

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. 663

RECEIVED BY: Ju

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DYNAMITE FISHING IN BADOCC, ILOCOS NORTE AND MASINLOC, ZAMBALES, RESULTING TO DAMAGE IN THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM, AS EVIDENCED BY THE DISCOVERY OF TWO INJURED DOLPHINS FOUND IN THOSE AREAS

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 harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, Republic act No. 9147, also known as the Wildlife Resources Convention and Protection Act, pursues, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats;

WHEREAS, the *Manila Bulletin*, in its 14 March 2014 online article, reported that two dolphins confined at the Ocean Adventure Marine theme park in Subic are nursing injuries and are believed to be victims of dynamite fishing;

WHEREAS, one of them, called "Valentina," was reportedly rescued in Badoc, Ilocos Norte after being stranded on 14 February 2014; and was said to be the third dolphin to be found in the province's coastline;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network (PMMSN) reportedly said the cause of the beaching of Valentina is rampant dynamite fishing in the area of Ilocos Norte;

WHEREAS, the other dolphin, Scarlet, was reportedly found stranded on a beach in Masinloc, Zambales. According to witnesses, the dolphin was in the area during a dynamite fishing expedition two weeks ago;

WHEREAS, the PMMSN said what awaits the dolphins out at sea is alarming if dynamite fishing is not curbed;

WHEREAS, dynamite fishing or blast fishing is the practice of using explosives to stun or kill schools of fish for easy collection. This is an illegal practice that has destroyed the surrounding ecosystem under the sea;

WHEREAS, it has also caused injuries and death to the fishermen who use this method of catching fish;

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 reported dynamite fishing in Badoc, Ilocos Norte and Masinloc, Zambales, resulting to damage in the marine ecosystem, as evidenced by the discovery of two injured dolphins found in those areas.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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