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**FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER NO. 264-1
Series of 2023**

SUBJECT: AMENDING FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 264, SERIES OF 2020, ENTITLED "REGULATION ON THE CATCHING, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTING, SELLING, TRADING AND EXPORTING OF MANGROVE CRABLETS, JUVENILE MANGROVE CRABS AND GRAVID MANGROVE CRABS (SCYLLA SPP.)"

WHEREAS, Fisheries Administrative Order No. 264 series of 2020 (FAO 264) was issued as a measure to curbe the unregulated gathering of mangrove crab instar to crablets size for aquaculture and to protect the wild population of mangrove crabs. However, it was envisioned that the mangrove crab hatchery industry would increase its capacity to cater to the need for grow-out aquaculture;

WHEREAS, reports from concerned BFAR technical centers¹ show that the current capacity of mangrove-crab hatcheries in the country can only supply less than 10% of the instar crab requirement for grow-out aquaculture. The industry is still widely considered as capture/wild-based aquaculture. Thus, the NFRDI and other relevant academic and research institutions are promoting other developmental strategies such as nursery-rearing technology of wild instar (fly-size) mangrove crabs;

WHEREAS, the effect of FAO 264 is also evident in the export trade of live mangrove crabs which has significantly decreased due to its implementation²;

WHEREAS, regulations should still be in place pursuant to Section 104 of Republic Act No. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654 (the Amended Fisheries Code), which states that "*Exportation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry as prohibited in this Code shall be punished under this Act: Provided, That the export of hatchery-bred or captive-bred breeder, spawner, egg or fry, may be allowed subject to the regulations to be promulgated by the Department*";

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the adaptive strategy in the review of fisheries regulations, the application and enforcement of Section 3 Paragraphs (a) and (b) of FAO 264, series of 2020, is hereby **REPEALED**.

¹ BFAR-National Brackish-water Fisheries Technology Center, there are only (3) commercial-scale and three (3) academe hatcheries facilities with an estimated production of 10-20 million crab instar annually, however the aquaculture industry needs about 187 million instar crab annually based on back-calculations on production volume.

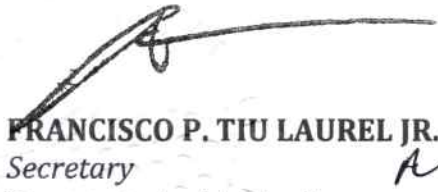
² BFAR – Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division

Section 3 Paragraphs (c) and (d) of FAO 264, series of 2020 shall remain in-force. Provided that, the export of mangrove crabs shall be prohibited measuring less than the carapace width per species, as stated below:

Species	Carapace Width
<i>Scylla serrata</i>	11 cm
<i>Scylla olivacea</i> <i>Scylla tranquebarica</i>	8 cm


In effect, the application and enforcement of Section 4 and Section 5 (a) of FAO 264 is likewise amended.

Issued this 11th day of DEC. 2023 in Quezon City, Philippines.



FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Recommending Approval



DRUSILA ESTHER E. BAYATE
Undersecretary for Fisheries
Chairperson, NFARMC



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Figure 1. Diagram for the measurement of carapace width of mangrove crab

