



 **OCEANA**

Protecting the  
World's Oceans

Working to help protect our  
fisheries and our seas

ATTY. GLORIA ESTENZO  
RAMOS



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 316

**DECLARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS THE MARITIME AND  
ARCHIPELAGIC NATION AWARENESS MONTH AND AMENDING  
PROCLAMATION NO. 176 (S. 1963) TO TRANSFER THE  
OBSERVANCE OF THE FISH CONSERVATION WEEK FROM THE  
THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER TO THE THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER  
OF EVERY YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, Article XII, Section 2 of the Constitution provides that the State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens;

**WHEREAS**, Proclamation No. 470 (s. 2003) declared the third Saturday of September of every year as the "International Coastal Clean-up Day" to remind and re-awaken the Filipino vigilance in support of the continuing crusade against the debris crisis all over the world;

**WHEREAS**, Proclamation 866 (s. 1996), as amended, declared the last Friday of September of every year as "National Maritime Day" for the purpose of focusing the public's attention on the vital role of the maritime industry in developments in global shipping;

**WHEREAS**, Proclamation 176 (s. 1963) declared the third week of October of every year as "Fish Conservation Week" to promote the importance of fish and other aquatic products to the people's well-being and the country's economy;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to harmonize, integrate and synchronize programs and activities that will raise national consciousness on maritime and archipelagic issues and policies;

**WHEREAS**, a continuous partnership between the public and private sectors can help raise public awareness on such maritime and archipelagic concerns;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby declare the month of September of every year as the "**Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month**" (MANA Mo).

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

To synchronize the observance of the Fish Conservation Week with the International Coastal Clean-up Day and the National Maritime Day, both of which are celebrated in September, Proclamation No. 176 (s. 1963) is hereby amended to transfer the said celebration from the third week of October to the third week of September of every year, beginning 2018.

All agencies and instrumentalities of the National Government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations and local government units, as well as the private sector, are hereby encouraged to implement programs and activities that seek to raise awareness and consciousness on maritime and archipelagic issues and concerns.

The National Coast Watch Council shall coordinate the programs and activities for the yearly observance and celebration of MANA Mo.

Subject to the immediately preceding paragraph, nothing in this Proclamation shall alter the existing administrative arrangements for the planning and implementation of programs and activities relative to the observance of the International Coastal Clean-up Day, the National Maritime Day, and the Fish Conservation Week.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

**DONE**, in the City of Manila, this **14<sup>th</sup>** day of **September**, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

By authority of the President:

**SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA**  
Executive Secretary



# ABOUT OCEANA

---

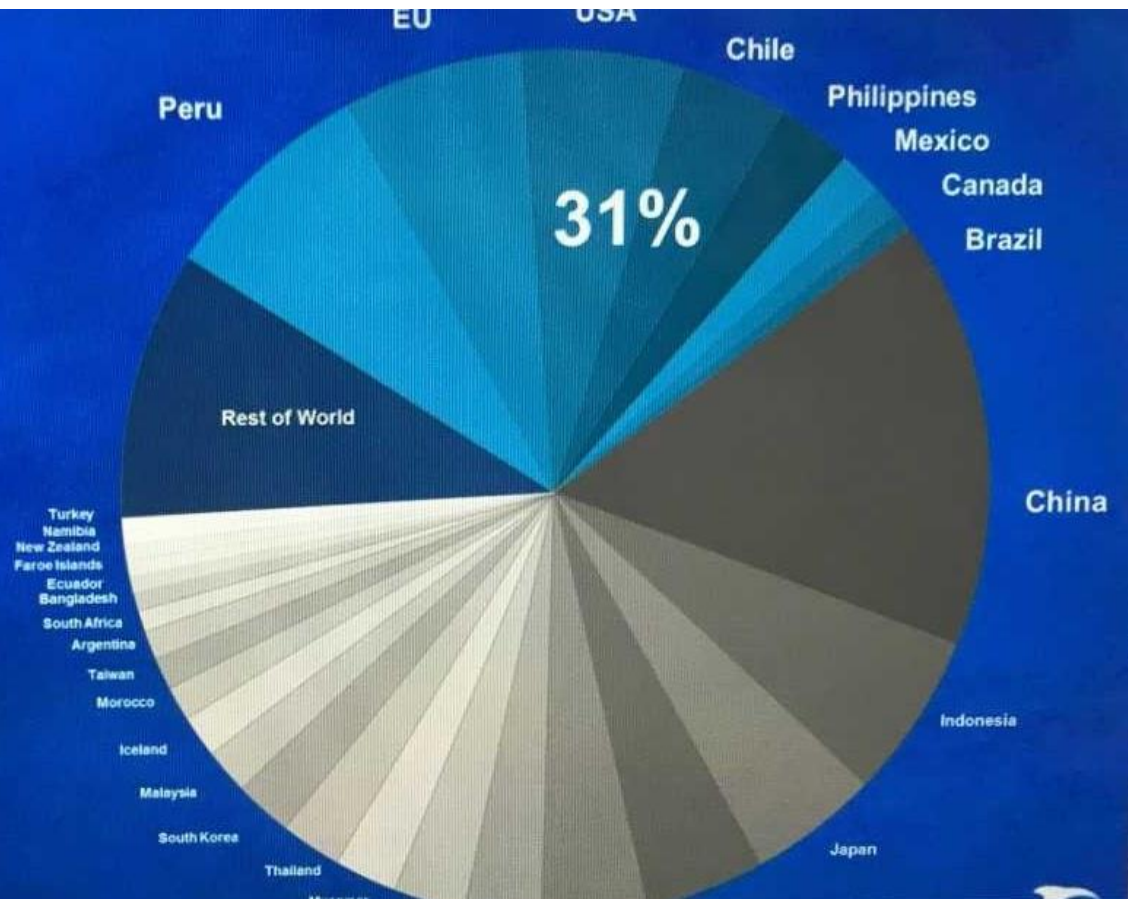
**F**ounded in 2001, we are the largest international organization focused solely on oceans conservation.

**W**orks on science-based policies to rebuild ocean fisheries, ensure food security, protect marine wildlife and special places, and stop ocean pollution.

In 2014, Oceana Philippines was established.



29 Countries and the EU Catch 90% of the World's Wild Ocean Fish



# Save the Oceans, Feed the World

Fisheries and food  
security



# 2014: Oceana launch, EU Yellow Card, Fisheries Director pledge against illegal fishing

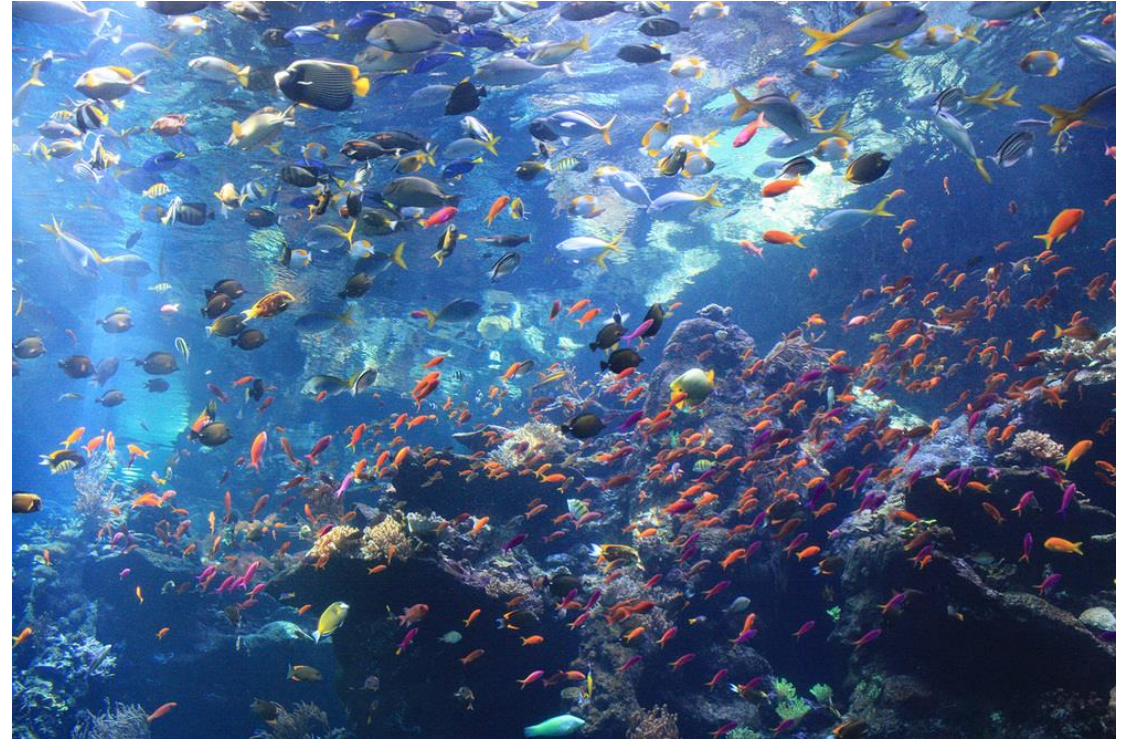
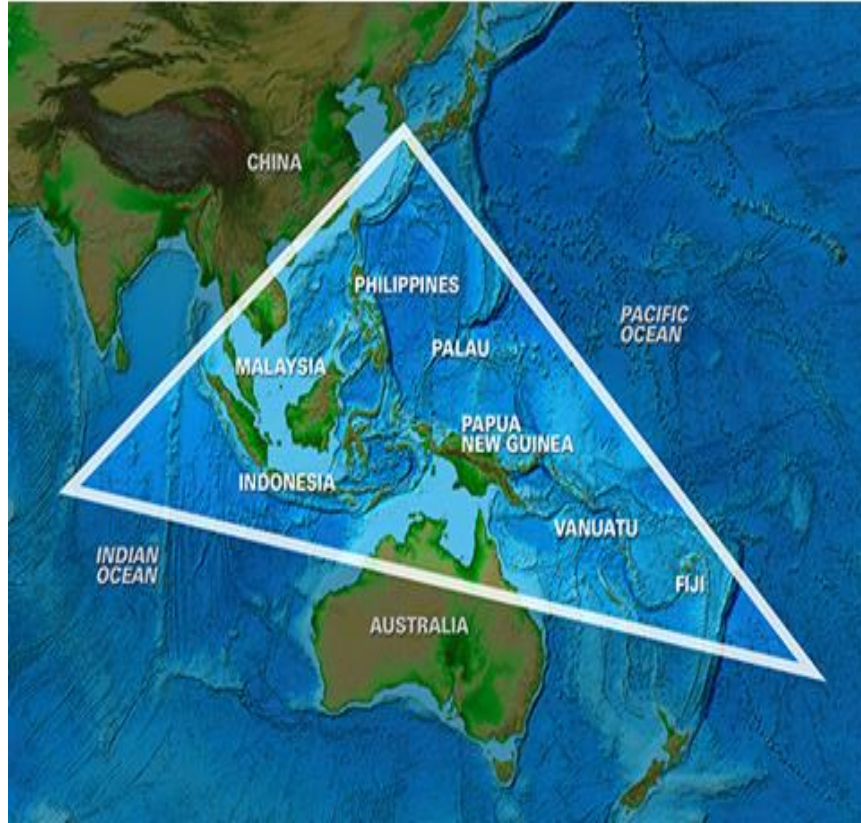


# January 2015: Amendments to Fisheries Code are key to fighting illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing

- **Vessel monitoring system**
- Increased penalties
- On board inspectors
- Administrative tribunal
- No restraining order against enforcement in lower courts
- **Citizen Suit**
- **Protections from harassing lawsuits**



## Part of the Coral Triangle





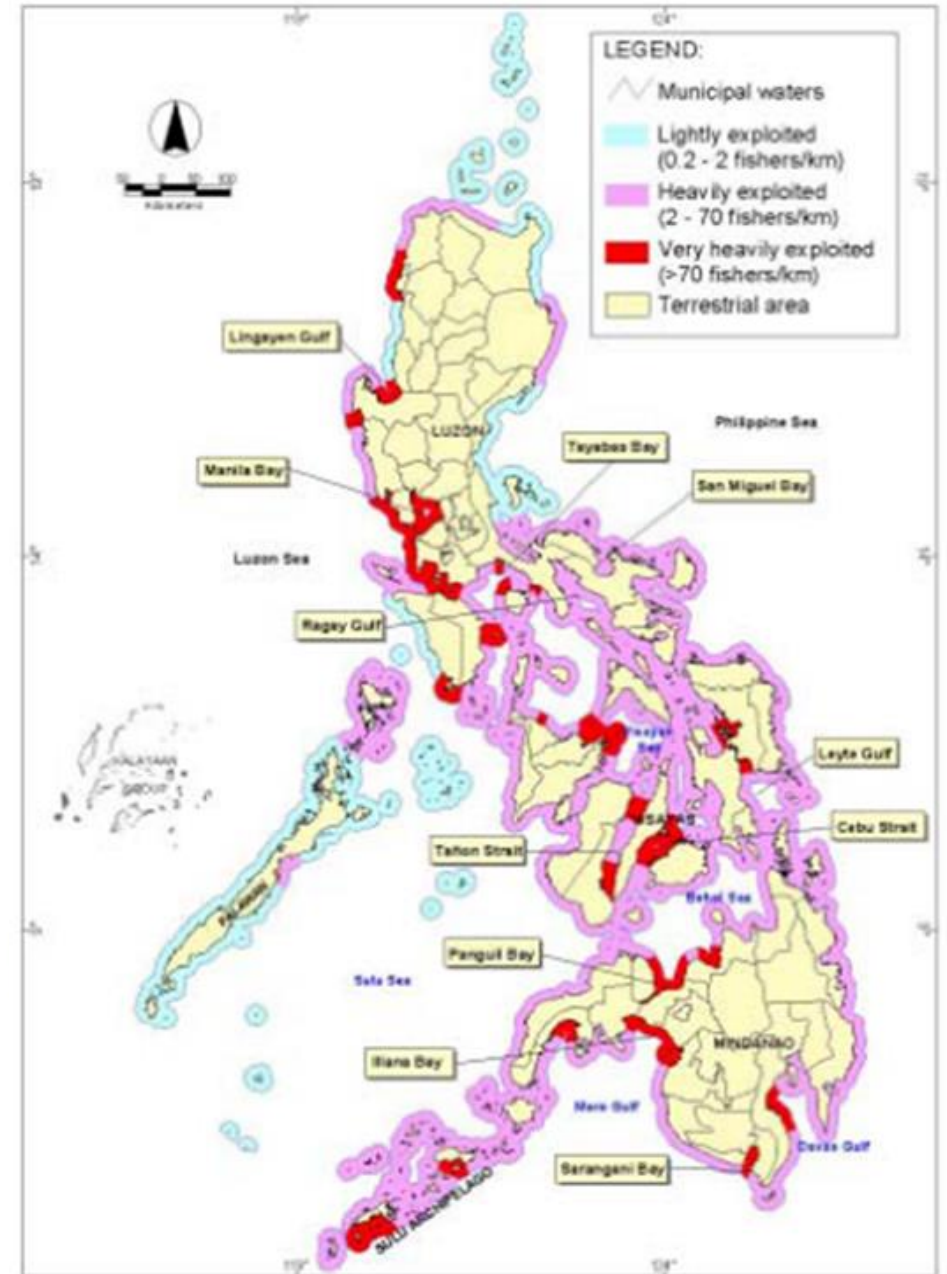
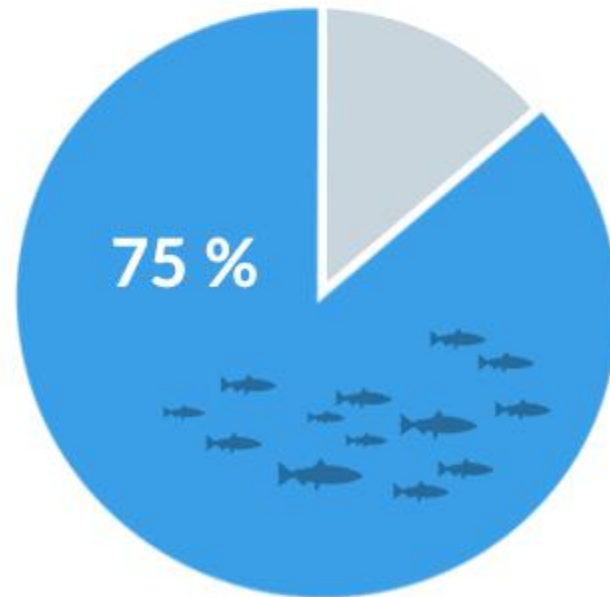
**H**ighly productive fisheries ranking 11th in the top 15 fishing nations of the world, providing food and livelihood to millions of Filipinos.

---



# Key facts

Marine scientists estimate that 75% of our fishing grounds are considered overfished





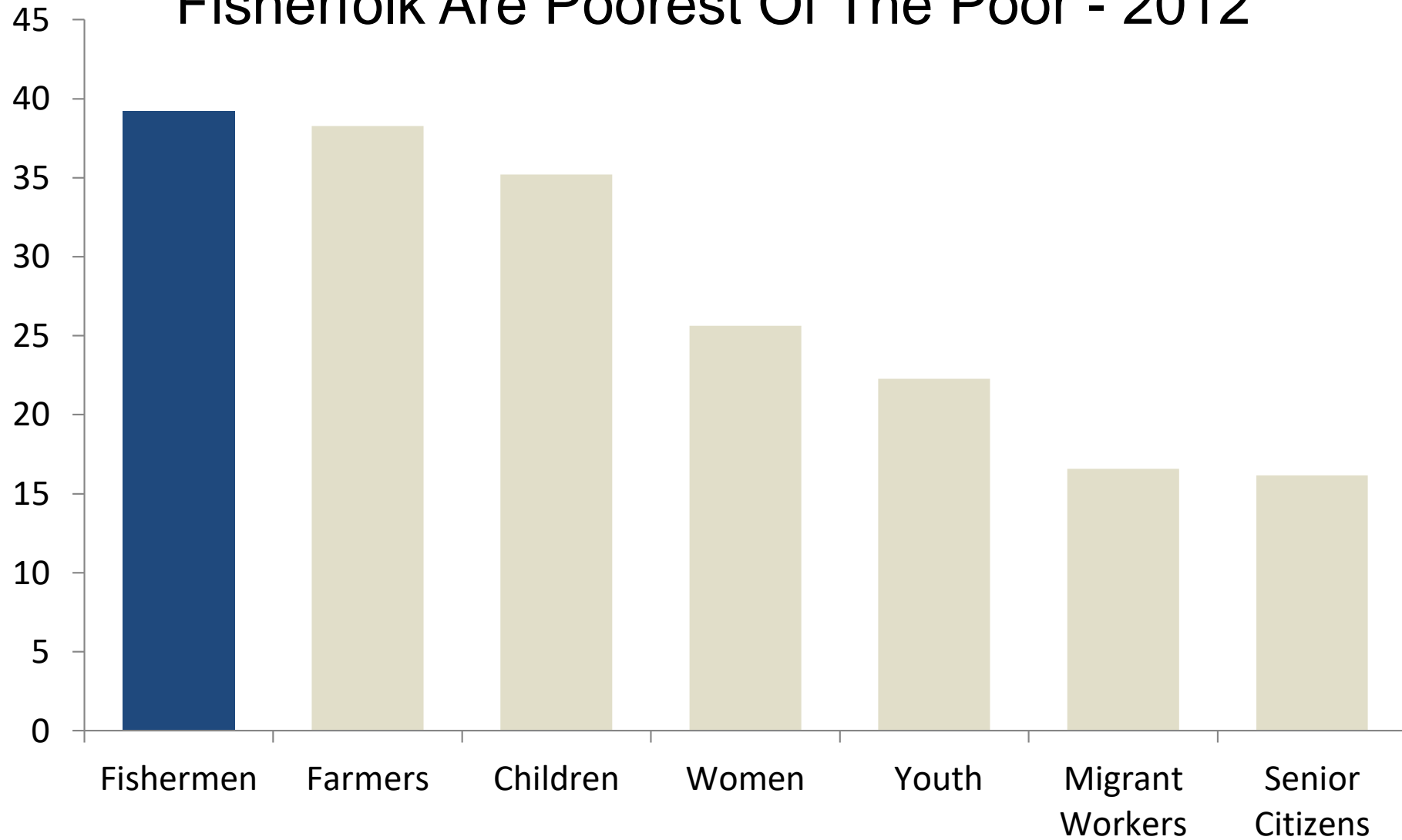
**F**ishers now bring home fewer and smaller fish.

**R**ampant ocean pollution and illegal fishing practices

**C**ommercial fishers continue to enter municipal waters

---

# Why the Philippines? Fisherfolk Are Poorest Of The Poor - 2012



# Challenges to Philippines Fisheries

Illegal fishing

Weak Enforcement  
of Laws

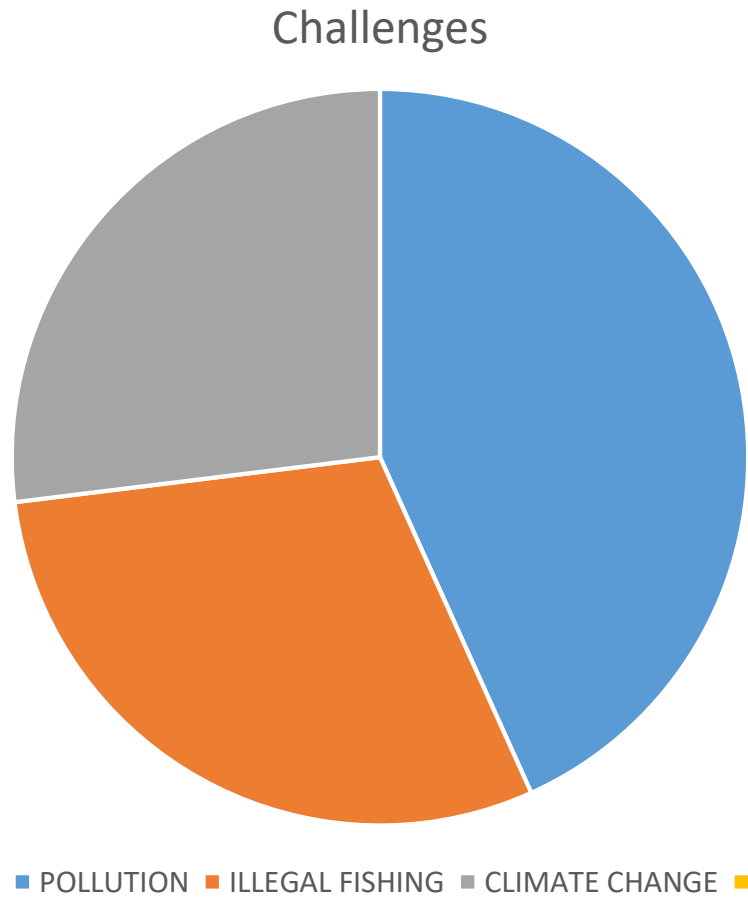
Destructive fishing  
and habitat  
destruction

Pollution

Climate change



# Problems Faced by Our Ocean



- In September 2017, three of five (61%) Filipino adults nationwide mentioned pollution/waste management, 42% illegal and destructive fishing, and 38% climate change or noticeable changes in weather patterns as the three most important problems of our oceans today (Social Weather Station Survey, 2017)

# Overarching Oceana goals: Rebuild fisheries by overhauling management, improving enforcement



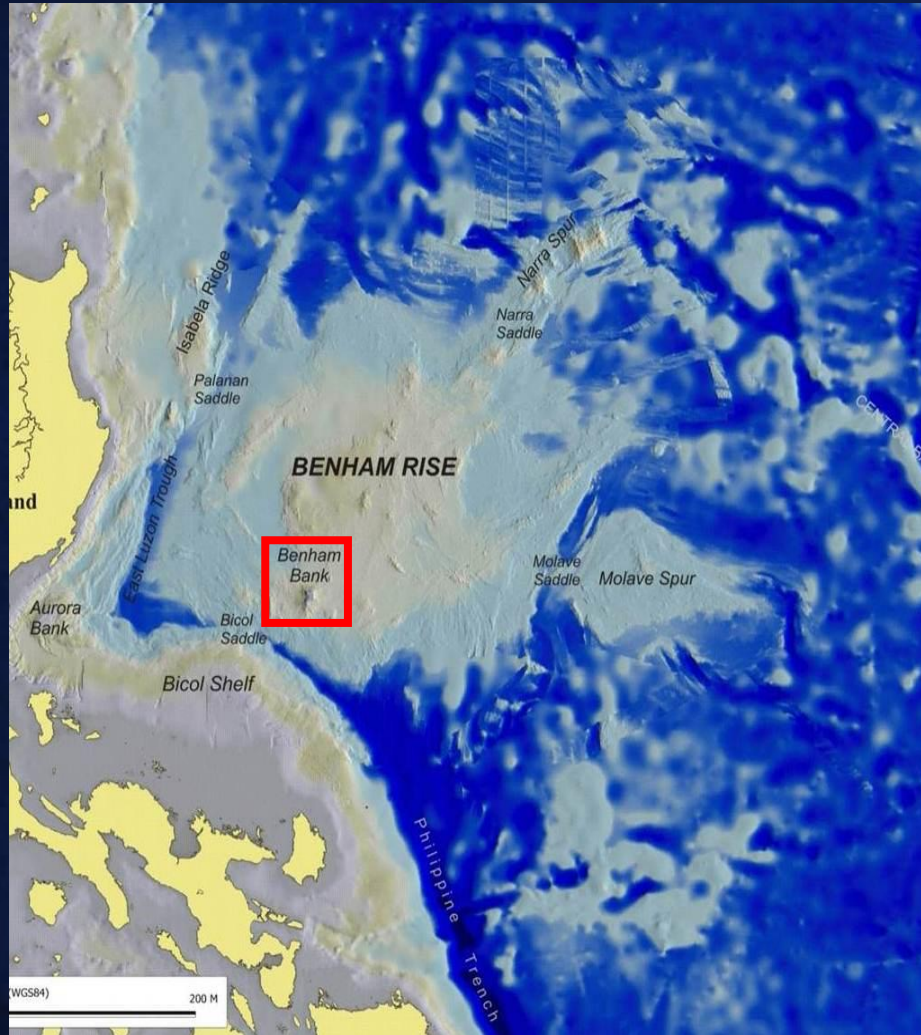
# KEY CAMPAIGNS TO RESTORE OCEAN ABUNDANCE

- Protect Benham Rise Seafloor Habitat
- End Commercial Fishing in Tañon Strait
- Institutionalize Vessel Monitoring in Key Fishing Grounds
- Stop Destructive Fishing: Ban Bottom Trawling
- Protect Sardine Spawning Areas





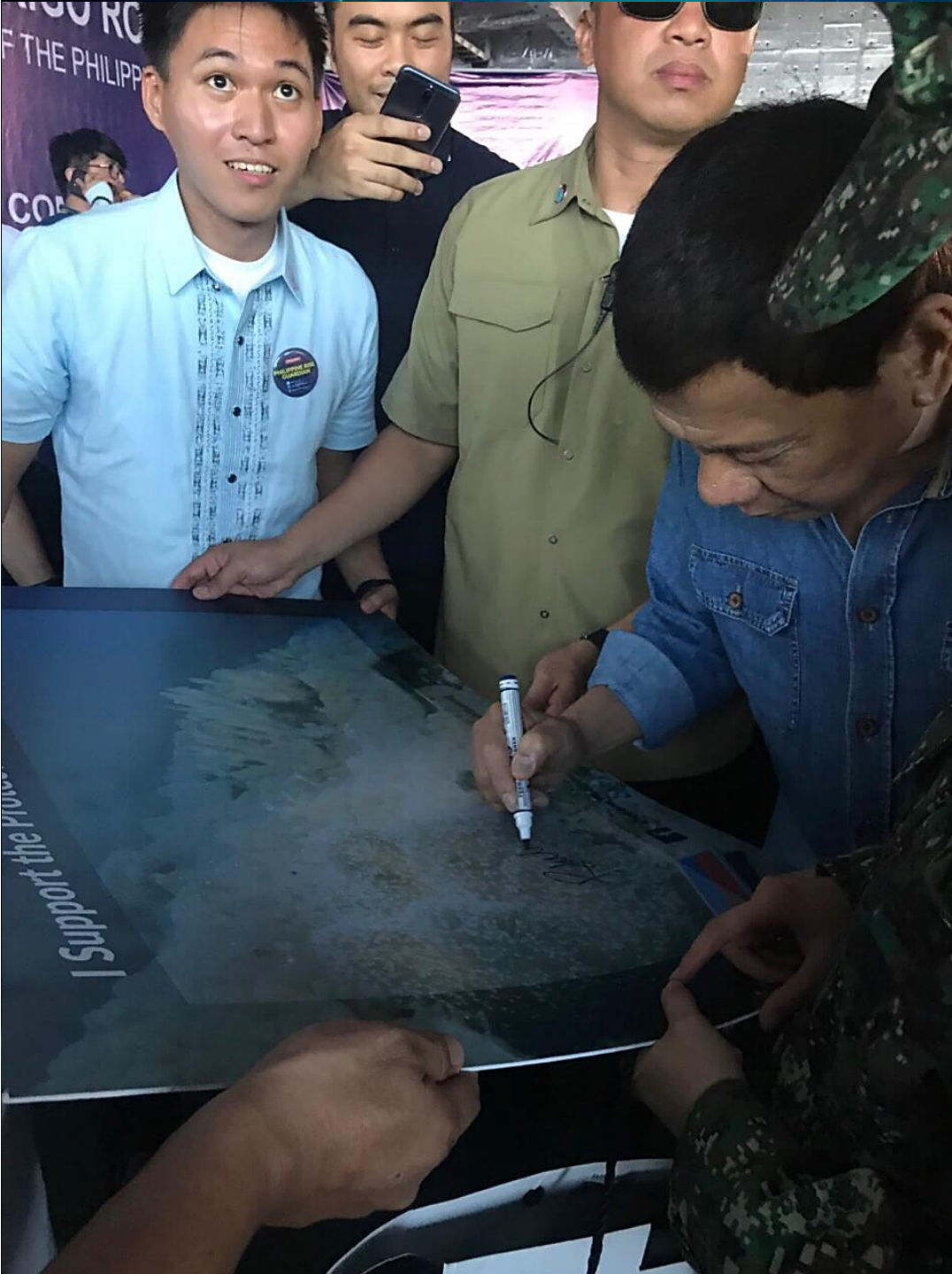
# PROTECT BENHAM BANK SEAFLOOR



**Campaign Goal:** By 2018, get protection for the **Benham Bank** seafloor.

**Status:** Achieved

May 15, 2018



**PRESIDENT DUTERTE  
SIGNS THE  
PROCLAMATION  
(AND OUR  
“PROTECT BENHAM”  
BOARD)**

# KEY CAMPAIGNS TO RESTORE OCEAN ABUNDANCE

- Protect Benham Rise Seafloor Habitat
- End Commercial Fishing in Tañon Strait
- Institutionalize Vessel Monitoring in Key Fishing Grounds
- Stop Destructive Fishing: Ban Bottom Trawling
- Protect Sardine Spawning Areas

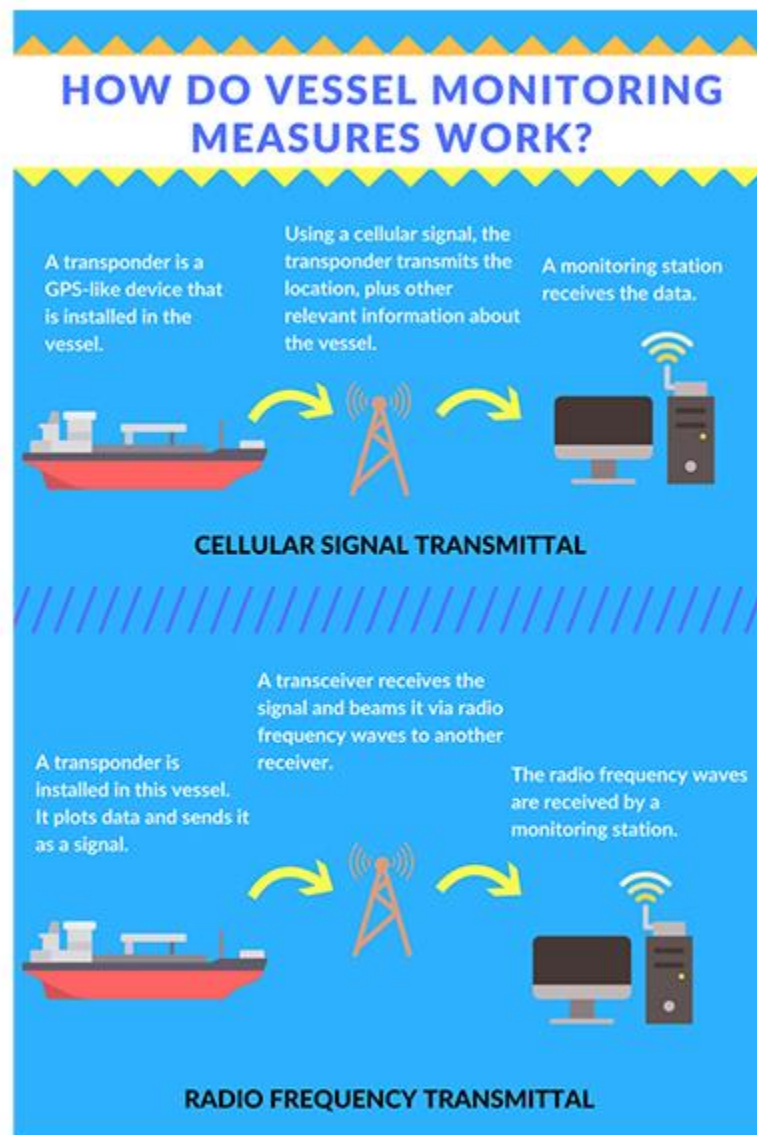


# Oceana Philippines seeks to restore the health, richness and abundance of the Philippine oceans through:

Law enforcement to ensure protection for fish and fishers;

Technical expertise to aid the government in its goal of establishing sustainable catch limits;

Reducing discard and protecting spawning habitats;



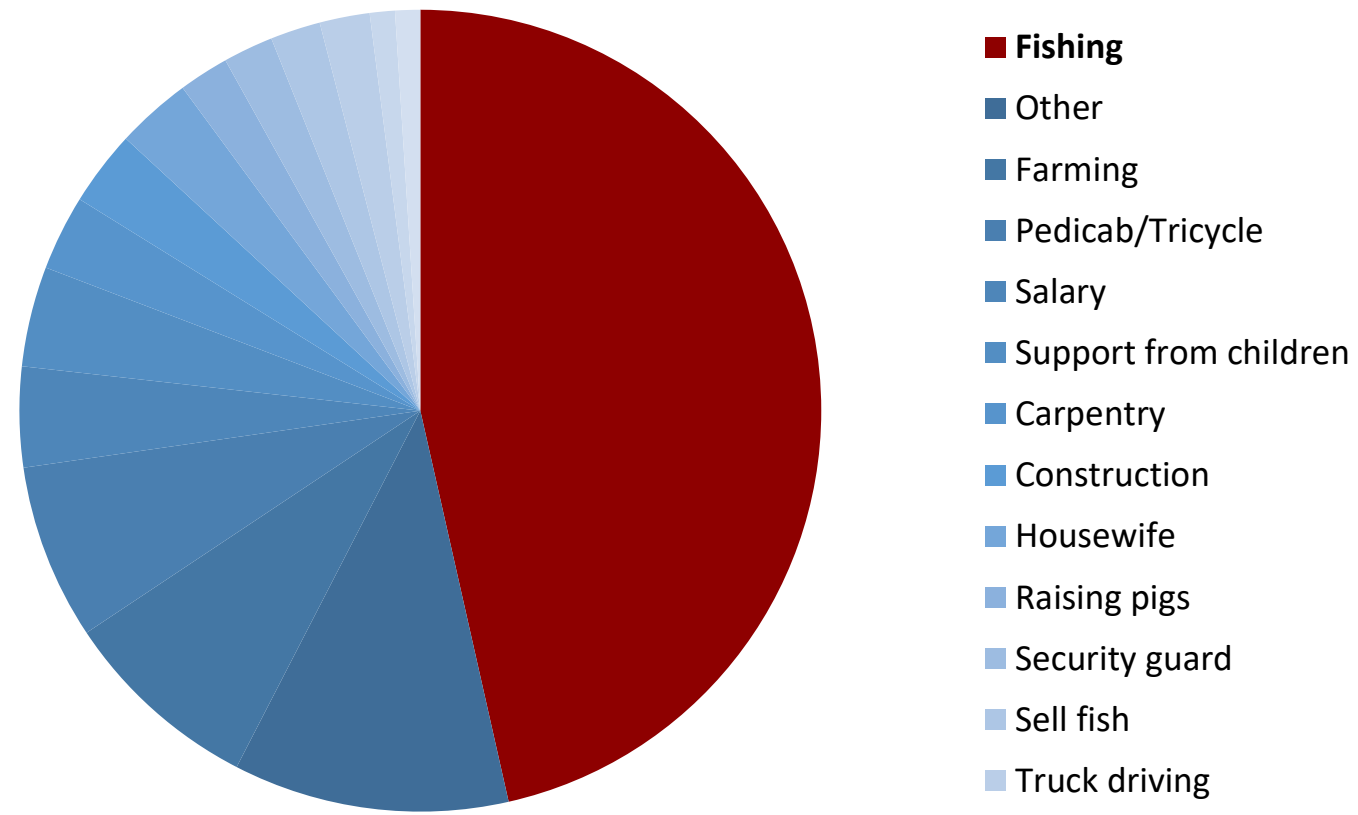
# END COMMERCIAL FISHING IN TAÑÓN STRAIT



**Campaign Goal:** Get BFAR and government enforcement agencies to prevent commercial fishing vessels from fishing in Tañón Strait by 2018.

**Status:** Progress, but challenges remain

# Fishing is the most important livelihood in Tañon Strait



**Primary livelihood source for baseline survey respondents**

n = 96

# February 2015: Convening of Tañon Strait Management Board Ends “Paper Park” Status



# ENFORCEMENT RAMPING UP DESPITE POLITICAL PRESSURE



 **OCEANA** Protecting the World's Oceans 

**OPLAN KALIKUPAN DOS:**  
**“PROTEKSYON SA KARAGATAN, SERBISYO SA KATAWHAN, KALAMBUAN SA  
MATAG SUGBUANON”**  
**JUNE 5-6, 2018**  
**MAMBACAYAO, LIPAYRAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BANTAYAN ISLAND, CEBU**



# ARTISANAL FISHERS PUSH BACK AGAINST POLITICAL PRESSURE

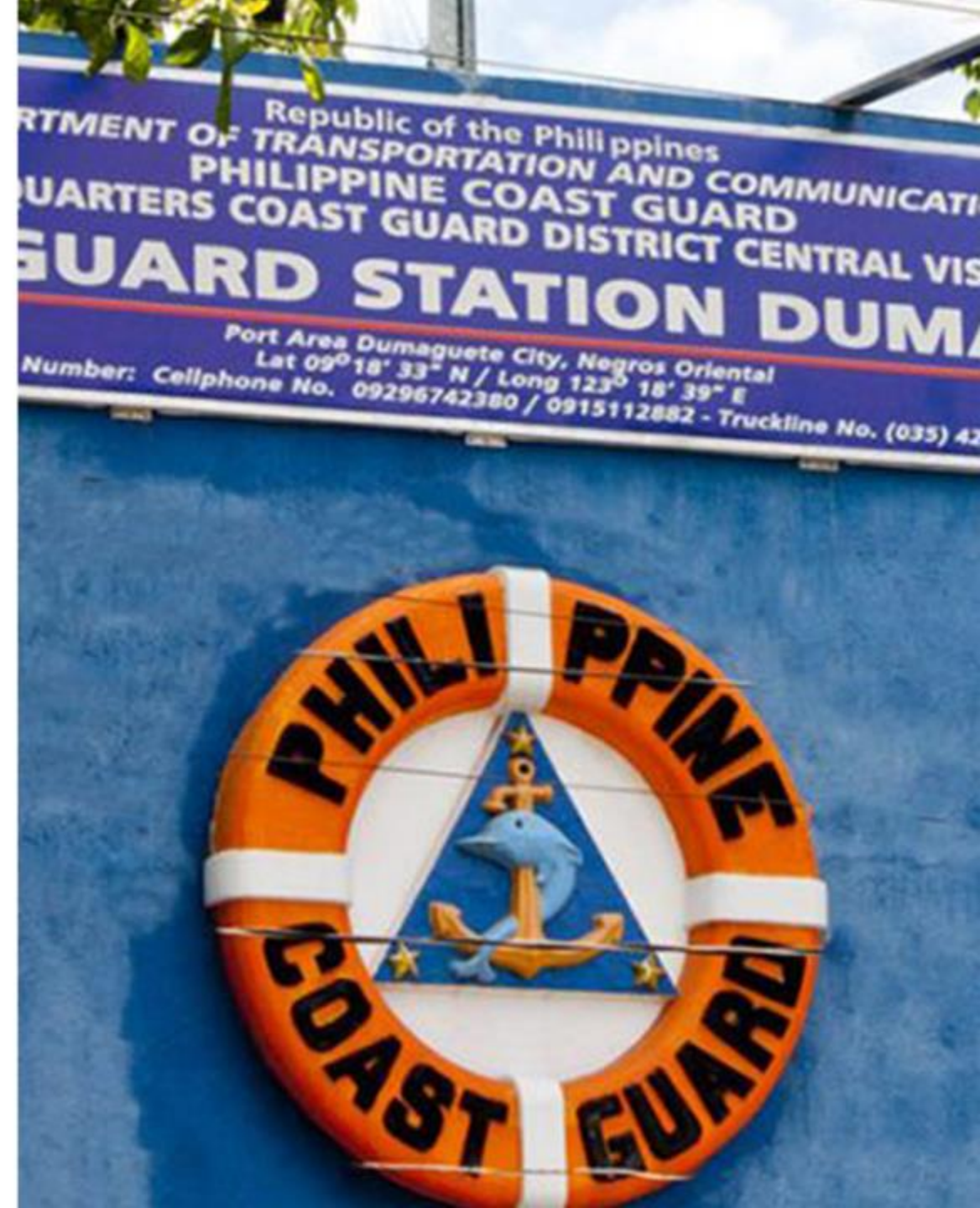


Former Cebu Governor and Deputy Speaker and commercial fishers



Small-scale Fishers are forming a strong federation in Tañon Strait

- Government agencies tasked to patrol and implement maritime laws regularly apprehend illegal commercial fishers in Tañon Strait
- **Political intervention** is now playing a role in obstructing the implementation of fisheries and protected area laws in Tañon Strait



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT LEADS THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



## Nationwide Fisheries Law Compliance Audit effective Aug 31



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City  
<http://www.dilg.gov.ph>



### GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FISHERIES COMPLIANCE AUDIT (FishCA)

Memorandum Circular No. 2018-147  
August 31, 2018

#### 1.0 Background

This Department issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2018-59 entitled "Policies and Guidelines on the Regulation and Monitoring of Fishery Activities in Municipal Waters" last April 24, 2018 to ensure that Local Government Units (LGUs) play an active role in the management of water resources within their areas of jurisdiction, and to hold them accountable in the exercise of such powers and functions. To monitor compliance of LGUs to MC 2018-59 and to Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550), as amended by Republic Act No. 10654, the Department crafted the Fisheries Compliance Audit (FishCA).

#### 2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this issuance is to reinforce the responsibilities of LGUs under the R.A. No. 8550 as amended, and to consolidate compliance data of LGUs with regard to the provisions of the Code which shall be used to enhance and implement policies and interventions for the management of municipal waters.

#### 3.0 Scope/Coverage

The audit shall cover all coastal cities and municipalities in the Philippines.

- However, 3 years after, **the rules have not been promulgated**
- There is still **no implementation from BFAR** despite the clamor from local government units and stakeholders to stop commercial fishing in Tañon.





**We urge government agencies to enforce the law and be vigilant in protecting our Philippine waters...**

