

Fisheries Administrative Order No. 155

Series of 1986

SUBJECT: Regulating the use of fine meshed nets in fishing

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4, 7 and 34 of Presidential Decree No. 704, as amended, otherwise known as the "Fisheries Decree of 1975, " and for the conservation and protection of fishery resources, this regulation on the use of fine meshed nets in fishing in Philippine waters is hereby promulgated:

SECTION 1. Definition- "Fine meshed net" means all nets/webbings whether made of natural fibers, synthetic or any other materials used in fishing, with a mesh size less than three (3) centimeters measured between two (2) opposite knots of a full mesh when stretched.

SEC. 2 Prohibition - It shall be unlawful for any person, association, corporation, partnership, or cooperative to fish in Philippine waters with the use of fine mesh nets: Provided, However, That this prohibition shall not apply to the catching of the following species of fish:

a. Padas (Siganidae), bangus fry (Chanos chanos), sugpo fry (Penaeidae), banak fry (Mugilidae), glass eels and elvers (Angulidae, and ipon (Gobiidae);

b. Marine aquarium/ornamental fishes; and

c. Other species which by their nature are small but already mature such as, but not limited to alamang (Acetes spp.), tabios/sinarapan (Mistichthys luzonensis), dilis (Engraulidae), dulong (Engraulidae and Gobiidae), hipon tagunton (Caridae) and snails (Ampularia luzonica and Vivipora spp.)

"and Provided, further, That this prohibition shall not apply to purse seines, ring nets and bagnets with a minimum limit of 1.9 cm. (17 knots) mesh size, until after a new FAO providing for and appropriate or optimum mesh for each type of fishing gear has been developed by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. " (As amended by FAO No 155-1 which took effect starting July 4, 1994.)

SEC. 3 Transitory provision- Persons, associations, corporations, partnerships, or cooperatives engaged in fishing with the use of nets with mesh size of 2.00 to 2.99 shall be given a grace to a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order within which to conform and/or comply with this Order.

SEC. 4 Penal clause- Violation of Section 2 of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine of not less than five hundred (P 500.00) pesos but not more than five thousand (P 5000.00) pesos or imprisonment from six (6) months to four (4) years, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court: Provided, However, That the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is hereby empowered to impose upon the offender an administrative fine of not more than five thousand (P 5000.00) pesos including the confiscation of the fishing nets/paraphernalia and the fish catch.

SEC. 5 Repealing Clause- Fisheries Administrative Order No. 40, 40-1, 40-2, 40-3, and 40-4 are hereby repealed.

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.

(Sgd.) RAMON V. MITRA
Minister

RECOMMENDED BY:

(Sgd.) JUANITO B. MALIG
Minister
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

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1. Philippine Daily Inquirer

2. Ang Pahayagang Malaya

Effectivity- September 10, 1986