



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREA 12 MANAGEMENT BOARD
Purok 3 Brgy. Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna

AN EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 1st QUARTER REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREA 12 MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD
ON March 23, 2023 AT TANZA, CAVITE

PRESENT:

MR. SAMMY A. MALVAS – MB Chairperson
HON. MATT ERWIN V. FLORIDO – Co-Chairperson
MR. RODRIGO A. DE JESUS – Member, Municipal Fishing Sector Representative
MS. MELANIE P. CATAPANG – Member, Commercial Fishing Sector Representative
DR. YASMIN H. PRIMAVERA-TIROL – Member, Academe Sector Representative
MR. PACIFICO D. BELDIA II – Member, NGO Sector (Alternate) Representative
MR. WILFREDO A. HERNANDEZ – Member, IFARMC (Balayan Bay)
MR. EDDY P. DE MESA – Member, IFARMC (Tayabas Bay)
PCPT EDWIN A. CABALAG – Member, NGA Sector Rep. (PNP-Maritime Unit)
MR. CUSTODIO L. BALAOING JR. – Member, NGA Sector Representative (PFDA)
MR. MICHAEL CASTO A. RAS, II – Member, NGA Sector Representative (DILG)
EMMANUEL H. ASIS, DFT, CESE – Member, Regional Director, BFAR MIMAROPA
RYAN O. DORONILA – Member, FMA Focal, BFAR 6

ABSENT:

ARIEL U. POQUINTO - Member, Regional Director, BFAR 5
CG CAPT VICTORINO RONALDO Y. ACOSTA, IV – Member, NGA Sector (PCG)
NILO B. TAMORIA, CESO III – Member, PAMB Representative
ATTY. IMMANUEL L. SODUSTA – Member, Aquaculture Sector Representative
MS. DYNA V. BONITES – Member, Marketing/Processor Sector Representative
MR. OLIVER S. TAMBOON – Member, Indigenous People Representative
MS. ROSALIE G. RECARO – Member, NGO Sector Representative

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12
SERIES OF 2023**

**“A RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR IMMEDIATE
SCIENCE-BASED AND TRANSPARENT ACTION; INVESTIGATION ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY
ON THE OIL TANKER AND OIL COMPANY; AND IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE
COMMUNITIES RAVAGED BY THE OIL SPILL FROM THE SINKING OF THE
MT PRINCESS EMPRESS ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023”**

WHEREAS, The Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of

nature and the amended Fisheries Code of the Philippines declares as a state policy to adopt the precautionary principle and to manage the fishery and aquatic resources, in a manner consistent with the concept of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and integrated coastal area management in specific natural fishery management areas;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture -Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) issued the Fisheries Administrative Order No. 263 on January 28, 2019, which established the twelve (12) fisheries management areas (FMAs) covering all Philippine waters, enjoining national and local fisheries managers to take on shared responsibilities for the conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources.

WHEREAS, an oil tanker, MT Princess Empress, reportedly carrying 800,000-900,000 liters of industrial fuel oil, on February 28, 2023, sank off the coast of the Oriental Mindoro Province, adjacent to the Verde Island Passage and part of the Fisheries Management Area 12;

WHEREAS, the Verde Island Passage is the center of the center of marine biodiversity, an ecologically significant ecosystems in the Philippines and the people's constitutionally guaranteed right to a clean, healthy, and balanced ecology is at stake in this alarming oil pollution crisis;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Act of 2010 (Republic Act 10121) and related regulations direct a multi-sectoral, inter-agency, and community-based approach in dealing with all-hazards including oil spills, thus the participation of the local government units and stakeholders in decision-making is essential.

WHEREAS, the Fisheries Management Area 12 Management Board, composed of various stakeholders, deems it urgent to prioritize immediate and effective measures to address this dire ecological issue and hereby calls for the national government agencies and local governments and stakeholders to ensure science-based, participatory and transparent decision-making; investigate and hold accountable the culprit; calls for immediate response to address the direct impacts of the oil contamination to the lives, health and livelihoods of the affected communities; and ensure that this ecological nightmare not be allowed in the future by requiring no-nonsense implementation of our laws and regulations;

WHEREAS, the Board calls for a transparent report and whole-of-nation actions to address the urgent needs of affected communities, including providing adequate compensation, short-term and long-term health care, and rehabilitation measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to their respective powers of rulemaking under existing laws, the FMA 12 Management Board through this resolution hereby promulgates this order to the following:

1. A Special Management Board Meeting shall be convened at soonest time possible concerning the updates on the oil spill response considering that this is urgent and will have long term impacts to the entire ecosystem - ecological, socioeconomics, governance).
2. An urgent request for the Philippine Coast Guard, member of the FMA 12 Management Board to present transparency report and updates during the FMA 12 Special Management Board meeting.
3. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 6 and the province of Guimaras are hereby requested to present during the FMA 12 Special Management Board meeting,

the approach, responses, actions, and lessons learned during the 2006 Oil Spill incident in Guimaras.

4. The Government of Oriental Mindoro is requested to present during the Fisheries management board meeting their current initiatives and interventions in mitigating the impacts of the Oil Spill incident.
5. A request to scientific experts including the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines Visayas, among others to present the scope and probable impacts of the oil spill pollution to the marine environment and the coastal communities.
6. The Fisheries Management Area 12 Secretariat shall collate the lesson learned experiences, and approaches of those invited resource speakers.
7. The short, medium and long-term impacts of oil spill shall be integrated in the Fisheries Management Area 12 Plan and response in coordination with the entire stakeholders.

FURTHER, let copies of this resolution be furnished to the national government agencies (Philippine Coast Guard, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine National Police); institutional members of the FMA 12 (Management Body, Scientific Advisory Group, and Technical Working Group; Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources regional fisheries offices component of FMA 12; Provincial, city, or municipal government units for their information and favorable consideration.

FINALLY, this is effective immediately.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

We hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing resolution, an excerpt of the minutes of the FMA 12 MB meeting held on Villa Excellance Beach and Wave Pool Resort, Conference Hall, Tanza, Cavite Province at March 23, 2023.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


EDMUNDO M. AMICAN, III
Secretariat Member, FMA 12

ATTESTED:


ALLAN U. CASTILLO
Head Secretariat, FMA 12

APPROVED:

SAMMY A. MALVAS
Chairperson, FMA 12