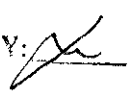


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SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 678

RECOMMENDED 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 IMPROVEMENT OF MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR DETECTING BACTERIA THAT PRODUCE RED TIDE TOXIN IN THE COUNTRY'S COASTLINES, AND TO ADVANCE RESEARCH ON PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THIS BACTERIA TO BENEFIT THE LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY

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, *The Manila Bulletin* reported last 2 January 2012 that a sudden and mysterious emergence of yet to be identified bacteria is polluting the coastal areas of Bataan and Zambales;

WHEREAS, the bacteria's appearance allegedly caused fish kills, costing the local fishing industry millions of pesos in losses;


WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture had issued since December 2011 an ongoing warning to the public from harvesting and consuming mussels and oysters along Bataan Bay due to the presence of red tide toxins;

WHEREAS, local fisheries officials in Central Luzon claimed that the situation of the local fishing industry is aggravated by the lack of information from local and national governments every time the waters become polluted and red tide toxins are detected, and appealed for a better monitoring system;

WHEREAS, as red tide toxins have been a perennial scourge in the country, Congress urgently needs to find out if the damage and area covered by these bacteria in the country's coastal waters have been increasing, at what rate it is increasing, and how it has been spreading in order to inform the local fishing industry and provide them with solutions to combat this threat to their livelihood.

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 improvement of monitoring systems for detecting bacteria that produce red tide toxin in the country's coastlines, and to advance research on preventing the spread of this bacteria to benefit the local fishing industry.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO