



November 10, 2021

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region

ATTENTION : The OIC, PENR Officer
PENRO Occidental Mindoro

FROM : The Regional Director
EMB MIMAROPA REGION

**SUBJECT : COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WATER
QUALITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT REPORT
MADE ON THE WATERS OF APO REEF NATURAL PARK IN
SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO**

This pertains to the assessment report forwarded to this Office on the water quality monitoring made on the waters of Apo Reef Natural Park, located in the Municipality of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro province.

The Apo Reef Natural Park is one of the 107 protected areas proclaimed and legislated under the RA 11038. Based on Table 2, Section 5 of DAO 2016 – 08, protected waters or waters designated as national or local marine parks, reserves, sanctuaries, and other areas established by law (Presidential Proclamation 1801 and other existing laws), and/or declared as such by appropriate government agency, LGUs, etc. shall have a classification of Class SA. Under Table 2, a note says that for unclassified water bodies such as the waters within the Apo Reef Natural Park shall be based on the beneficial use as determined by the EMB. Therefore, the waters in ARNP shall take the classification of Class SA.

For the water quality monitoring results, BOD should not be analyzed in marine waters as the presence of salt concentration on marine water interferes in the process of analysis, thus it does not represent the value of the said parameter.

For the sample collected at the groundwater well, based on the submitted report, results were compared to the water quality guidelines for Class B on the assumption that water from the well shall be used only for bathing and other contact recreation purposes. Should this be a source of potable water and for cooking, Class A must be adopted. (Please see Table 7 of the DAO 2016-08).

For the determination of pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen, this must be done on site for these parameters easily vary with sudden changes of ambient conditions. Generally, seawater has pH range between 7.5 – 8.5 but the most ideal is 8.2. For the samples collected in

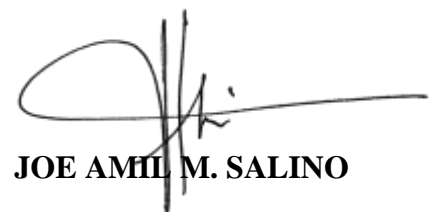


the ARNP, the pH ranges from 8.01 – 8.31 at a measured temperature of 29°C. Dissolved oxygen concentrations tend to be lower in marine water due to the fact that saltwater holds less oxygen than freshwater. Marine waters near the equator have lower dissolved oxygen because the salinity is higher as compared to oceans near the poles. The ARNP has a good status of dissolved oxygen with value range of 8.37 – 8.96, the level favorable for marlin, hake, perch, and shad.

All other parameters, except the oil and grease, passed the water quality guidelines for Class SA. If the identified sampling sites are currently being used as docking area of boats, this is probably the reason why oil and grease levels in the area exceeded the water quality guidelines. Based on the report, this part of the ARNP is close to the identified shipping routes for both passenger and cargo marine vessels. Class SD (or D for freshwater) is the category of waters intended for navigation. In the case of ARNP, proper delineation of the protected area is necessary in order to know which parts are intended for protection and preservation and which part is intended for navigation. Delineation is essential especially for decision makers in the formulation of a holistic management plan for the PA.

Lastly, this Office is more than willing to assist in the monitoring and analysis for the waters of ARNP should your team decide to push through with its official waterbody classification. Please be informed that waterbody classification is a one-year program which includes at least ten sampling frequencies for physico-chemical parameters and 12 sampling frequencies for fecal coliform determination. You may coordinate with the Ambient Monitoring and Technical Services Section (AMTSS) under the Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division (EMED) and the Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) of Occidental Mindoro for the details of the said program.

For the information and record of the Regional Executive Director.


JOE AMIL M. SALINO



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