



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
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HR

December 8, 2017

Memorandum to:

All Regional Directors

All Provincial Fisheries Officers

Legal Division

This Bureau

Attached is a copy of Fisheries General Memorandum Order No. 2017-001, series of 2017, entitled: "Clarification of Applicability of Section 42 of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 197-1."

For your information and guidance.

SAMMY A. MALVAS

OIC, Office of the Assistant Director
for Administrative Services



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF FISHERIE AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1100

FISHERIES GENERAL MEMORANDUM
ORDER NO. 2017-001
SERIES OF 2017

**SUBJECT: Clarification of Applicability of Section 42 of Fisheries
Administrative Order No. 197-1**

The express repeal by FAO No. 197-1 of Fisheries Administrative Order Nos. 60, 125 and 197, gave rise to several issues regarding the implementation of FAO No. 197-1, particularly, those FLA applications and cases filed prior to the effectivity of FAO No. 197-1, which are still pending to date.

Therefore, to properly address these issues by reflecting the true intent of the Order and harmonizing it with its predecessors, it is hereby ordered that any pending application for lease or renewal thereof filed before the effectivity of FAO No. 197-1 shall be governed by FAO 197 subject to the condition that it shall only be for a maximum period of two terms; and that pending Protests filed before the effectivity of FAO No. 197-1 shall be governed by FAO No. 60, as amended by FAO No. 125.


EDUARDO B. GONGONA
Director



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FOR : DENNIS M. GUERRERO
Chief of Staff

CC : EMERSON U. PALAD
Undersecretary for Operations

ASIS G. PEREZ
Director, BFAR

ANNALIZA B.A. VITUG
OIC, FRQD, BFAR

FROM : ATTY. VERO B. LIBROJO
Chief, Legal Division

SUBJECT : PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FAO 197-1

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Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 197 and FAO 125, among others, were expressly repealed by FAO 197-1 when it took effect on 05 January 2013.

The express repeal of the aforementioned FAOs gave rise to several issues regarding the implementation of FAO 197-1, to wit:

1. Previously, Section 25 of FAO 197 provided:

- a) Any person illegally occupying or introducing improvements in an area released for fishpond without a lease, prior to the effectivity of this Order, shall be penalized through forfeiture of all the improvements introduced thereon in favor of the government and shall vacate the area immediately. Provided, that if the person occupying the said area is an applicant, he shall be charged double the ordinary rental charges.
- b) Upon failure or refusal to pay the charged herein mentioned, the said applicant shall be liable for prosecution and upon conviction shall suffer the penalty which is fine xxx or imprisonment xxx or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court." (Emphasis ours)

On the other hand, Section 37 of FAO 197-1 now states: "(a)ny person illegally occupying or introducing improvements in areas released for fishpond development without a permit, contract or lease, shall be liable for prosecution for the offense of mangrove conversion, without



