

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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First Regular Session)



Senate
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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 422

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF BUTANDING (WHALE SHARK) BREEDING GROUNDS IN DONSOL, SORSOGON

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "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";

WHEREAS, various news agencies reported last 8 March 2011 that the Department of Tourism confirmed from local authorities in Donsol, Sorsogon that the town is now considered a breeding ground for the butanding or whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) after a 15-inch long baby whale shark has been found in the town's coastal waters;

WHEREAS, butanding is a slow-moving filter-feeding animal, which is considered the largest fish in the sea, measuring 40 feet or more;

WHEREAS, butanding thrive in Donsol sleepy town because of the abundance of krill and other planktons usually in the diet of the gentle giants of the seas, and has been one of the most visited tourist spots in the whole country, drawing 101,799 tourists last year, with a ratio of one foreign tourist per three locals;

WHEREAS, the report added that Donsol is now vying to be a first class municipality after its gross receipts from tourism reached more than P66 million;

WHEREAS, because of this development, Congress should create legislation that would strictly enforce the protection of the butanding and the conservation of other natural resources in the area;

WHEREAS, Congress should also pass legislation that would ensure butandings will continue to thrive in the Donsol area and hopefully spread the population of butandings in the neighboring communities to assure the survival of butandings and bolster eco-tourism;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the recent discovery of butanding (whale shark) breeding grounds in Donsol, Sorsogon.

Adopted,

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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