

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Natural Resources
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Diliman, Quezon City

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)

ORDER NO. 120

:

September 2, 1975

Series of 1975.

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SUBJECT: Banning the taking or catching of "Sabalo"
(full-grown "bangus" or milkfish) in all
Philippine waters for a period of five (5)
years

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4 and 7 of Presidential Decree No. 704, otherwise known as the Fisheries Decree of 1975, the following rules and regulations for the protection and conservation of "sabalo" or full-grown bangus (milkfish), scientifically known as *Chanos-chanos* (Forsk.) are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

Section 1. Definition of terms. - For the purposes of this Order, the following terms are defined as follows:

a) Sabalo - means the full-grown bangus and refers to both male and female, measuring from the tip of its mouth to the extreme end of its caudal fin or tail more than sixty (6) centimeters in length, caught in all Philippine waters other than those caught in Lake Naujan, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, the banning of which is covered by another Fisheries Administrative Order.

b) Possess - means to have actual or constructive possession or control of the thing referred to.

c) Sell - includes barter, exchange, or offering or exposing for sale.

d) Transport - means to carry or move, or cause to be carried or moved.

e) Take or catch - includes pursuing, killing, capturing, trapping, snaring, and netting sabalo and comprises such act as disturbing, wounding, stupefying or palcing, setting, drawing or using any net or other means of device commonly used to catch or collect such fish, whether they result in the catching or not, and includes every attempt to catch and every act of assistance to any person taking or attempting to

take or collect such fish: Provided, That whenever taking is authorized by law, it refers to taking by lawful means or in a lawful manner.

f) Philippine waters - include all bodies of water within the Philippine territory, such as 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, municipal district, and barrios; and the sea or fresh water around, between and connecting each of the islands of the Philippine Archipelago irrespective of its depth, breadth, length and dimension, and all other waters belonging to the Philippines by historic or legal title, including the territorial sea, the seabed, the insular shelves and other sub-marine areas over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction.

g) Person - includes a juridical entity such as an association, partnership, cooperative, or corporation.

Section 2. Ban on the taking or catching of "sabalo" . It shall be unlawful for a period of five (5) years from the date of the effectivity of this Order for any person to take or catch in all Philippine waters "sabalo" measuring more than sixty (60) centimeters in length from the tip of its mouth to the extreme end of its caudal fin or to sell, purchase, possess, or transport such "sabalo", whether live or dead: Provided, That the Secretary of Natural Resources may issue a special permit to qualified person to take or catch "sabalo" for scientific, research, or educational purposes, only and subject to such conditions as the Secretary may impose: Provided, Further, That any such person using "sabalo" for a purpose other than that for which the special permit is issued shall be subject to the penalty hereinafter provided.

Section 3. Penalty. - Any violation of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine of from five hundred pesos (P500.00) to five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or an imprisonment from six (6) months to four (4) years, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court: Provided, That the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is hereby empowered to impose upon the offender an administrative fine of not more than five thousand pesos (P5,000.00), or to cancel his permit or license, or to impose such fine and to cancel his permit or license.

Section 4. Repealing clause. - All existing administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby revoked or amended accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity. - This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

(SGD.) JOSE J. LEIDO, JR.
Secretary

Recommended by:

(SGD.) FELIX R. GONZALES
Director

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