

Fisheries Administrative Order No.163

Series of 1986

SUBJECT: Prohibiting the operation of "Muro-Ami" and "Kayakas" in all Philippine waters.

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4 and 7 of Presidential Decree No. 704, otherwise known as the Fisheries Decree of 1975, the following rules and regulations are 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. Muro -Ami (dive -in net)- means the Japanese fishing gear used in reef fishing which consists of a movable bag net and two detachable wings effecting the capture of fish by spreading the net in arc form around reefs or shoals and with the aid of scaring devices, a cordon of fishermen drive the fish from the reefs toward the bag portion of the whole net.
- b. Kayakas (Tagalog: Bahan , Bahig, Lukay, Lukayan pukot likom-likom; Visayas: Bahan (Bicol)- means the local version of the "muro-ami" but smaller in size using bamboo / trunk of trees as scare devices aside from coconut or other leaves or materials as scarelines to drive fish out of the coral reefs.
- c. Scarelines (Serosca)- means a device made up of ropes usually #5 (2.5mm) to #7 (3.5 mm) measuring 30 to 60 meters long with styrofoam, bamboo or synthetic materials used as floats at both ends of the rope, and stones, lead or iron chains of about 2 to 5 kilos as weight. Along the ropes to which the weights are tied are 8 to 10 white plastic measuring 1" to 3 feet long or coconut or other leaves or materials tied at one meter intervals starting from the weight.

Sec. 2. Prohibition.- It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation association , partnership or cooperative to operate "muro-ami" and "kayakas" in catching fish and fishery/aquatic products in all Philippine waters : Provided, That the Minister of Agriculture and Food, upon the recommendation of the Director of fisheries and Aquatic Resources may issues a Special Permit to operate the same only to government agencies/research institutions for scientific, educational or research purposes, subject to such terms and conditions which the Minister may impose.

Sec. 3. Grace period- Persons, partnerships ,associations , or corporations duly licensed to operate muro-ami are hereby given a grace period of six (6) months upon the effectivity of this Order to restructure and/or convert the same to other legitimate and /or non-destructive fishing gear. Kayakas operators shall, however, restructure and/or convert the same to other legitimate and/ or non-destructive fishing gear immediately upon the effectivity of this Order.

Sec.4. Penal Clause.- Any violation of this Order shall subject the offender to the penalty of fine from five hundred pesos (P 500.00) to five thousand pesos (P 5,000.00) or imprisonment from six (6) months to four(4) years, or both such fine and the imprisonment in the discretion of the Court: Provided, That the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is hereby empowered to impose upon the offender an administrative fine or not more than five thousand pesos (P 5,000.00) or to cancel his permit or license, in the discretion of the Director.

Sec. 5 Repealing Clause- All existing administrative orders and rules and regulations or part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby modified or repealed 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.

(Sgd.) RAMON V. MITRA
Minister

RECOMMENDED BY:

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

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1. The Manila Chronicle
2. Ang Pahayagang Malaya

Effectivity: December 4, 1986