

BUREAU OF FOREST DEVELOPMENT
CIRCULAR NO. 08

SUBJECT: MNR Administrative Order No. 12, Series of 1979

Re: Regulations for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Philippines.

1. Quoted hereunder is MNR Administrative Order No. 12, dated November 15, 1979 Re: Regulations for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Philippines, for your information and guidance, to wit:

"November 15, 1979

"MNR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 12, Series of 1979

"SUBJECT: Regulations for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Philippines.

"1. In line with the President's desire for the conservation of marine turtles as enunciated in Executive Order No. 542, dated June 26, 1979, the following regulations are hereby promulgated for strict compliance of all concerned:

"(a) Except in Regions 9 and 12, no new permits for collecting, gathering, utilizing, possessing, transporting, removing and/or disposing of marine turtles, turtle eggs and its by-products shall be issued from the date of effectivity of this order.

"(b) In Regions 9 and 12, licenses or permits shall be issued by the Bureau of Forest Development to collect, gather, utilize and dispose of marine turtles, turtle eggs and its by-products, provided that the allowable quantity shall be specified in the permit by the Director of Forest Development and provided, further, that such harvest, except turtle eggs, shall be sold only to the BFD and BFAR and such other agencies to be authorized by the Minister of Natural Resources a prices duly prescribed.

"The Government shall then utilize and dispose of these harvests in support of the pawikan conservation program particularly to assure the immediate setting up of turtle sanctuaries and to maintain and increase the breeding population.

"(c) All existing permits shall be valid only up to December 1979, or if the permits are to expire earlier than December 1979, the same shall no longer be renewed or extended except as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) herein above.

"(d) Exports of marine turtles, turtle eggs and its by- products thereof of whatever kind or state are hereby banned.

"(e) Any person who shall collect, gather, utilize, possess, transport, remove, export and/or dispose of marine turtles, turtle eggs or any of its by-products in violation of the provision of this Order shall be punished by a fine of not more than P600.00 or

imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or both, in the sound discretion of the courts. If the violator is a permittee his or her permit shall be automatically cancelled.

"2. Enforcement of the provisions of this Order shall be the responsibility of the BFD and BFAR. The Minister of Natural Resources may deputize other competent persons a may be necessary in the successful enforcement of this Order.

"3. This Order shall include not only marine turtles described by BFD Administrative Order No. 1 dated July 10,1974, but also soft-shelled or fresh water turtles (Trionyx sp.)

"4. This Order amends/modifies/supersedes accordingly, previous order/issuances inconsistent herewith.

"5. This Order shall take effect sixty (60) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two newspaper of general circulation.

"J. ANTONIO AGUENZA
Officer-in-Charge
Ministry of Natural Resources"

2. Your compliance herewith is enjoined.

EDMUNDO V. CORTES
Director
Bureau of Forest Development