishery laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 126 . Foreign Grants and Aids . - All foreign grants, aids, exchange programs, loans, researches and the like shall be evaluated and regulated by the Department to ensure that such are consistent with the Filipinization, democratization and industrialization of fishing industry and the development of the entire country.

SEC. 127 . Mandatory Review. - The congress of the Philippines shall undertake the mandatory review of this Code at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary, to ensure that fisheries policies and guidelines remain responsive to changing circumstances.

CHAPTER VIII

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SEC. 128. Moratoria. - The Department shall, upon the recommendation of the Bureau, have the power to declare a moratorium on the issuance of licenses for commercial fishing vessels to operate in specified area or areas in Philippine waters in a limited period of time if there are indications of overfishing brought about by a decrease in the volume and sizes of fish caught therein or for conservation or ecological purposes.

No new license and similar privileges on exploitation of specific fisheries areas in Philippine waters and aquaculture production areas shall be issued in accordance with this Code. Such moratoria shall not exceed five (5) years from the effectivity of this Code.

SEC. 129. Formulation of Implementing Rules and Regulations. - An Inter-agency Committee is hereby created to formulate rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Code within ninety (90) days of its effectivity: Provided, however, that the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to both Houses of Congress for information and guidance. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon publication in a newspaper of general-circulation.

The Inter-agency Committee shall be composed of the following:

- a. a. **Secretary of Agriculture as Chairman;**
- b. b. Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
- c. c. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;
- d. d. Secretary of Justice;
- e. e. Secretary of Finance;
- f. f. Secretary of Budget and Management;
- g. g. Secretary of Labor and Employment;
- h. h. Secretary of National Defense;
- i. i. Commissioner of Civil Service Commission;
- j. j. Director of BFAR;
- k. k. Executive Director of PCAMRD;
- l. l. General Manager of PFDA;
- m. One representative from each of the following:
 - m. a.1 The League of Provinces;
 - a.1
 - a.2 The League of Cities;
 - a.3 The League of Municipalities;
 - a.4 The Liga ng mga Barangay;
- n. n. Representative of the municipal fisherfolk;
- o. o. Representative of the commercial fishers;
- p. p. Representative of the non-government organizations involved in fishing concerns;
and
- q. q. A representative from the academe coming from the specialized fisheries institution.

CHAPTER IX

FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 130. Appropriation. - The sum necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act during the first year of implementation shall be sourced from the budget of the DA/BFAR and other agencies performing fisheries-related functions: Provided , however, That such amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Sections 79, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113 are hereby appropriated out of the unappropriated funds of the National Treasury. The Congress of the Philippines shall provide for the appropriations of the Department, the NFRDI and the Fisheries Scholarship Program for the succeeding years to be included in the annual GAA.

SEC. 131. Repealing Clause - Presidential Decree No. 704, as amended by Presidential Decree Nos. 1051 and 1058, Presidential Decree No. 977, amended, Executive Order No. 967, Series of 1984, Executive Order No. 116, Series of 1987, Executive Order No. 292, Series of 1987, Executive Order No. 473, Series of 1991 and other existing laws except Republic Act No. 7611, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Code, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 132 . Separability Clause - If any portion or provision of this Code is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 133 . Effectivity - This Code shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general publication.

Approved,

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR. NEPTALI A. GONZALES
Speaker of the House President of the Senate
of Representatives

This Act, which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 1708 and House Bill No. 7366 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on February 19, 1998.

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO HEZEL P. GACUTAN
Secretary General Secretary of the Senate
House of Representatives Cámara de Representantes

Approved: February 25, 1998

FIDEL V. RAMOS
President of the Philippines Presidenta de Filipinas