



February 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director

THRU : The Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services

FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer

SUBJECT : **REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION ON THE ALLEGED DAMAGE/DESTRUCTION OF SEA GRASS AND OTHER MARINE RESOURCES**

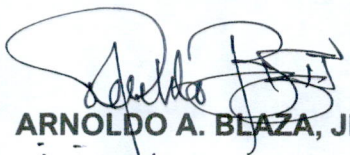

This refers to the Joint Order issued on February 6, 2023, in which this office is ordered to conduct investigation on the potentially damaged sea grass and other marine resources. A team was then created through a PENRO Special Order No. 23-20 dated February 7, 2023, to conduct the rapid assessment of possible damage to sea grass and other marine resources.

Results of the assessment/investigation showed that rocks and pebbles, rocks with algae and sand were existent in the surrounding area of the causeway project. There were no seagrasses and corals found at the assessed area.

Moreover, this office recommends seeking technical assistance from expert divers (preferably Marine Biologist) from the office of BMB and ERDB to further assess the alleged damage/destruction of sea grass and other marine resources.

Attached is the report of the assessment team.

For your information.


ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.




February 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

THRU : The Chief, Technical Services Division

FROM : The Assessment/Investigation Team

**SUBJECT : REPORT ON THE RAPID ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION ON
THE ALLEGED DAMAGE/DESTRUCTION OF SEA GRASS
AND OTHER MARINE RESOURCES**

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the **Joint Order** issued by the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Lormelyn E. Claudio, Regional Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau Engr. Glenn C. Noble, and Regional Director of Environmental Management Bureau Joe Amil M. Salino dated February 6, 2023, an Assessment Team was created thru PENRO Special Order No. dated February 7, 2023.

The team conducted investigation/assessment on the potentially damaged sea grass and other marine resources incurred during the construction of the causeway project by the ALTAI Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC).

ACTIONS TAKEN

On February 8, 2023, the team coordinated with the Municipal Mayor of San Fernando, Hon. Nanette B. Tansingco regarding the said assessment. The team provided details on the assessment to be undertaken. With the assistance of Mayor Tansingco, she provided the team with logistics such as diving gear (snorkel and booties) and motorboat from the MDRRMC office and Bantay Gubat respectively.

The team also coordinated with Barangay España, San Fernando thru Kagawad Jun Rey Romero. A coordination was also done with the Philippine Coast Guard – Magdiwang and Cajidiocan Substation led by PO1 Paul Anthony T Marceño and with San Fernando Municipal Police Station thru Police Corporal Reman M Real.



METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION

Initially, the team conducted ocular observation of the surrounding area of the constructed causeway located at Sitio Bato, Barangay España, San Fernando, Romblon. The shoreline extending towards Northwest is consists of loose particles of rocks and gravel. Moreover, the shoreline extending towards Southeast of the causeway project also consists of loose particles of rocks and gravel.

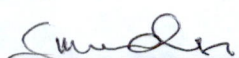
The team then marked coordinates of the extent of potentially damaged area. The team were able to mark four waypoints covering the extent of the possible damaged site. The team performed skin diving to assess the area. An underwater photo documentation was carried out to support the conduct of possible damage assessment of the sea grass and other marine resources (*please see attached photos*).

Results of the assessment/investigation revealed that rocks, rocks with algae and sand were existent in the surrounding area of the causeway. There were no sea grass and corals found at the alleged damaged area particularly at the vicinity of the causeway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing result, the team further recommends the following actions to be taken:

1. PENRO Romblon and LGU San Fernando shall closely monitor the activities (i.e., arrival and departure of vessels/barge) of APMC at the constructed causeway project to ensure that no damage will be sustained at the area.
2. Seek technical assistance from expert divers (preferably Marine Biologists) from the office of ERDB and BMB to further assess the alleged damage/destruction of sea grass and other marine resources.
3. Harmonization of all policies of each collaborating National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Local Government Units (LGUs).


JAMES M. MENDOZA
Forester II/Team Leader


SHEILLA JANE M. FORLALES
Forester II/Member

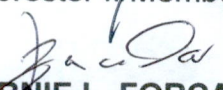

ERNIE L. FORCADAS
FTI



PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Figure 1. Assessment Team coordinates with Municipal Mayor Nanette Tansingco of San Fernando, Romblon



Figure 2. Coordination with Kagawad Jun Rey Romero of Brgy. Espana and Philippine Coast Guard - Magdiwang and Cajidiocan Substation headed by PO1 Marceño.



Figure 3. Ocular observation of the surrounding area together with San Fernando MPS and PCG-Magdiwang and Cajidiocan Substation and Kgd Romero



Figure 4. View of the causeway, LCT type vessel and shoreline extending towards northwest of the causeway



Figure 5. Shoreline extending towards southeast of the causeway



Figure 6. The team conducts assessment of possible damage to sea grass and other marine resources

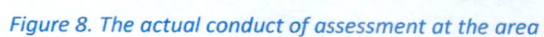
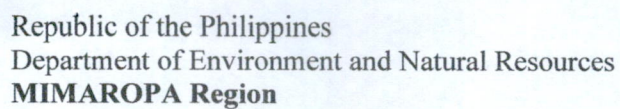




Figure 9. The assessment team composed of Team Leader, For. James Mendoza (center) and members, For. Sheilla Jane Forlales (last) and FT I Ernie Forcadas (front)



UNDERWATER PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

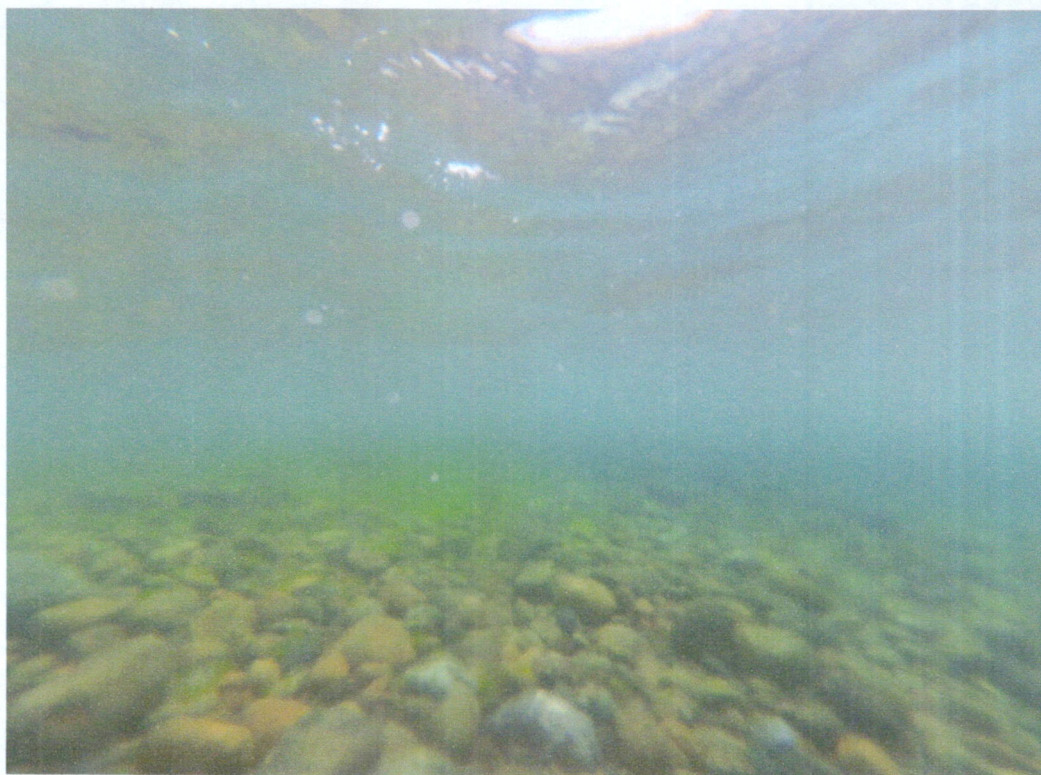


Figure 10. Rocks and rubbles

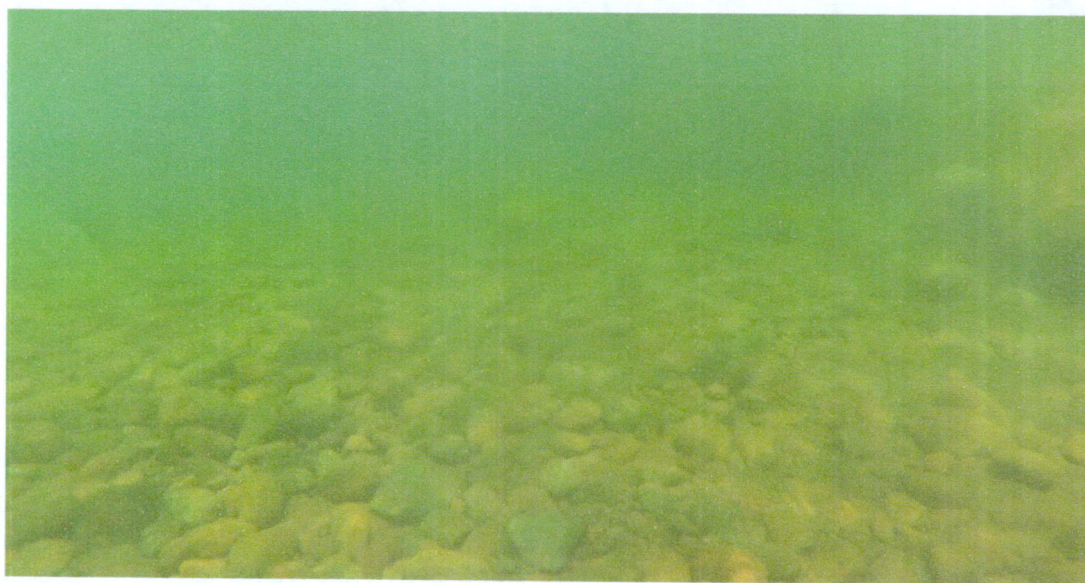


Figure 11. Rocks and pebbles



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
