

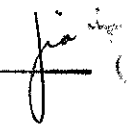
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 158

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REFERENCE POINTS FOR FISH HARVEST TO ADDRESS OVERFISHING IN THE COUNTRY'S WATERS AND MANAGE A SUSTAINABLE FISHERY AS PROPOSED BY THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

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

WHEREAS, various news agencies reported last 3 December 2012 that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) called on Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), of which the Philippines is a member, to adopt practical measures to address overfishing in the Pacific region;

WHEREAS, the WWF reportedly said that the WCPFC should adopt specific reference points and harvest control rules for tuna fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Region, and implement these measures to manage a sustainable fishery;

WHEREAS, WWF officials allegedly warned that if measures to limit tuna fishing are not put in place soon, there will be a substantial negative impact on fishing communities and the marine ecosystem, and there will be decline in the tuna fishing industry itself;

WHEREAS, the report said that these measures should allow concerned agencies to ensure harvests would maintain acceptable limits while ensuring sustainability of the resources and keeping up with the supply of fish to our markets;

WHEREAS, according to WWF officials, the management of the Pacific region's tuna fisheries tend to maximize short-term economic interests at the expense of long-term productivity and sustainability due to competing interests and values between actors in the region;

WHEREAS, the WWF proposes the implementation of 'reference points', defined as limits or benchmarks around which fisheries management measures are standardized, and the point where harvest control rules should be implemented to prevent adverse consequences such as overfishing;

WHEREAS, WWF officials explained that the WCPFC doesn't have a mechanism to prevent overfishing and its negative impacts in the Pacific region, and proposes to the members of the commission the implementation and definition of reference points so that they can easily manage and execute harvest control rules when harvests approach this point;

WHEREAS, as a member of the WCPFC, the Philippines should take the initiative in formulating reference points and in consequently implementing harvest control rules based on this standard in order to establish a sustainable system for the local tuna fishing industry;

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 formulation and implementation of reference points for fish harvest to address overfishing in the country's waters and manage a sustainable fishery as proposed by the World Wildlife Fund to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Adopted,

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/ptmt