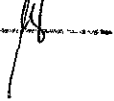


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

8 APR 15 2008

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 350

RECEIVED BY: 

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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 WANTON  
SLAUGHTER OF THRESHER SHARKS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 12, Section 2 provides “All lands of the public domain, waters, minerals, coal, petroleum, and other mineral oils, all forces of potential energy, fisheries, forests or timber, wildlife, flora and fauna, and other natural resources are owned by the State. xxx The State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens. xxx”;

WHEREAS, in a news article published in the 10 April 2008 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, the Philippines may soon lose its thresher sharks, listed as vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, if their slaughter for meat and fins continues unchecked”;

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Simon Oliver, shark specialist and chair of the Thresher Shark Research and Conservation Group based in the United Kingdom, the extent of the fishery situation with regard to the thresher sharks in the Batangas Bay area is absolutely not sustainable and may result to possible extinction of sharks;

WHEREAS, during a forum on Thresher Shark Conservation hosted by the University of Batangas in Batangas City, it was discussed that the population of thresher shark species (*Alopias vulpinus*) worldwide has already declined by around 75 percent;

WHEREAS, other scientists were particularly concerned with the dwindling population of bigeye, common and pelagic thresher sharks in Philippine waters since all three species were already declared “vulnerable” which means that the thresher sharks are now facing a high risk of extinction in the wild;

WHEREAS, thresher sharks can live up to 28 years if left undisturbed, but the sale of shark meat and fins, particularly in the public market of Batangas City, is threatening the shark population in Batangas Bay;

WHEREAS, the environmental group First Philippine Conservation Inc. reportedly claimed that since 23 December 2007 at least 40 thresher sharks have been killed in the coastal villages of Wawa, Pagkilatan and Mabacong in Batangas City, Bauan town and Barangay Talaga in Mabini town; in the public markets of Batangas City and Lucena, shark meat is sold at P150 per kilo and shark fins at P1,000 per kilo;

WHEREAS, Dr. Oliver further opined that since thresher sharks are oceanic, they migrate throughout the Philippine seas, which means that the sharks taken from the Batangas area may impact the same population that visit other areas such as the Malapascua Island in Cebu, where 80 percent of the local economy depended on tourism industry generated by the sharks, and that the place has not seen sharks for the past two months;

WHEREAS, the local government concerned has already formed a task force on endangered species that would oversee the hunting and selling of the sharks, particularly in the public market;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to craft a national law that would prohibit hunting and selling of thresher sharks and other similar endangered species to put an end to this wanton slaughter;

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 alleged slaughter of thresher sharks.

Adopted,

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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