

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DISPOSITION FORM**

AMTSS-2019-2-27

Subject:	Complaint from Hon. Melvin G. Macusi, Sangguniang Bayan member of the Municipality of Sudipen, La Union last February 11, 2019 regarding the alleged fish kill along the tributary of the Amburayan River in Sudipen, La Union.		
Document Date:	Feb 12, 2019	Document Type:	Letter - Complaint
To/For	Remarks	From	Date

EMED For Initial Signature - AMTSS 2/18/2019 4:06:31 PM

RM for signature / approval c. AMTSS 2/20/19

FEB 20 2019

Pls receive - DJ!

FEB 28 2019 signed 2/28

Action Taken/Status

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. For approval/signature | G. Please prepare reply | M. For posting |
| B. For appropriate action | H. Please note and return | N. Please attend |
| C. For notation/comments | I. Please file | O. Please send representative |
| D. For recommendation | J. RUSH/URGENT | P. For our record |
| E. For information | K. For Monitoring | |
| F. For Compliance | L. For Investigation | |



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU

Regional Office No. 1
DENR Bldg., Government Center, Sevilla, City of San Fernando,
La Union

February 12, 2019

HON. WENDY JOY D. BUQUING

Municipal Mayor
Municipality of Sudipen
Sudipen, La Union

ATTENTION: HON. MELVIN G. MACUSI

Sangguniang Bayan Member

Dear Mayor Buquing:

This refers to the complaint filed by Hon. Melvin G. Macusi, Sangguniang Bayan Member of the Municipality of Sudipen, La Union which was relayed to our Office by Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of La Union, For. Maximo O. Soriano, Jr. last February 11, 2019 regarding the alleged fish kill along the tributary of the Amburayan River in Sudipen, La Union.

Please be informed that an investigation was conducted by Technical Personnel of this Office last February 12, 2019. During the time of investigation, there were no carcasses of fish and traces of illegal fishing activity were observed. It was stated in an interview with the *Punong Barangays* of the affected areas that the alleged fish kill incident was a result of improper or probably illegal fishing practice (Fishing with the use of Sodium Compounds).

Ecological Hypoxia or oxygen depletion in water bodies is one of the most common causes of fish kill incidents. However, the results of on-site water quality monitoring revealed that the Dissolved Oxygen levels of the tributaries along Brgy. Namaltugan, Brgy. Old Central and Brgy. Ilocano met the prescribed DENR Water Quality Guideline for Class C Water Classification of 5 mg/L with DO levels of 6.12 mg/L, 5.55 mg/L and 5.50 mg/L, respectively.

In view of the above, we recommend the strict enforcement of RA 10654 otherwise known as An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998". As well as to strengthen the LGU's and Barangay LGUs' regulations through the enactment of Ordinances in accordance with existing laws.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



COMMUNICATION LETTER



AMTSS-2019-2-27

February 28, 2019 03:26:52 PM

ENGR. MARIA DORICA NAZ-HIPE, CESE
Regional Director

cc: The Regional Executive Director
DENR Regional Office No. 1

The PENR Officer
PENRO La Union

Protect the environment... Protect Life...

Tel. Nos. (072)-242-3057 / 700-2448; Fax No. (072)-700-2449; e-mail: embdenr1@yahoo.com

INVESTIGATION REPORT

Subject : Alleged Fish Kill Incident along the Amburayan River
Location : Brgy. Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union
 Brgy. Old Central, Sudipen, La Union
 Brgy. Namaltugan, Sudipen, La Union
Date and Time of Investigation : February 12, 2019 at 9:30 AM
Date of Report Prepared : February 12, 2019

A. GENERAL INFORMATION:

1.1 Persons Interviewed:

Names of Persons contacted	Position	Address
Hon. Melvin G. Macusi	Sangguniang Bayan Member, Municipality of Sudipen, La Union	Sudipen, La Union
Ms. Laurence O. Gabriel	Municipal Agriculture Office Staff, Municipality of Sudipen, La Union	Sudipen, La Union
Hon. Wesley P. Pangayan	<i>Punong Barangay</i> , Brgy. Old Central, Sudipen, La Union	Brgy. Old Central, Sudipen, La Union
Hon. Ramil D. Carpio	<i>Punong Barangay</i> , Brgy. Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union	Brgy. Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union
Hon. Richard D. Lopez	<i>Punong Barangay</i> , Brgy. Namaltugan, Sudipen, La Union	Brgy. Namaltugan, Sudipen, La Union
Mr. Gabby Dagacan	<i>Barangay Tanod</i> , Brgy. Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union	Brgy. Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union

1.2 Specific on Complaint:

On February 11, 2019, at around 6:45 PM, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of La Union, Maximo O. Soriano, Jr. relayed the report filed by Hon. Melvin G. Macusi (Municipal Councilor of Sudipen, La Union) regarding the alleged fish kill along the Amburayan River covering three (3) Barangays of Sudipen, La Union.

The investigation of the complaint was conducted on February 12, 2019 in the presence of PENRO Soriano, Jr., and in coordination with the concerned LGU represented by Hon. Macusi, Hon. Pangayan, Hon. Carpio, Hon. Lopez and Mr. Dagacan.

B. FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS:

1. The location of the alleged fish kill is along Amburayan River covering Brgy. Namaltugan, Brgy. Old Central, and Brgy. Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union.
2. No carcasses of fish and traces of the type of illegal fishing activity used were noted along the main channel of the river during the time of investigation.
3. Water Samples were also collected for the Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids. The results of the water quality analyses shall be available after five (5) days.
4. The stretch of the Amburayan River along the three (3) mentioned Barangays is considered as a perennial type of stream which continuously flows throughout the year.

C. REMARKS:

1. One of the most common causes of fish kill is Ecological Hypoxia or oxygen depletion along bodies of water.

- On-site water sampling was conducted for Temperature, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Salinity, and Turbidity at the following locations:

Date of Sampling/ Monitoring	Location	GPS Coordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude
February 12, 2019	S1- Barangay Namaltugan, Sudipen, La Union (Upstream)	16°54'28" N	120°29'50" E
February 12, 2019	S2- Barangay Old Central, Sudipen, La Union (Midstream)	16°54'17" N	120°29'20" E
February 12, 2019	S3- Barangay Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union (Downstream)	16°54'21" N	120°29'06" E

- The results of the on-site sampling conducted are as follows:

Monitoring Stations	PARAMETERS					Date of Sampling
	Temperature (°C)	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Salinity (PPT)	Turbidity (NTU)	
S1- Barangay Namaltugan, Sudipen, La Union (Upstream)	27.30°C	7.83	6.12	0.1	0.2	February 12, 2019
S2- Barangay Old Central, Sudipen, La Union (Midstream)	29.60°C	8.77	5.55	0.1	0.0	February 12, 2019
S3- Barangay Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union (Downstream)	29.76°C	8.50	5.50	0.1	2.0	February 12, 2019
DENR Water Quality Criteria for Class "C" Water Classification	25-31°C	6.0-9.0	≥5.0	-	-	-

The On-site measurement of Temperature, pH and Dissolved Oxygen are within the guideline values for Class "C" water classification.

- Based from the statement of Mr. Dagacan, about 10 carcasses of Tilapia (*Tilapia zillii*) were observed floating along the river tributary in Brgy. Old Central on February 11, 2019 around 1:30 PM.
- According to Hon. Pangdayan, the major cause of the alleged fish kill is due to illegal fishing activities (Fishing with the use of Sodium Compounds) along the Amburayan River.
- Ms. Laurence O. Gabriel stated that LGU-Sudipen had not received any reports regarding fish kill incident in the past four (4) years.

D. RECOMMENDATION:

- LGU-Sudipen to strictly enforce the RA 10654 otherwise known as An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998".
- LGU-Sudipen as well as the Barangay Local Government Units to strengthen its regulations through the enactment of Ordinances in accordance with existing laws.

Prepared by:


JAYSON PAOLO E. RESULTAY
 Environmental Management Specialist II

Reviewed by:


ENGR. NELSON L. VALDEZ
 Engr. IV / Head, Quick Response Team

Attested by:


ENGR. ANTONIO L. ESTRADA
 Chief, Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division

Approved by:


ENGR. MARIA DORICA NAZ-HIPE, CESE
 Regional Director



INVESTIGATION REPORT



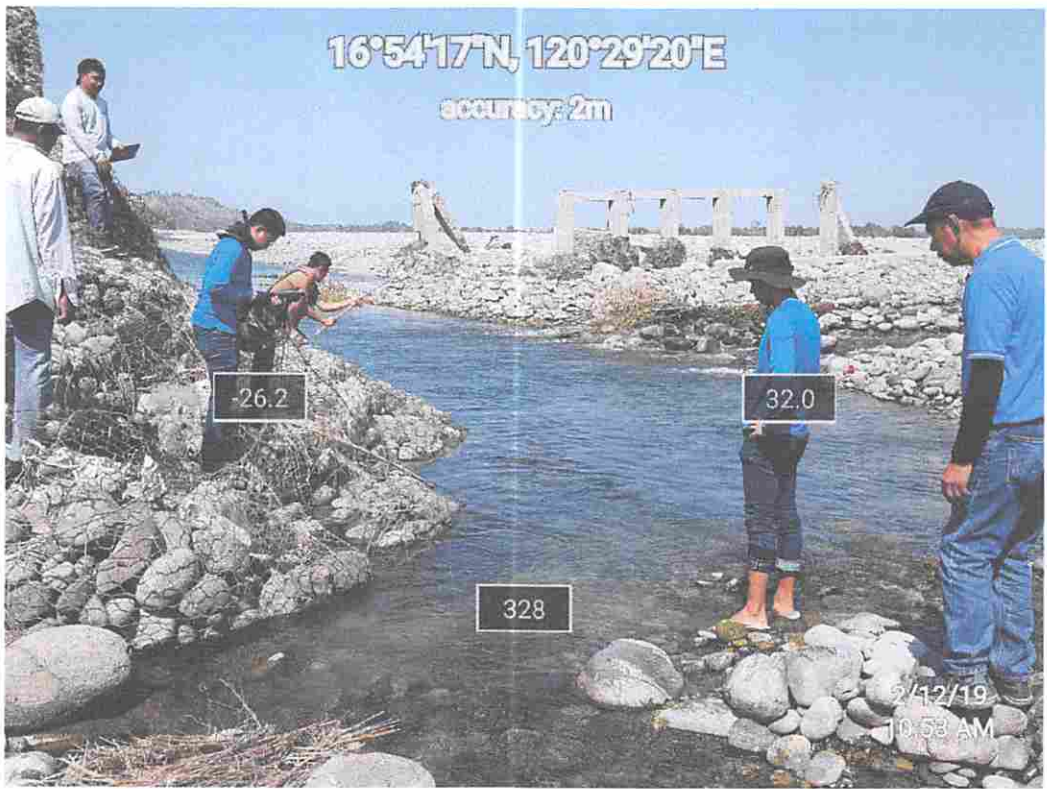
AMTSS-2019-2-27

February 28, 2019 03:27:34 PM

PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT REGARDING THE ALLEGED FISH KILL
ALONG THE AMBURAYAN RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUDIPEN, LA UNION
(February 12, 2019)



The established monitoring station in Barangay Ilocano, Sudipen, La Union



The established monitoring station in Barangay Old Central, Sudipen, La Union

PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT REGARDING THE ALLEGED FISH KILL
ALONG THE AMBURAYAN RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUDIPEN, LA UNION
(February 12, 2019)



The established monitoring station in Barangay Namaltugan, Sudipen, La Union



Mr. Jayson Paolo E. Resultay from EMB-I discussed the initial findings of the investigation with Hon. Melvin Macusi, SBM of Sudipen, La Union and PENR Officer Maximo Soriano, Jr.