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SENATE P. S. R. No. 1693

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED USE OF PROHIBITED ACTIVE FISHING GEARS IN CEBU

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides:

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC

OF THE PHILIPPINES

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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 Department of Agriculture (DA) issued Fisheries Administrative Order
No. 246 (FAO 246) banning the use of active fishing gears particularly the Danish Scine (hulbothulbot) and Modified Danish Scine (buli-buli) in Philippine waters;

7 WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the 8 use of hulbot-hulbot and buli-buli contributes to the destruction of marine habitats and other

9 fishery resources;

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WHEREAS, on 7 July 2014, the Supreme Court issued a resolution restraining the
Malabon Regional Trial Court Branch 170 from prohibiting the DA and BFAR from
implementing FAO 246;

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe, Cebu Police Station certified on 27 August 2015 that a
 concerned citizen together with barangay officials arrested around 50 fishermen for unauthorized
 fishing and use of active fishing gears;

WHEREAS, according to the arresting citizen, some fishermen continue to use hulbothulbot and buli-buli despite the prohibition against it;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Fisheries Code, Section 124 mandates the law enforcement
 officers of the DA, the Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police
 (PNP), PNP-Maritime Command, law enforcement officers of the LGUs and other government
 enforcement agencies to enforce fishery laws, rules and regulations;

WHEREAS, the law enforcement agencies should effectively carry out their mandatedfunctions;

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State that laws are duly implemented;

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 allegation of
continued use of prohibited active fishing gears.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFILISOR SANTIAGO