



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Agriculture**  
Office of the Secretary  
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)  
ORDER NO. 217 :  
Series of 2001 (.....)

SUBJECT: Obstruction to Defined Migration Paths.

Pursuant to Sections 56 and 105 of R.A. No. 8550, this order prohibiting the undertaking of any construction which will obstruct any defined migration paths of migratory species such as river mouths and estuaries in the Philippines is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

**SECTION 1. Definition of terms.** - For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Migration path.* - A defined migration route of spawning, schooling or feeding migratory finfishes, going downstream or upstream migration.
- b) *Migratory species.* - refers to any fishery species which in the course of their life could travel from freshwater to marine water or vice versa due to breeding, feeding and part of life cycle.

*Catadromous species.* - Freshwater species that grow in freshwater environment but descends to the ocean to spawn or lay eggs.

*Anadromous species.* - Marine species that grow in saltwater environment but ascends rivers to lake areas at certain seasons to breed or lay eggs.

*Amphidromous species.* - Species of fish migrating from fresh to salt water environment and vice versa not for the purpose of breeding but as part of their life cycle.

- c) *River mouth.* - The opening of a river serving as major tributary for a lake or a bay and is utilized as entrance and exit of migrating fish species to and from the bays and lakes.
- d) *Estuary.* - Marine environment serving as spawning ground for many migratory (Catadromous) species of fish making their downstream migration from the lake.

**SECTION 2. Scope of Order.** - This order covers all the following rivers (mouth and its tributaries) of the country which are defined as migratory passages of the following migrating fish species;

- a) *Abra River (Abra, Mt. Province, Ilocos Sur).* - Upstream and downstream migration to River tributaries and connecting rivers (Tineg River) of Langiden, San Quintin, Pidigan, Tayum, Dolores, Lagayan, Bucay, Manabo, Luba, San Juan, La Paz, Bangued, Langanilag, Bantay and Santa, Ilocos Sur.



- b) *Bicol River Basin (Camarines Sur)*. – Upstream migration to Lake Buhi, Bato, Baao, Bula, downstream migration to San Miguel Bay.
- c) *Bisuanan-Kumalarang Rivers (Zamboanga del Sur)*. – Upstream migration to Lake Wood, downstream migration to Dumanguilas Bay. Labangan rivers down to Yllana Bay.
- d) *Blu-an; Lowo-el Rivers (South Cotabato)*. – Upstream migration to Lakes Sebu, Lahit, Siloton and Maughan, downstream migration to Sarangani Bay.
- e) *Butas River (Mindoro)*. – Upstream migration to Naujan Lake, downstream migration to Batangas Bay.
- f) *Cagayan River System (Cagayan Valley)*. – Upstream migration to Cagayan River tributaries, downstream migration to Babuyan Channel.
- g) *Calinawan – Tubay Rivers (Surigao – Agusan)*. – Upstream migration to Lake Mainit, downstream migration to Butuan Bay.
- h) *Cotabato River Basin (Rio-Grande, Cotabato)*. - Upstream migration to Buluan and Blinkong Lakes, downstream migration to the sea (Davao Gulf).
- i) *Laoag River (Laoag, Ilocos Norte)*. - Upstream migration to Laoag River tributaries and connecting rivers of Dingras, Sarrat, Solsona and Banna, downstream migration to South China Sea.
- j) *Pansipit River (Batangas)* - Upstream migration to Lake Taal, downstream migration to Balayan Bay.

#### SCIENTIFIC NAMES AND FAMILIES OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

<u>FAMILIES</u>	<u>COMMON/ENGLISH NAME</u>	<u>LOCAL NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>
1. Ambassidae	Glassfish	Langaray	<i>Ambassis sp.</i>
2. Anguillidae	Eel	Igat; palos	<i>Anguilla mauritiana</i>
3. Apogonidae	Cardinal fish	Dangat	<i>Apogon sp.</i>
	Cardinal fish	Dangat	<i>Amia sp.</i>
	Cardinal fish	Dangat	<i>Mionorus sp.</i>
4. Ariidae	Sea catfish	Kanduli	<i>Arius sp.</i>
5. Atherinidae	Silverside	Guno	<i>Atherina sp.</i>
	Silverside	Guno	<i>Hepsetia sp.</i>
6. Belonidae	Garfish/Needle fish	Kulambalao/Kulambabalo	<i>Tylosurus melanotus</i>
7. Carangidae	Cavalla	Maliputo	<i>Caranx ignobilis</i>
	Cavalla	Muslo	<i>Caranx marginatus</i>
	Cavalla	Muslo	<i>Caranx sexfaciatus</i>
8. Centriponidae	Giant scaperch	Apahap	<i>Lates calcarifer</i>
9. Chanidae	Milkfish	Bangus	<i>Chanos chanos</i>
10. Eleotridae	Sleeping goby	Palawan/Bangayngay	<i>Ophiocara aporos</i>
	Goby	Bia	<i>Eleotris fusca</i>
	Eleotrid goby	Papalo/Lomag	<i>Hypseleotris modestus</i>
	Bia	Buguan	<i>Hypseleotris agilis</i>



	Bia	Goby	<i>Belobranchus sp.</i>
11. Elopidae	Tarpon	Buan-buan	<i>Megalops cyprinoides</i>
	Ten Pounder	Bid-bid	<i>Elops hawaiiensis</i>
12. Gerridae	Mojarra	Malakapas	<i>Gerres filamentosus</i>
	Mojarra	Malakapas	<i>Gerres punctatus</i>
13. Gobidae	White goby	Ipon	<i>Glossogobius giurus</i>
	Dwarf goby	Dulong	<i>Merogobius lacustris</i>
14. Gobioidae	Eel goby	Bia	<i>Taenioides sp.</i>
	Eel shaped goby	Baliga	<i>Taenioides sp.</i>
15. Hemiramphidae	Halfbeak	Buguin	<i>Hemiramphus sp.</i>
	Halfbeak	Buguin	<i>Zenarchopterus sp.</i>
16. Khuliidae	Mountain bass	Damagan	<i>Kahlia sp.</i>
17. Leiognathidae	Slipmouth	Sap-sap	<i>Leiognathus equulus/L.caballus</i>
18. Lutjanidae	Gray Snapper	Maya-maya/Also	<i>Lutjanus sp.</i>
	White Spot Snapper	Maya-maya	<i>Lutjanus bohar</i>
	Malabar Red Snapper	Maya-maya	<i>Lutjanus malabaricus</i>
	Black Spot Red Snapper	Maya-maya	<i>Lutjanus monostigma</i>
19. Mugilidae	Gray Mullet	Banak/Aligasin	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>
	Thicked-Lipped Mullet	Banak	<i>Mugil dussumieri</i>
	Mullet	Banak	<i>Liza sp.</i>
	Mullet	Ludong	<i>Cestreaus plicatilis</i>
20. Polynemidae	Threadfin	Mamali	<i>Polynemus tetradactylum</i>
21. Pomacentridae	Damsel fish	Puyong Dagat	<i>Pomacentrus tripunctatus</i>
22. Pomadasidae	Silver spotted grunt	Bakoko	<i>Pomadasys hasta</i>
23. Pristidae	Sawfish	Tagan	<i>Pristis microdon</i>
24. Scatophagidae	Spadefish/Butterfish	Kitang	<i>Scatophagus argus</i>
25. Serranidae	Grouper	Lapu-lapu	<i>Epinephelus sp.</i>
	High finned grouper	Lapu-lapu	<i>Cronileptus altivelis</i>
26. Siganidae	Siganid/Rabbit fish	Samaral	<i>Siganus sp.</i>
27. Sillaginidae	Sand borer sillaginid	Asohos	<i>Sillago sihama</i>
28. Symbranchidae	Swamp eel	Palos	<i>Synbranchus benganlensis</i>
29. Theraponidae	Taperoid Grunt	Pigek	<i>Mesopristes cancellatus</i>
	Convex line grunt	Bagaong	<i>Therapon jarbua</i>
30. Toxotidae	Archer fish	Kataba	<i>Toxotes sp.</i>

**SECTION 3. Prohibition.** – It shall be unlawful for the lessee, licensee or permittee, or anyone to undertake any construction that will obstruct the aforementioned paths of migratory fish, particularly those enumerated in the next preceding Section 2 of this order, up to one (1) kilometer seaward and one (1) kilometer upward of mouths of the aforesaid rivers.

**SECTION 4. Penalty.** – Violation of this order shall hold the offender liable to the penalty of fine from fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or imprisonment from seven (7) years to twelve (12) years, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court including cancellation of the permit/license, if any, and dismantling of the obstruction at his own expense, and confiscation of the same, for disposition by the BFAR.

**SECTION 5. Repealing Clause.** – All existing administrative orders, rules, regulations and guidelines which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 6. 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 and fifteen (15) days after its registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register.

ISSUED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2001 at Quezon City, Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

*Leonardo Q. Montemayor*  
**LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR**  
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**Recommended by:**

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