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SENATE
P. S. Res No. 12

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE IN THE
PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF FISHERIES SUBSIDIES IN THE WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

1 WHEREAS, the Philippines is an archipelago with more than 7,100 islands
2 connected and surrounded by water;

3 WHEREAS, being an archipelagic state with over 2.2 million square kilometers
4 of highly productive seas, the Philippines has vast fishery resources at its disposal;

5 WHEREAS, millions of Filipinos rely on the sea for their livelihood as fisheries
6 generate more than P62 billion worth of employment every year;

7 WHEREAS, this source of livelihood is at risk as all of the country's main fish
8 species and marine organisms are now showing signs of overfishing and coastal
9 habitats are showing signs of degradation;

10 WHEREAS, one of the identified causes of this risk is the Illegal, Unreported,
11 and Unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign nationals, brought about and encouraged by
12 fisheries subsidies provided by foreign governments;

13 WHEREAS, it is in the Philippines' national interest that multilateral disciplines
14 are in place to curtail fisheries subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, overcapacity,
15 and overfishing;

16 WHEREAS, the 2017 Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference of the World Trade
17 Organization (WTO) has decided on a work program to conclude the negotiations by

1 aiming to adopt, at the 2019 Ministerial Conference, an agreement on fisheries
2 subsidies which delivers on Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 (SDG14.6);


3 WHEREAS, SDG 14.6 is part of of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
4 adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 which affirms the WTO's role in
5 the global fisheries subsidies agenda;

6 WHEREAS, SDG 14.6 targets to prohibit by 2020, certain forms of fisheries
7 subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies
8 that contribute to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing, and refrain from
9 introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and
10 differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an
11 integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation;

12 WHEREAS, the Philippines, has informally proposed to the WTO, the regulation
13 of fisheries subsidies, including the removal of subsidies for fishing operations
14 conducted in disputed waters to level the playing field for poor nations.

15 WHEREAS, this shall level the playing field at sea as the advantage in fishing of
16 resource-rich members over financially-challenged ones shall cease to exist;

17 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the
18 Philippines expresses its full support in the proposed prohibition of fisheries subsidies
19 in the World Trade Organization.


FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Senator