



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and
Legislative Affairs

FROM : The Assistant Director
And Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Director

SUBJECT : **DRAFT SPECIAL ORDER IN CELEBRATION OF THE
MONTH OF THE OCEAN 2021**

DATE : **APR 15 2021**

REFERENCES:

Presidential Proclamation No. 57 series of 1998, Declaring the Month of May of Every Year as "The Month of the Ocean" in the Philippines

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1. The "Month of the Ocean" (MOO) is celebrated annually in the Philippines during the month of May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 issued in 1998. Specifically, Section 2 of the said Proclamation mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to spearhead the observance of the MOO in collaboration with the different sectors of the society through the conduct of activities that shall highlight the conservation, protection and sustainable management of the country's coastal and ocean resources;
2. In line with the Department's annual observance of the Month of the Ocean, the Biodiversity Management Bureau has prepared a set of activities for this year's celebration. As we enter into a new decade, the observance of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) with the message, "The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want" serves as a strong foundation and inspiration for MOO celebration henceforth;
3. The MOO 2021 will be a good opportunity to launch this theme with its vision that, "harnesses, stimulates and coordinates interdisciplinary research efforts at all levels, in order to generate and use knowledge for the transformational action needed to achieve a healthy, safe and resilient ocean for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond";
4. Hence, this year's theme for the MOO 2021 will adopt the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) with the message, "*The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want*".

5. This Bureau is working closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-Philippines to ensure the alignment and complementation of programmed activities to the objectives and outcomes for the Decade of Ocean Science;
6. Adopting the Ocean Decades as the MOO theme 2021 will provide the people particularly the new generation a broader understanding of the importance of scientific knowledge, data and information for informed policies of a well-functioning ocean and underpinning partnerships for sustainable development of our ocean;
7. Taking into account the operational limitations due to the government's response to the COVID19 pandemic, activities that do not involve mass gathering will be encouraged with due diligence and precautionary measures to minimize exposure to risks associated with COVID-19;
8. The MOO 2021 theme will be forwarded to all regions and partners for reference and guidance;
9. Consistent with the objectives and outcomes of the Decade of Ocean Science, the BMB-Coastal and Marine Division is embarking on the following activities:
 - a) **The MOO Online Ocean Jam.** The DENR-BMB values the influence of music and artists have on the youth and the people to raise awareness thru music but also foster partnership thru influencers in which in turn become ambassadors for the protection and conservation of our oceans. With these in mind it envisions a community that is aware and vigilant in the protection of the ocean through mediums such as music and social media.
 - b) **Motions for the Ocean** featuring the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) Flagship Species. These mascots will perform a choreographed dance to interpret the *Agos Ng Buhay* (CMEMP's theme song). This activity aims to inspire and take pride in their flagship species as a campaign medium to the main goal and objectives of CMEMP.
 - c) The use of social media platforms will be maximized wherein information aligned to the theme will be posted such as Filipino Marine Scientists and their contributions, fun-facts, discoveries and its relevance to people's everyday lives. Also, the DENR-BMB will create Facebook Cover Photo/Banner, Photo Picture Frame, Viber/Instagram/Facebook stickers, etc that will be shared to the Regions and Partners
 - d) **Hands-on-ARMS (Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structure) Online Storytelling for Kids:** The Hands-on-ARMS activity is one way of informing the community in a simple/laymanize manner of the current scientific research on climate change, ocean acidification, and marine biodiversity. This learning event aims to orient relevant stakeholders, particularly the youth on the importance of coastal and marine biodiversity. This event also hopes to empower and engage the youth on ocean protection through citizen science.
10. Hence, all Regional Offices are encouraged to conduct activities maximizing the use of their local social media platforms and through other means most appropriate to local communities and conditions;

11. The BMB shall collect and consolidate activity reports and other documentations on the MOO 2021 celebration once completed.

RECOMMENDATION

Foregoing considered, a draft Special Order authorizing the conduct of activities is attached for consideration and approval


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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



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