

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)

ORDER NO. 175 ::
Series of 1991 . . .)

May 14, 1991

SUBJECT: Establishing a five-year closed season
for the operation of commercial or municipal
fishing boats using trawl, modified Danish
seine, or motorized push net in Manila Bay.

Pursuant to Sections 4 and 7 of Presidential Decree No. 704, as amended, otherwise known as the Fisheries Decree of 1975, and Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1015, the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated for the protection and conservation of fish and fishery/aquatic resources in Manila Bay for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Definition of terms and phrases. - As used in this Order, the following terms and phrases shall mean:

- a) Closed season - refers to the period during which the use of specified fishing gear to catch or gather fish/fishery products is prohibited.
- b) Manila Bay - refers to that body of water enclosed by an imaginary line from point of beginning, Cochinon Point at Latitude 14° 24' 42" and Longitude 120° 29' 54" on Mariveles Bataan towards the coastlines of the provinces of Pampanga and Bulacan, Metro Manila to Limit Point at Latitude 14° 14' 56" and Longitude 120° 35' 08" in Ternate, Cavite to the point of beginning.
- c) Trawl - refers to a fishing gear also known as "galadgad" which is in the form of a conical bag net with the mouth opening flanked on both sides which are kept open by various devices and the entire gear is towed, trailed or trawled, usually on the sea bed to capture submerged fish or fishery/aquatic products that naturally stay at or near the bottom using either commercial or municipal fishing boat.
- d) Modified Danish seine - refers to a fishing gear also known as hulbot-hulbot, liba-liba, buli-buli, bira-bira, palusot, or pasangko consisting of a conical, cylindrical and other shapes of net with or without a pair of wings, the ends of which are connected to ropes with buri leaves, plastic strips

or any similar materials to serve as scaring/herding device, with hauling ropes passing through a metallic/rattan ring permanently attached to a tom weight (linggete) when hauled into a fishing boat which may either be commercial or municipal.

- e) Motorized push net - refers to a fishing gear also known as sudsud, sakag, suro or patoro, consisting of synthetic or natural fiber materials attached to a triangularly-framed bamboo pole or wooden posts or logs and mounted at the bow of a motorized boat to capture fish through a forward horizontal (pushing) motion in the water using either commercial or municipal fishing boat.
- f) Commercial fishing boat - refers to a fishing boat more than three (3) gross tons.
- g) Municipal fishing boat - refers to a fishing boat three (3) gross tons or less.

SEC. 2. Establishment of a closed season. - There is hereby established a closed season of five (5) years in Manila Bay.

SEC. 3. Prohibition. - It shall be unlawful for any person, association, partnership, or corporation during the five-year closed season to operate commercial or municipal fishing boats using trawl, modified Danish seine and motorized push net within the waters of Manila Bay: Provided, That the Secretary of Agriculture, upon the recommendation of the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, may issue a special permit to operate the prohibited boat and gear only to government agencies / research institutions for scientific, educational or research purposes subject to such terms and conditions which the Secretary of Agriculture may impose, and: Provided, Further, That the Secretary of Agriculture may, upon the recommendation of the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, suspend, lift, or terminate earlier the declared closed season period and allow certain fishing gear to be operated in the prohibited water area as determined by scientific studies through proper monitoring, assessment and evaluation of the resources by the Department of Agriculture Regional Offices Nos. III and IV.

SEC. 4. Grace period. - Persons, associations, partnerships or corporations engaged in fishing prohibited under Section 3 of this Order shall be given a grace period of six (6) months from the effectivity of this Order within which to conform and/or comply with this Order and for information dissemination purposes.

SEC. 5. Enforcement. - This Order shall be implemented by duly authorized personnel of the Department of Agriculture Regional Offices Nos. III and IV with the assistance of the Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and deputized fish wardens.

SEC. 6. Penal clause. - Violation of the provision of Section 3 of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine of not less than five hundred pesos (P500.00) but not more than five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) 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 authorized to impose upon the offender an administrative fine of not more than five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) without prejudice to the cancellation of the commercial fishing boat license and the confiscation of the fishing gear/paraphernalia used therein.

SEC. 7. Repealing clause. - All orders, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. 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.

(SIGNED)
SENEN C. BACANI
Secretary

RECOMMENDED BY:

(SIGNED)
JUANITO B. MALIG
Director
Bureau of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resources

By the Undersecretary of
Agriculture:

(Signed)
BENITO Q. BENGZON
(May 17, 1991)

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2. Malaya

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