



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Regional Executive Directors**
DENR Regions I - XIII, CAR, and NCR

FROM : **The Assistant Director**

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FOR THE HYBRID FORUM ENTITLED “READY, COTS EXTRACTION” IN LINE WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE MONTH OF THE OCEAN 2022**

DATE : **APR 21 2022**

Aligning with this year’s Month of the Ocean’s (MOO) theme “*Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity*”, we aim to raise awareness to the general public on the recent outbreak of Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) in some of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) of the country, which can be regarded as one of the threats to biodiversity. This kind of widespread infestation of COTS to our coral reefs due to changes in environmental factors (e.g. temperature) coupled with anthropogenic causes is a major challenge we face as we endeavor for increased awareness and collective action for the protection and sustainable management of our marine ecosystems.

In line with this, one of the launching activities in celebration of the MOO is the conduct of a hybrid forum entitled, “**Ready, COTS ExtrACTION**”. This forum aims to discuss the biology and ecology of COTS and delve further into the management interventions in addressing their proliferation in the rich marine waters of the archipelago. The forum will also be held in Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) as one of the MPAs with recently recorded outbreaks of COTS.

In view of the above, we would like to invite your select personnel to attend the forum via **Zoom, on 02 May 2022, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**. Attached also is the program of the activities for ease of reference.

Relative to this, the select participants are advised to register through the link provided herein **on or before 28 April 2022** — <https://tinyurl.com/ReadyCOTSExtractionReg>. Further, please see below the Zoom details for your reference:

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82698318885?pwd=TzRDTUFaTzhGVFhidTB5cE11ZFExZz09>
Meeting ID: 826 9831 8885
Passcode: 130378

For your consideration.



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



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