



Republic of the Philippines

MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 126 :
Series of 1979)

SUBJECT: Rules and regulations prohibiting
the importation and/or possession
of any live Piranha.

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4 and 7 of Presidential Decree No. 704, the following rules and regulations prohibiting the importation and/or possession of any live "Piranha" are hereby promulgated:

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

a) Piranha - are fishes with lacerating teeth and strongly set on well-developed mandibles with which to take big bites out of the flesh of its victims, usually found in Northern South America. They are strictly freshwater species, sturdy and could adapt easily to new environment even in confinement under aquarium conditions.

b) Importation - means an act or practice of bringing into the country any live Piranha as defined in this Order.

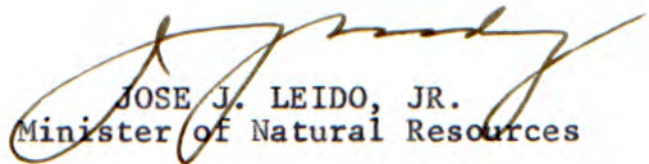
c) Possession - means owning or keeping alive Piranha, either actual or constructive possession.

Section 2. Prohibition. - It shall be unlawful for any person, partnership or juridical persons to import and/or possess any live Piranha.

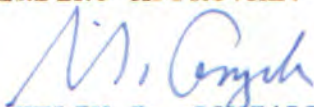
Section 3. Penalty. - Any violation of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine from five hundred pesos (P500.00) to five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or an imprisonment from six (6) months to four (4) years, or both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court; Provided that, the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is hereby empowered to confiscate and kill the live Piranha.

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.


JOSE J. LEIDO, JR.
Minister of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL:


FELIX R. GONZALES
Director of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources