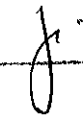


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

75 MAR -3 P4 27

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1217

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT DOLPHINS WERE KILLED DUE TO
DYNAMITE FISHING IN PANGASINAN AND LA UNION

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, Republic Act No. 9147, also known as the "Wildlife Resources Convention and Protection Act," Section 2, states: "It shall be the policy of the State to conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability..."

WHEREAS, various media sources in February reported that a group of Fraser's dolphins have been found either killed or stranded along the coast of thirteen towns in Pangasinan and La Union;

WHEREAS, authorities allegedly suspect that the dolphins were victims of dynamite fishing;

WHEREAS, media sources said that out of the 31 dolphins involved, 22 died, eight were released back into the ocean, and one was unable to swim on his own and required ongoing medical attention;

WHEREAS, the *BusinessMirror* quoted Gail Laule, chief operations officer of Ocean Adventure, the marine amusement park which helped rehabilitate the injured dolphin as saying the incident was likely due to dynamite fishing, noting that the dolphins suffered serious trauma;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin* meanwhile quoted Lem Aragon, president of the Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network and a professor of marine mammal science at the University of the Philippines, as saying that the dolphins were most likely from the same group, as Fraser's dolphins are often found in large groups of up to several hundred animals;

WHEREAS, Aragon claimed that Fraser's dolphins are a deep water species and may have been attracted into the Lingayen Gulf by the recent increase of acetes locally called *alamang*;

WHEREAS, Aragon reportedly added that immediate intervention is required to avoid such cases, known as unusual mortality events, which endangers a significant number of animals going to shore;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of government to ensure that marine resources are protected, in an effort to maintain ecological balance;

WHEREAS, Congress, through relevant legislation, must empower local governments to strictly implement laws on environmental protection;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that dolphins were killed due to dynamite fishing in Pangasinan.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
78

/ersmg