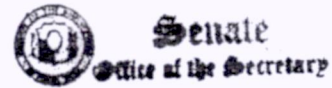
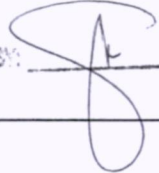


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'19 NOV -5 P5 :52

SENATE  
P.S. RES. No. 203

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

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### RESOLUTION

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) THROUGH THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (BFAR), THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF PULUPANDAN & BAGO CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO URGENTLY PROTECT THE LAST REMAINING IRRAWADDY DOLPHINS IN GUIMARAS STRAIT BY IMMEDIATELY DECLARING THEIR HABITAT AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA).**

WHEREAS, Section 4 of the Joint Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act states that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall have jurisdiction over all terrestrial plant and animal species, all turtles and tortoises and wetland species, including but not limited to crocodiles, water birds and all amphibians and dugong while the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall have jurisdiction over all declared aquatic critical habitats, all aquatic resources, including but not limited to all fishes, aquatic plants, invertebrates and all marine mammals, except dugong. As such, both DENR and DA are tasked with conservation of animals and their habitats;

WHEREAS, Section 11 of RA 8550, amended through RA 10654, otherwise known as the amended Fisheries Code of the Philippines, mandates the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to take conservation and rehabilitation measures of rare and endangered species;

WHEREAS, Section 97 of the same law prohibits the fishing or taking of rare, threatened species of aquatic wildlife listed in the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) and as determined by the Department;

WHEREAS, the Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 has mandated Local government units (LGUs) to implement environmental protection programs and projects as well as enforce laws and regulations in their respective jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the Global International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List classifies the Irrawaddy dolphins as Endangered where its population had

been estimated to have been reduced globally by more than 50 percent as the global decline in the Irrawaddy dolphin population has been attributed to human activities;

WHEREAS, scientific studies conducted in the area show that there are only 13 Irrawaddy dolphins actually living in coastal waters of Bago City and Pulpandan, hence these dolphins have been classified as critically endangered population by the IUCN Red List;

WHEREAS, of these 13 dolphins, 1 pregnant female was found dead last January 2019, presumably from a boat strike while in July, another dead Irrawaddy dolphin was found stranded in the area. This leaves only 11 individual animals living in Pulpandan;

WHEREAS, the incidence of stranded and dead Irrawaddy dolphins is foreseen to continue unless urgent action is taken to protect these last remaining individuals from extinction;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate directs the Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Local Government Units of Pulpandan and Bago to immediately act to protect the Irrawaddy dolphins by declaring its habitat as a Marine Protected Area (MPA); implement strict enforcement of solid waste management in the upland and coastal areas; implement slow-boat zones in the identified habitat; designate no-take zones and buffer zones to conserve fishery resources; regulate fishing gears in the area

Adopted,



**SONNY ANGARA**