



Saving our Oceans in a Tumultuous Time

Gloria Estenzo Ramos
Oceana Philippines



OCEANA IS LAUNCHED IN THE PHILIPPINES

November, 2014: National Symposium on Fisheries



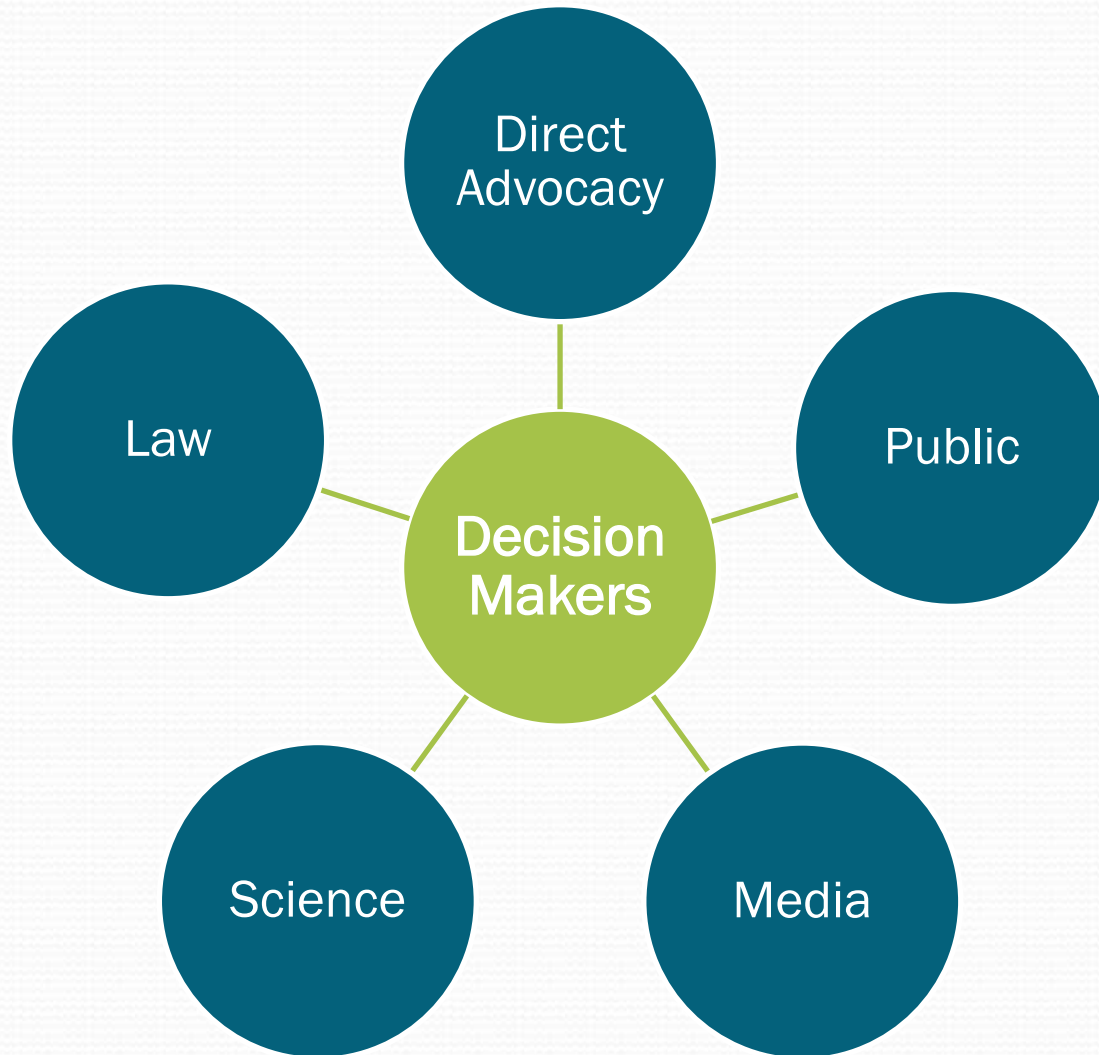
OCEANA PLAYING CRUCIAL ROLE IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

EMPOWERMENT

HOPE



How are we doing it?



Amendments to Fisheries Code are key step towards restoring ocean abundance

- Vessel monitoring system
- Increased penalties
- On board inspectors
- Administrative tribunal
- No restraining order for enforcement of fisheries laws for lower courts
- Citizen Suit provision
- Protections from harassing lawsuits against citizens and enforcers



BAN DESTRUCTIVE FISHING GEAR

Industry challenges government in court

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
7th Judicial Region
Branch 61
MARCELO B. FERNAN PALACE OF JUSTICE
Dakit, Bogo City, Cebu

NORTHERN CEBU DANISH SEINE OPERATORS AND FISHERFOLKS ASSOCIATION, INC., Represented by: PABLITO OLIVAR and NILO SORIBA, President and Vice-President respectively,
Plaintiffs,

CIVIL CASE NO. 18-1450,
FOR: DECLARATORY JUDGMENT WITH RESTRAINING INJUNCTION AND RESTITUTIONARY DAMAGES AND AN ORDER

-versus-

SEC. PROCESO J. ALCALA, et al.,
Defendants.

ORDER

Filed by the plaintiff's counsel for RECONSIDERATION dated June 18, 2015 of the Decision dated April 21, 2015 DISMISSING the instant Complaint dated March 14, 2014 and Supplemental Complaint, etc. dated April 1, 2014 and June 20, 2014.

The plaintiff respondents filed their COMMENT dated September 9, 2015 DENYING the instant motion for lack of merit.

The Court is of the view that the subject motion does not raise any new matter. It only reiterates the arguments already considered and passed upon by this Court. The Court finds that the Fisheries Administration Order No. 246 is a valid law, enacted in pursuance of the mandate given to the respondents by the Fisheries Code.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the instant motion is DENIED.

SO ORDERED.
Bogo City, Cebu
January 08, 2016.

ANTONIO D. MARIGOMEN
Executive/Presiding Judge.

Ban on hulbot-hulbot fishing stays

THE court upheld the ban imposed by the fisheries bureau against operators of Danish Seine Fishing, locally known as hulbot-hulbot.

The court finds no sufficient basis for the declaratory relief with preliminary restraining injunction to stop the implementation of Administrative Order 246 of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) filed by the Northern Cebu Danish Seine Operators and Fishers Association.

AO 246 is a nationwide ban of hulbot-hulbot and huli-huli fishing effective October 15, 2013 as these contributed to the destruction of the marine habitats as fishery resources, a violation of RA 8550 or the Fisheries Code of the Philippines.

The plaintiff, engaged in commercial fishing using hulbot-hulbot, alleged that the implementation of FAO 246 will affect the livelihood of 2,920 fisherfolks who are supplying 70 percent of the fish supply of the Pasil Fish Market in Cebu City.

The fisherfolks asked the Bureau of Fisheries and Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala to recall or defer the implementation of the FAO 246 prior to the April 15, 2014 deadline. They asked that a thorough study and consultation among stakeholders including them will be conducted prior to its implementation but to no avail thus a case was filed.

Named respondents in the case were Alcala, BFAR Chairman Salvado Salacup, BFAR and the Office of the Solicitor General.

However in April 21, Judge Antonio Marigomen of Branch 61 of RTC Bogo City dismissed the case saying that the FAO is necessary to properly implement the Fisheries Code.

"Modified Danish Seine is an ingenious device that humans created to take food from the marine ecosystem - but it takes too much and destroys marine habitats; it disrupts the rhythm and harmony of nature and ultimately, it cuts through the web of life," Marigomen said in his decision.

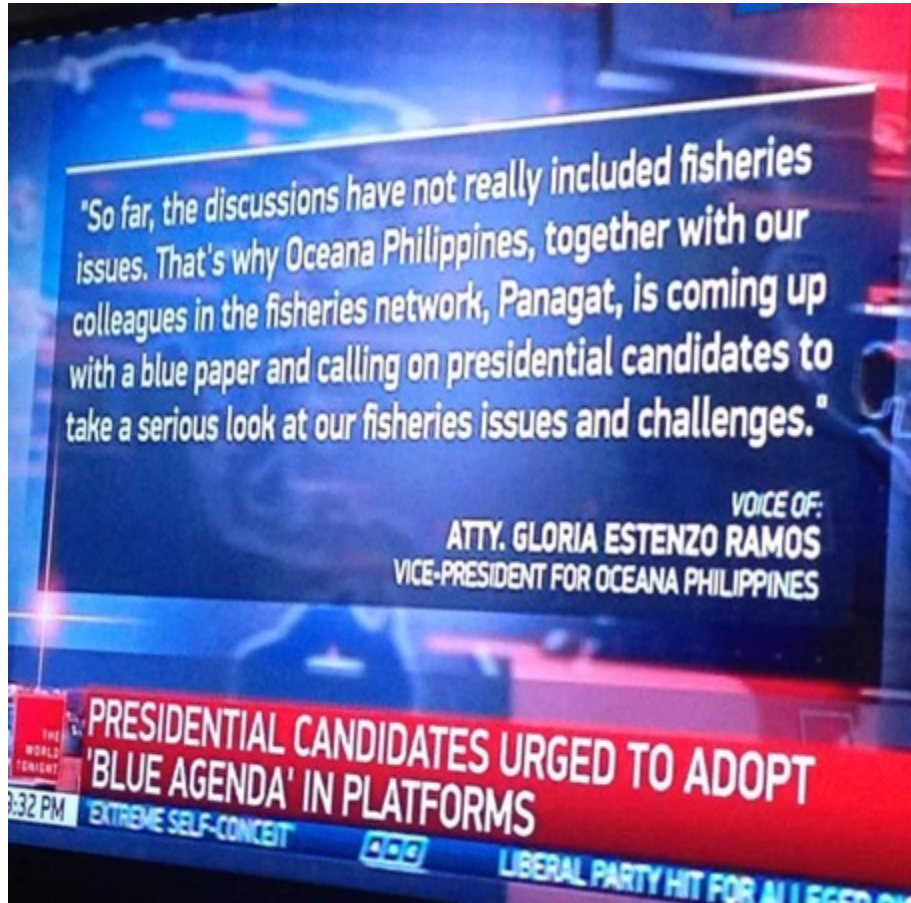
Marigomen said petitioner failed to prove entitlement to a writ of preliminary injunction and the amount of damage it would sustain if FAO 246 will be implemented.

BFAR Regional Director Andres Bojos said the recent decision is a "triumph both for the marine environment and the municipal fisherfolks" as the illegal fishing activity will leave them with too little fish to catch.

Bojos said that since the implementation of FAO 246, they have not caught anyone engaged in Danish Seine fishing in Cebu.

Danish Seine uses an active fishing gear consisting of a net with weights that destroy the coral reefs and disrupts the sea bed when it is being dragged to collect the fish. /SENITOR REPORTER MARIAN Z. COBILLA

Mainstreaming fisheries issues during the presidential campaign



CAMPAIGNS IN THE PHILIPPINES

- **Protect Benham Bank**
- **Ban Bottom Trawling**
- **End Commercial Fishing in Tañon Strait**
- **Institutionalize Vessel Monitoring**
- **Establish Rules for Sardines**

2018: A Fantastic Year for Fish and Fisherfolk

CAMPAIGNS IN THE PHILIPPINES



**PROTECT
BENHAM
BANK**



VICTORY!



**BAN
BOTTOM
TRAWLING**



VICTORY!



**END
COMMERCIAL
FISHING IN
TAÑON STRAIT**



**SUSTAINED
ENFORCEMENT
FOR REPLICATION
NATIONWIDE**



**INSTITUTIONALIZE
VESSEL
MONITORING**



**REQUIRED FOR
COASTAL LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS;
OCEANA LAWSUIT
MOVED BFAR TO
ACTION**



**ESTABLISH
RULES AND
REGULATIONS
FOR SARDINES**



**RULES FOR
SCIENCE-BASED
FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT
AREAS SYSTEM**

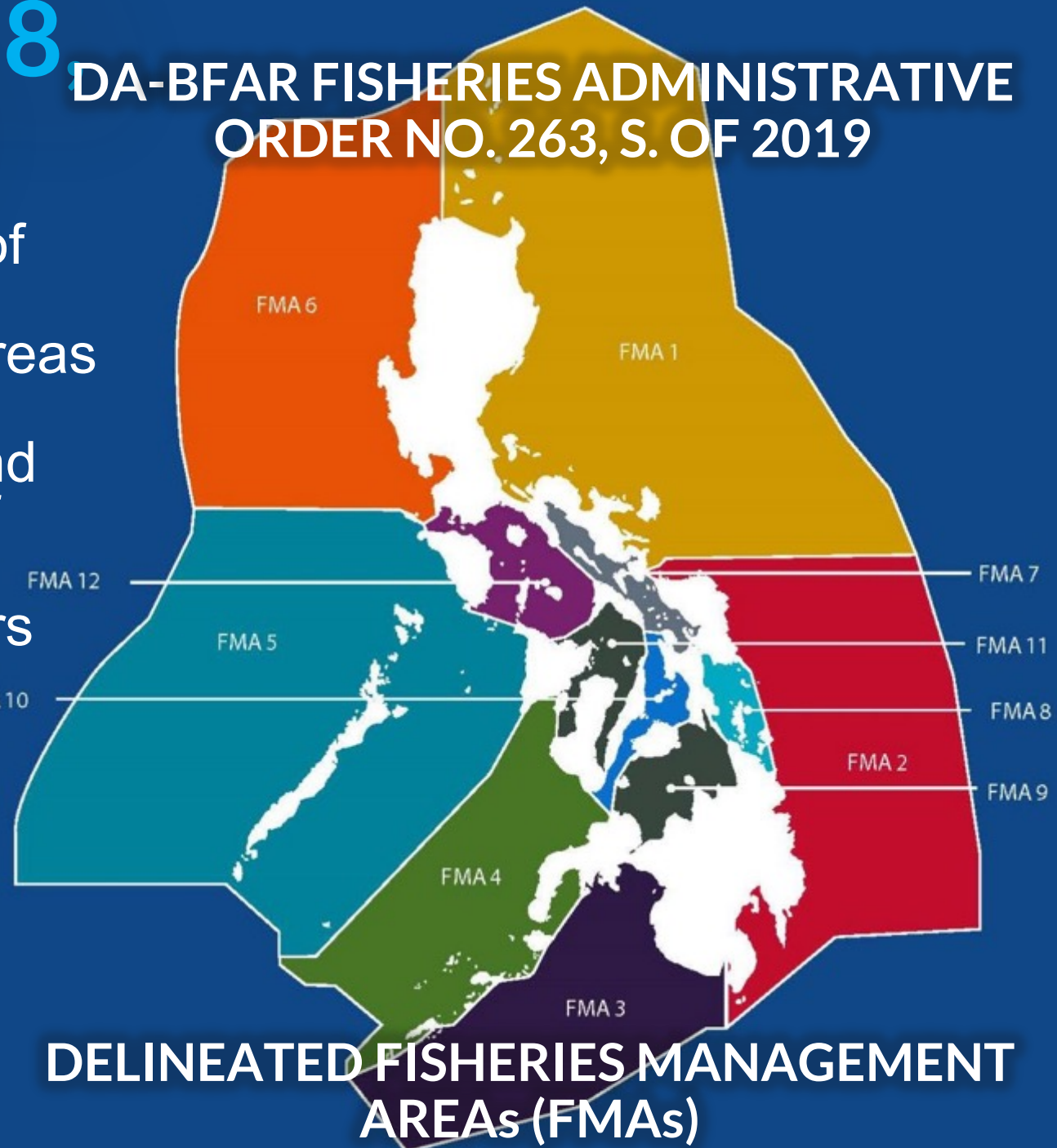
January 28, 2019

DA-BFAR FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 263, S. OF 2019

Establishment of
Fisheries
Management Areas
(FMA) for the
conservation and
management of
fisheries in the
Philippine waters

Philippine
waters are
divided into

12 FMAs





Oceana lauds BFAR's declaration of fisheries management areas

Oceana Philippines has welcomed the move of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to declare the country's major fishing grounds as fisheries management areas (FMAs) as it cited the need for proper conservation.

BFAR recently issued Fisheries Administrative Order 263, which established 12 FMAs.

"In the past, the government divided our waters into fishing grounds. With the declaration, we are focusing on conservation and participatory management," Oceana Philippines vice president Gloria Ramos said.

Ramos said the FMAs are delineated based on approximate stock boundaries, range, distribution, and structure.

"Science tells us that fish breed, feed and grow during their life cycle without regard for municipal or national waters. The implementation of the FAO establishing the FMAs would help address overfishing in two-thirds of our fishing grounds and the multiple anthropogenic pressures our oceans face including illegal fishing, habitat destruction, pollution and climate change," she said.



Under FAO 263, each FMA must convene a management board where all stakeholders are represented.

The management board is required to develop policies and programs for the FMA based on an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, as well as local government ordinances that will provide the governance framework for

sustainable management of the FMA.

The FMA also acknowledges existing cooperative arrangement like integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils and Protected Areas Management boards.

FAO 263 also requires BFAR to convene a Scientific Advisory Group with representatives from academic institutions, BFAR regional

offices, municipal fisherfolk groups, commercial fishing industry, and NGOs.

"This provision underscores the pivotal role of science in policy and decision making for fisheries management. The Fisheries Code requires the setting up of reference points and harvest control rules. These can only be completed with credible science input," Ramos said.



PROTECT BENHAM BANK

300,000 hectares protected, including Benham Bank as no-take zone!

Support the Riv...



BAN BOTTOM TRAWLING

Joint Memorandum Circular
(JMC) No: 2018-03
November 28, 2018



Municipal waters in the Philippines
226,000 sq.km

Estimated number of municipalities
320



END COMMERCIAL FISHING IN TAÑÓN STRAIT

2018 Goal: Get BFAR and government enforcement agencies to prevent commercial fishing vessels from fishing in Tañon Strait



Convening of Tañon Strait Management Board Ends “Paper Park” Status



STRONG ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

September to November 8, 2018



PATROLS



ARRESTS

2

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

18

Joint arrest of different agencies

3

Philippine Coast Guard
Seaborne Patrols



CASES FILED

61

Provincial Environment Office
of Cebu
30 market inspection, 1 dockside
inspection, 30 seaborne patrols

1

Bureau of
Fisheries and
Aquatic
Resources

10

Provincial
Environment
Office of
Cebu

2

PNP
Regional
Maritime
Unit

1

Philippine National
Police (PNP)- Regional
Maritime Unit

0

FISHERFOLKS CREDIT RELENTLESS ENFORCEMENT FOR ABUNDANT CATCH



INSTITUTIONALIZE VESSEL MONITORING



2018 Goal: Vessel monitoring required for commercial vessels in Tañon Strait and other Key Fishing Areas

DILG REQUIRES COASTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ENACT VESSEL MONITORING ORDINANCES

OCEANA FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST DA AND BFAR – October, 2018



Co-Petitioners Artisanal Fisherfolk with
Oceana's legal counsel, Atty. Diokno

NEW CAMPAIGNS BEGINNING IN 2019

- Stop Illegal Commercial Fishing Nationwide
- Establish Rules on Fisheries Management Areas
- Deter Illegal Dump and Fill Activity
- Strengthen a Coral Rich Marine Protected Area
(Under development)

STOP ILLEGAL COMMERCIAL FISHING NATIONWIDE

Transparency in the Sea through Vessel Monitoring and Mainstreaming Karagatan Patrol



THANK YOU!

