

## MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and  
Legislative Affairs and Supervising Undersecretary of Biodiversity  
Management Bureau

FROM : The OIC Director

SUBJECT : **DRAFT SPECIAL ORDER IN CELEBRATION OF THE  
MONTH OF THE OCEAN 2022**

DATE :

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### 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 its 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 view of the Department’s annual observance of this event, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) prepared a set of activities for the MOO 2022 celebration;
3. For this year’s MOO, the theme will be adopting UNESCO’s Ocean Decade *Challenge 2* “Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity”, which is anchored in the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) message, “*The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want*”;
4. This year’s theme/challenge aims to understand the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems and develop solutions to manage and restore ecosystems and rich biological diversity found therein under changing environmental and social conditions;

5. Celebrating MOO 2022 will be a good opportunity to also launch the major theme of Ecosystem Restoration that aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean;
6. This Bureau is working closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Philippines Office to ensure the alignment and complementation of our programmed activities with the objectives and outcomes for the Decade of Ocean Science;
7. The adoption of the Ocean Decades as the 2022 MOO theme will provide the people particularly the new generation a broader understanding of the importance of scientific knowledge, data and information to inform policies for a well-functioning ocean underpinning the need for partnerships for the sustainable development of our ocean;
8. After two (2) years of strict health quarantine protocols due to the global health crises brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, and subject to strict observance of protocols, activities for this year's celebration may be set live and in-person;
9. The MOO 2022 theme will be cascaded to all regions and partners for reference and guidance;
10. Consistent with the objectives and outcomes of the Decade of Ocean Science and as an output of consultations with stakeholders/partners, the BMB-Coastal and Marine Division has lined up the following activities:
  - a) **The MOO Ocean Jam - Himig ng Karagatan.** The DENR-BMB values the influence of music and artists 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. The venue for this activity will be in Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) highlighting its teeming marine biodiversity;
  - b) **Ready, COTS, Action!** - Aligning with this year's theme, the recent outbreak of the Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) in Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) needs to be highlighted and brought to a bigger platform to inform the public and urge them to take stronger actions to address the impending decimation of the rich marine biodiversity therein. Towards this end, an organized dive and public forum will be held in sequence aiming to provide knowledge on the concerned stakeholders on COTS, in preparation of the removal of COTS in the area as part of the action.
  - c) The use of social media platforms will be maximized to ensure information aligned to the theme will be posted for broader reach of audience. Also, the DENR-BMB will create Facebook Cover Photo/Banner, Photo Picture Frame, etc that will be shared to the Regions and Partners;

- d) **Hands-on-ARMS (Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structure) Outreach Activity:** The Hands-on-ARMS activity is one way of informing the community 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.
11. All Regional Offices shall have the opportunity to conduct the menu of activities most suited to local conditions, and
12. The BMB shall collect and consolidate activity reports and other documentations on the MOO 2022 celebration once conducted.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

**NATIVIDAD Y. BERNARDINO**

**SPECIAL ORDER**  
**No. 2022- \_\_\_\_\_**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZING THE CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE  
CELEBRATION OF THE MONTH OF THE OCEAN (MOO)  
FOR CY 2022**

In the interest of the service and pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 57, Series of 1998 declaring the Month of May as “The Month of the Ocean” in the Philippines is hereby authorized. 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 2 **“Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity”** and will be this year’s MOO theme. Attached are the corresponding official MOO logo and banner design to be used as campaign materials for the event. Do not alter or edit the UN logo in any way such as change the color scheme, rearrange and omit words or information. All regional offices and partners shall use the MOO logo in the production of all collaterals to be used in the conduct of MOO activities.

After two (2) years of strict health quarantine protocols due to the global health crises brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities in line with the celebration of the MOO 2022 can be set live and in person. Recommended protocols pertaining to wearing of masks and related rules will be followed

All Regions are therefore directed to coordinate with other concerned national agencies, academe, NGOs, POs and other partners for the promotion and awareness raising of this year’s MOO theme. Regional Executive Directors are authorized to issue Regional Special Orders relevant to this celebration of the MOO 2022 within their respective areas of jurisdiction with proper observance of protocols under this COVID19 state.

All expenses incurred during the celebration of the MOO 2022 at the national level shall be charged against BMB-CMD funds. Activities undertaken at the regional and field levels shall be charged against their respective offices’ funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All regions shall submit activity reports on the MOO event to the BMB thru the Coastal and Marine Division. A consolidated report on MOO 2022 shall be submitted by the BMB to the undersigned thirty (30) days upon the completion of the activity.

This Order takes effect immediately.

**ATTY. ERNESTO D. ADOBO, JR., CESO I**  
Undersecretary for Legal, Administration,  
Human Resources and Legislative Affairs





2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

Month of the Ocean 2022

# Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity

The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want







2021  
2030

United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
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# Month of the Ocean 2022

## Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity

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**2021  
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