

SPECIAL ORDER

No. 2021 - _____

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZING THE CONDUCT OF 2021 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP (ICC) DAY ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

In the interest of the service and pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 470, Series of 2003, the observance of the 2021 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day on **September 18, 2021**, Saturday and in continuation to the adherence to the ***United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 – 2030) with the message, “The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want”*** the DENR will adopt the UNESCO Ocean Decade Challenge 1 **“Understand and Beat Marine Pollution”** and will be this year’s ICC theme and is hereby authorized.

Adopting the Ocean Decade Challenge # 1 will provide the people, particularly the new generation, a broader understanding on the land and sea-based pollution and their potential impacts to human health and ocean ecosystems, and develop solutions to remove or mitigate the same

Taking into account the operational limitations due to the COVID – 19 pandemic, the Regional Offices of the DENR are to conduct activities that limit mass gatherings to minimize exposure to COVID – 19.. Activities using social media platforms are the appropriate alternative option and small group cleanups (maximum of 10 participants per site) can be explored while observing local IATF guidelines. Personnel who are part of the A2 (Senior Citizens) and A3 (Persons with Comorbidities) group are advised not to attend. In addition, participants joining the activity are only those fully vaccinated two (2) weeks before the activity and are not exhibiting any symptoms.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has signified interest in joining the cleanup activities and they will be sending participants from the consular offices. The DFA consular offices will communicate with the Regional DENR Offices and shall follow the guidelines set by the DENR.

DENR officials and employees from the Central Office, Regional Offices, Bureaus, and Attached Agencies are authorized to participate in the said event. Attendance to the abovementioned activity shall be considered an official time. Employees attending the event who will incur official time in excess of 22 days for this month shall be entitled to compensatory offsetting privilege to be used within the year, equivalent to the incurred excess in official time for the month of this event.

The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) has designed collaterals and publicity materials that may be adopted by the different DENR offices. The logo, layout, T-shirt design, and outline of publicity materials together with the guidelines for proper usage are attached. It is in our overall campaign to reduce short term use materials that would eventually turn into litter in the ocean, hence, it is recommended to use sustainable alternatives in place of plastics in the production of IEC Materials

All Regions are therefore directed to coordinate with other concerned national agencies, NGOs, POs, and other partners for the promotion and awareness-raising of this year's ICC theme. Regional Executive Directors are authorized to issue Regional Special Orders Relevant to this celebration of the ICC at the respective area of jurisdiction with the proper observance of protocols under this COVID-19 state

Expenses to be incurred in the ICC Day including but not limited to supplies and materials shall be charged against respective DENR offices' funds. Other related and incidental expenses in the implementation of the activity at the national level shall be charged against BMB – CMEMP fund, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All regional offices shall submit a report consolidating data gathered during the ICC Day fifteen (15) days after the activity to the Coastal and Marine Division of the Biodiversity Management Bureau for national consolidation and submission to the Philippine Coordinator for Ocean Conservancy. A consolidated report shall be submitted by the BMB to the undersigned fifteen (15) days upon the completion of regional reports.

This Order takes effect immediately.

ATTY. ERNESTO D. ADOBO, JR., CESO I
Undersecretary for Legal, Administration,
Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems