FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 139 :
Series of 1982)

1982-06-28

SUBJECT:

ESTABLISHING A CLOSED SEASON OF FIVE (5) YEARS TO CATCH OR TAKE, SELL, POSSESS AND TRANS-PORT MULLETS (Banak or Lodong) IN ALL THE INLAND WATERS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4 and 7 of Presidential Decree No. 704, otherwise known as the "Fisheries Decree of 1975", and Presidential Decree No. 1015, the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated for the protection and conservation of mullets ('banak' or 'lodong') in all inland waters of the Philippines:

SECTION 1. Definition. - For the purpose of this Order, mullet shall mean the fish belonging to the family of <u>Mugilidae</u> found in lakes, rivers and tributaries, headwaters and watersheds in inland waters of the Philippines. The principal species are: <u>Cestraeus</u> plicatilis, Liza seheli and <u>Mugil</u> cephalus.

SEC. 2. Prohibition. - It shall be unlawful during the 5-year closed season for any person, association, cooperative, institution, partnership or corporation to catch or cause to be caught, purchase, sell, offer for sale, possess, transport, dead or alive, mullets ('banak' or 'lodong') with the use of any kind of fishing gear in all inland waters of the Philippines, except those found in Naujan Lake in Oriental Mindoro including Butas River and its tributaries: Provided; That the Minister of Natural Resources, upon recommendation of the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, may issue a Special Permit to any government agency/institution engaged in educational or research work on mullets ('banak' or 'lodong'), subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed.

SEC. 3. Penalty. - Violation of any provision of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine of not less than Five Hundred Pesos (\$\frac{2}{5}00.00\$) but not more than Five Thousand Pesos (\$\frac{2}{5}.000.00\$) or 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 (\$\frac{2}{5}.000.00\$) or to cancel his permit or license in the discretion of the Director, including the confiscation of the fishing gear and the mullets (banak or lodong) for disposition to any government charitable and/or penal institutions.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - Fisheries Administrative Order No. 31, s. 1952, and all other administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 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.

TEODORO Q. PENA Minister of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDED BY:

FELIX R. GONZALES
Director of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources