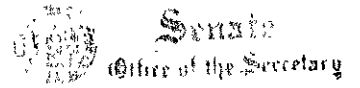


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 AUG 12 P2:36

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 830

RECEIVED BY. *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD'S REPORTED SEIZURE OF FIVE TONS OF SMUGGLED DRIED SHARK'S FINS IN THE PORT OF ZAMBOANGA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 states that: "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. 4712, An Act Amending Certain Sections of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, Section 3601, provides: "Any person who shall fraudulently import or bring into the Philippines, or assist in so doing, any article, contrary to law, or shall receive, conceal, buy, sell, or in any manner facilitate the transportation, concealment, or sale of such article after importation, knowing the same to have been imported contrary to law, shall be guilty of smuggling";

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture's Fisheries Administrative Order No. 193, Section 2 provides: "It shall be unlawful to take or catch whale sharks and manta rays in Philippine waters or to sell, purchase, possess, transport, or export the same whether dead or alive, in any state or form whether raw or processed";

WHEREAS, various news agencies reported on 3 August 2014 that the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) seized five tons of dried shark fins, estimated to be worth ₱400,000 as it passed through the Port of Zamboanga;

WHEREAS, the PCG reportedly identified the shipper as Dennis Atillo and the consignee as Richard Jose, both allegedly from Manila and are claimed to be fictitious names;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Jomark Angue, PCG's station commander in Zamboanga, reportedly said that the shark's fins, which were en route to Manila from General Santos City, provided documents, claiming that the shipment contained assorted items;

WHEREAS, according to the report, PCG discovered the shark's fins during an inspection of M/V Span Asia 1 together with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);

WHEREAS, the fins are known to command high prices in the local market, and are often used to make shark's fin soup, food additives, and medicines;

WHEREAS, Angue reportedly said that it was not the first time their agency seized smuggled shark fins, but previous hauls only involve not more than 10 pieces that were mixed with other dried fish;

WHEREAS, according the report, the BFAR also checked if M/V Span Asia 1, which is owned and operated by Philippine Span Asia Corp., is in cahoots with smugglers;

WHEREAS, Congress should formulate measures to curb such unscrupulous practices by business entities, and consider raising punitive provisions for violating relevant laws endangering marine wildlife;

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 Philippine Coast Guard's reported seizure of five tons of smuggled dried shark's fins in the Port of Zamboanga.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/lfd