



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **USEC. MARILOU G. ERNI**  
Chief of Staff and Supervising Undersecretary for  
Strategic Communications  
Task Force Commander, Task Force Naujan Oil Spill

FROM : **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
EMB – MIMAROPA Region

SUBJECT : **SITUATIONAL REPORT RE OIL SPILL IN NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO**

DATE : 07 March 2023

This is to apprise the Undersecretary on the situation regarding the oil spill due to capsized vessel in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro and the actions taken by the DENR – EMB MIMAROPA Region:

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

On 28 February 2023, it was reported by various media outlets that MT Princess Empress, an oil tanker, carrying more or less 800,000 liters of industrial oil, sank off along the coast of Tablas Strait in Balingwan Point, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Based on the preliminary reports from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) situated in Oriental Mindoro, the vessel came from Bataan and on its way to Iloilo when it encountered engine trouble due to overheating until it drifted towards the coast of Balingawan Point and eventually submerged.

On 01 March 2023, Governor Humerlito Dolor of the Province of Oriental Mindoro has officially reported through his Facebook account that the MT Princess Empress has sunk.

Relative thereto, the Department, through its various social media platforms, posted an official statement announcing the creation of “Task Force Naujan Oil Spill” which will be headed by Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Marilou Erni as Task Force Commander.

The Philippine Coast Guard, particularly its Marine Environmental Protection Command, is designated as the lead agency tasked with response operations in its affected area.

In response to the reports that the capsizing of the vessel resulted to an oil spill from the diesel fuel of the ship, this Office has immediately deployed personnel from the

Provincial Environmental Management Unit – Oriental Mindoro to conduct water sampling in areas which have been identified to have been potentially affected by the oil spill.

On 03 March 2023, Mayor Jennifer Cruz of LGU – Pola, Oriental Mindoro has declared a state of calamity, due to the massive extent of the impact of the oil spill in the Municipality of Pola, Oriental Mindoro.

Later that day, Petron Philippines issued a statement wherein it has clarified that the 800,0000 liters of industrial fuel oil carried by MT Princess Empress was not sourced from the Petron Bataan Refinery nor does the company own the fuel oil cargo carried by the vessel. Petron adds that the company has stopped producing fuel oil since 2016.

Petron also announced that their Waterborne Industry Oil Spill Equipment (WISE) has already been deployed to assist in the containment of the oil spill. The WISE vessel reached the incident site at 3:20 AM of March 1, 2023 and is now in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard.

Furthermore, Petron's Bataan Refinery and Mabini Terminal have also extended assistance by making their oil spill boom teams and equipment available to further aid in the containment and clearing operations.

On the evening of 03 March 2023, RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES (RDC), the registered owner of MT Princess Empress, issued a statement through various media outlets.

In their statement, RDC announced that they have already deployed technical experts on the ground, air, and sea to conduct an assessment of the affected areas and come up with an effective dispatch strategy for containing and mitigating the oil spill on the shoreline.

Further, RDC also stated that they have been assisting the PCG in procuring oil spill collection equipment, such as disposable PPEs, open-ended drums, gas masks, and diesel allocation, among others.

Lastly, RDC ensured the concerned local government units of their commitment in providing support despite limited resources and that the company will continue to work closely with the authorities and affected communities until the matter is fully resolved.

At 6:48 PM of 03 March 2023, PCG Region 6 posted an update through the official social media platform, regarding the presence of an undetermined quantity of oil slick within the shorelines of Semirara Island and Liwagao Island in Caluya, Antique.

As of 04 March 2023, the PCG, through their official social media accounts, has confirmed that the impact of the oil spill has reached the shorelines of Caluya, Antique.

Specifically, oil slicks were found in the following barangays of Caluya, Antique, to wit:

1. Sitio Sabang, Brgy. Tinogboc (1 kilometer);
2. Liwagao Island, Brgy. Sibolo (2 kilometers);
3. Sitio Tambak, Brgy. Semirara (2 kilometers)

On the same day, Governor Dolor of the Province of Oriental Mindoro has issued a letter addressed to the Embassy of Japan, through Sec. Enrique Manalo of the Department of Foreign Affairs, requesting for assistance and provision of Oil Containment Booms and other equipment that will help contain the oil spill and mitigate the damage to the waterbodies of Oriental Mindoro.

Furthermore, the Provincial Health Office – Oriental Mindoro directed the local residents to temporarily cease from participating in coastal clean-up operations due to lack of protective gears.

As of 06 March 2023, the Provincial Government of Mindoro has declared a state of calamity in seventy-six (76) coastal barangays across nine municipalities of Oriental Mindoro due to the massive impact caused by the oil spill to the following municipalities, to wit:

1. Municipality of Naujan
2. Municipality of Pola
3. Municipality of Pinamalayan
4. Municipality of Gloria
5. Municipality of Bansud
6. Municipality of Bongabong
7. Municipality of Roxas
8. Municipality of Mansalay
9. Municipality of Bulalacao

On the same day, the Sangguniang Bayan of Caluya, Antique has also passed Resolution No. 31 placing the municipality under the state of calamity. Specifically, the Resolution identified Sitio Sabang in Brgy. Tinogboc, Taong, Banua Proper, and Sitio Balibago in Brgy. Semirara, and Sitio Liwagao in Brgy. Sibolo as areas which have been affected by the oil spill in Antique.

## **II. EFFECTS**

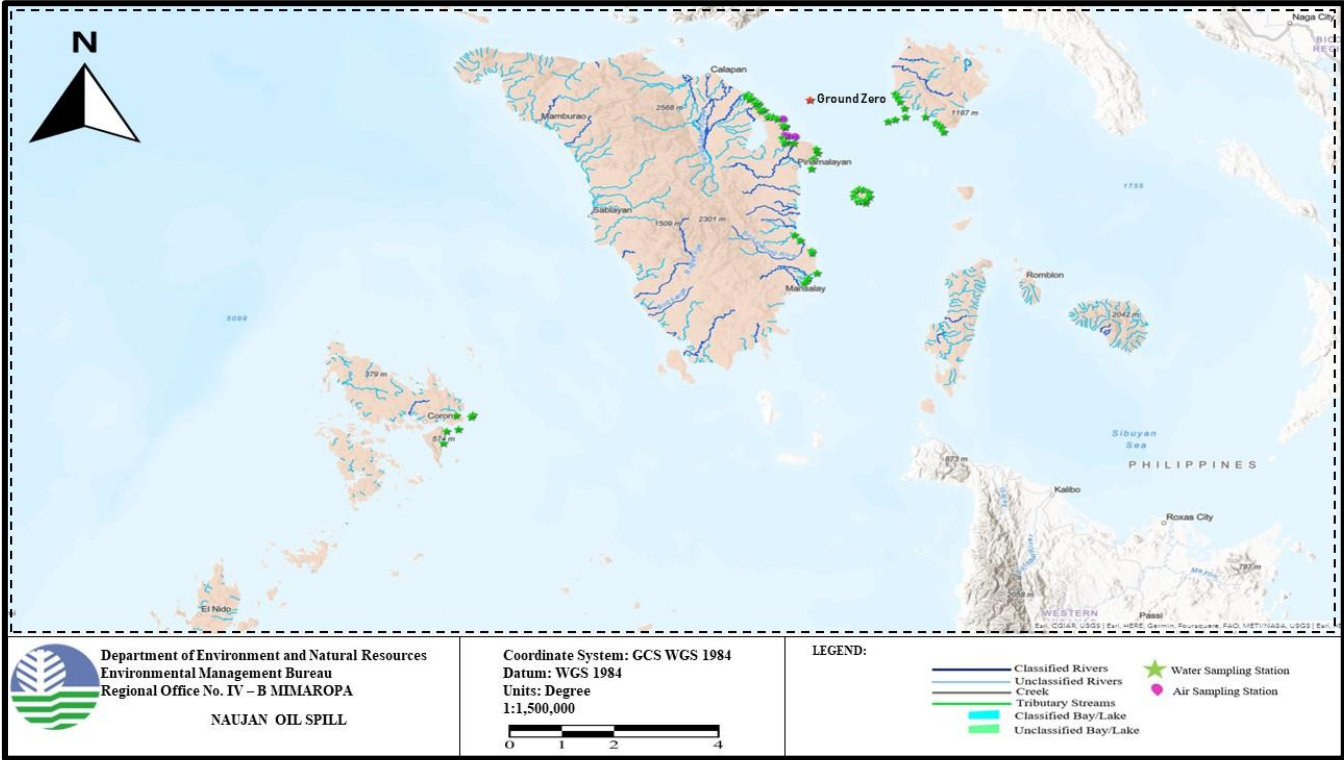
As of date, reports of fish kill and seeping of industrial fuel oil has reached the surrounding water bodies of Oriental Mindoro, including mangrove areas and marine protected areas as a result of the oil spill.

## **III. ACTIONS TAKEN BY DENR**

Since 01 March 2023, this Office continues to monitor the all the water bodies and protected areas potentially affected by the oil spill. Our teams from the Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) – Oriental Mindoro continuously conducts water quality sampling on the areas potentially affected by the oil spill and closely coordinates with various government agencies to assess the extent of the impact of the oil spill and assist in the coastal clean-up operations.

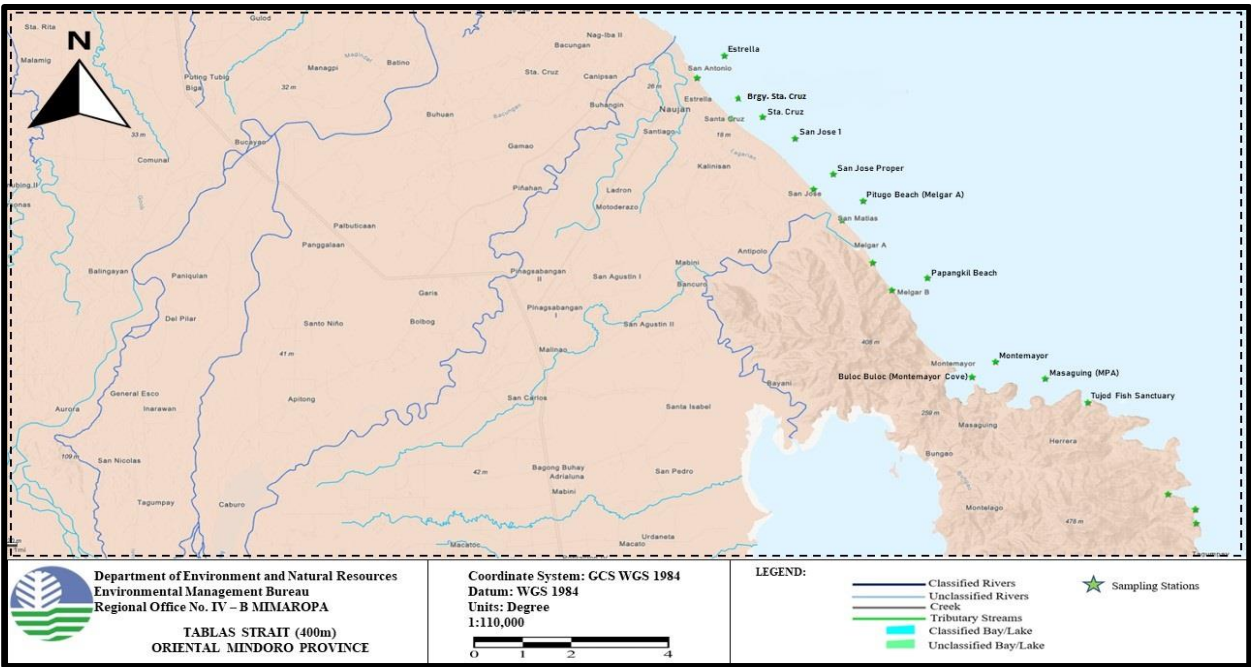
Based on the results of analysis from the samples taken from the following sampling stations from March 1 to 5, 2023, the presence of Oil and Grease in waterbodies of Oriental Mindoro has exceeded the Water Quality Guidelines (WQG) under DENR Administrative Order No. 2016 – 08.

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS – GROUND ZERO



Source	Station No.	Station Identification	Date of Sampling	Results	Classification	WQG	Remarks
Alleged oil Spillage Area in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro	1	13°18.924 N, 121°31.854 E 11 kms from the coast of Brgy Estrella Naujan	March 1, 2023	36 mg/L	Class SD	5 mg/L	EXCEEDANCE
Tablas Strait (Oil Spillage Area), Naujan, Oriental Mindoro	1	13.314983, 121.529231 Balingawan Point (Oil Spillage Area)	March 2, 2023	8 mg/L	Class SD	5 mg/L	EXCEEDANCE

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS – NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO

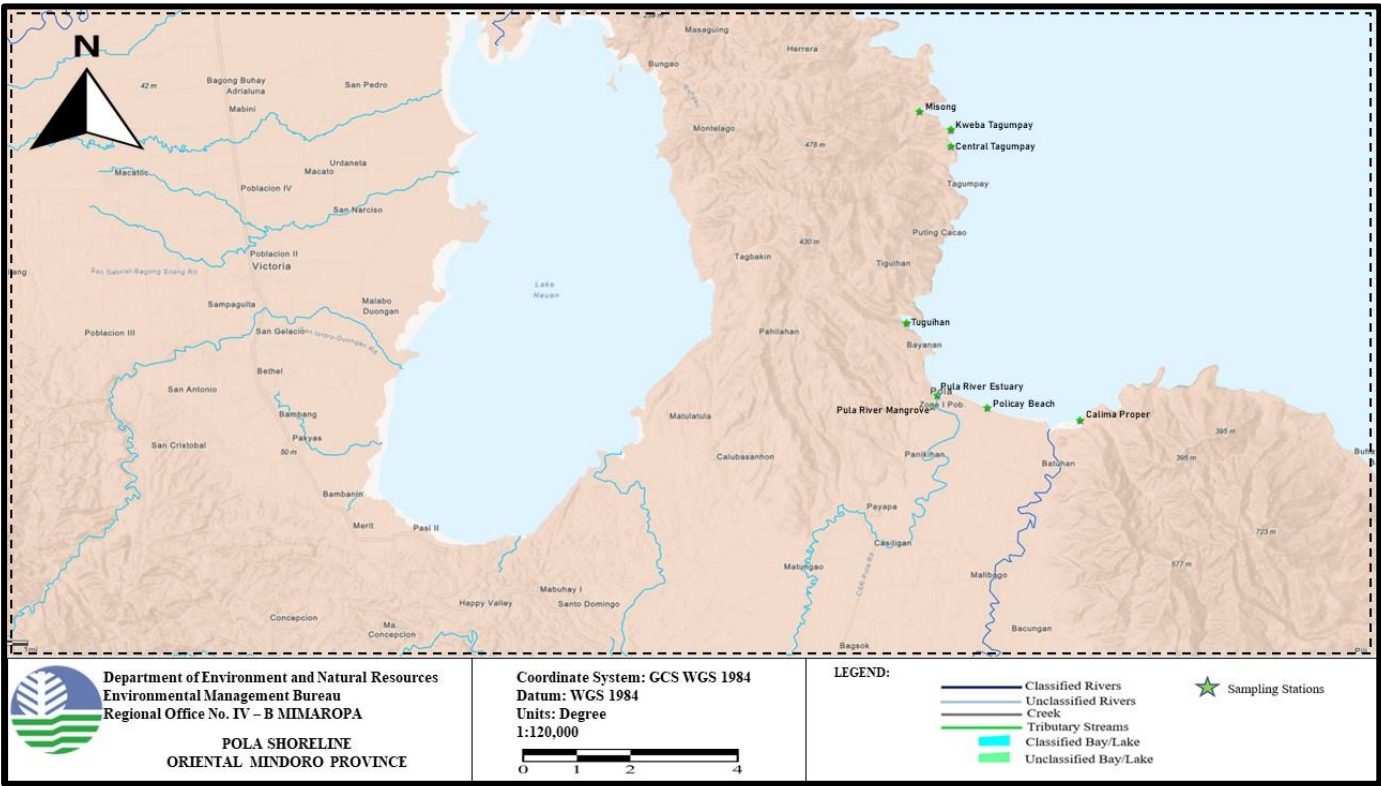






Source	Station No.	Station Identification	Classification	WQG	Date of Sampling				
					March 1, 2023	March 2, 2023	March 3, 2023	March 4, 2023	March 5, 2023
Pinamalayan Bay (MPA), Oriental Mindoro	1	Simborio Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	9 mg/L	4 mg/L	9 mg/L	3 mg/L
	2	Ginapangan Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	47 mg/L	6 mg/L	17 mg/L	3 mg/L
	3	Pili Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	6 mg/L	5 mg/L
	4	Ranzo Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	3 mg/L	6 mg/L	2 mg/L	3 mg/L

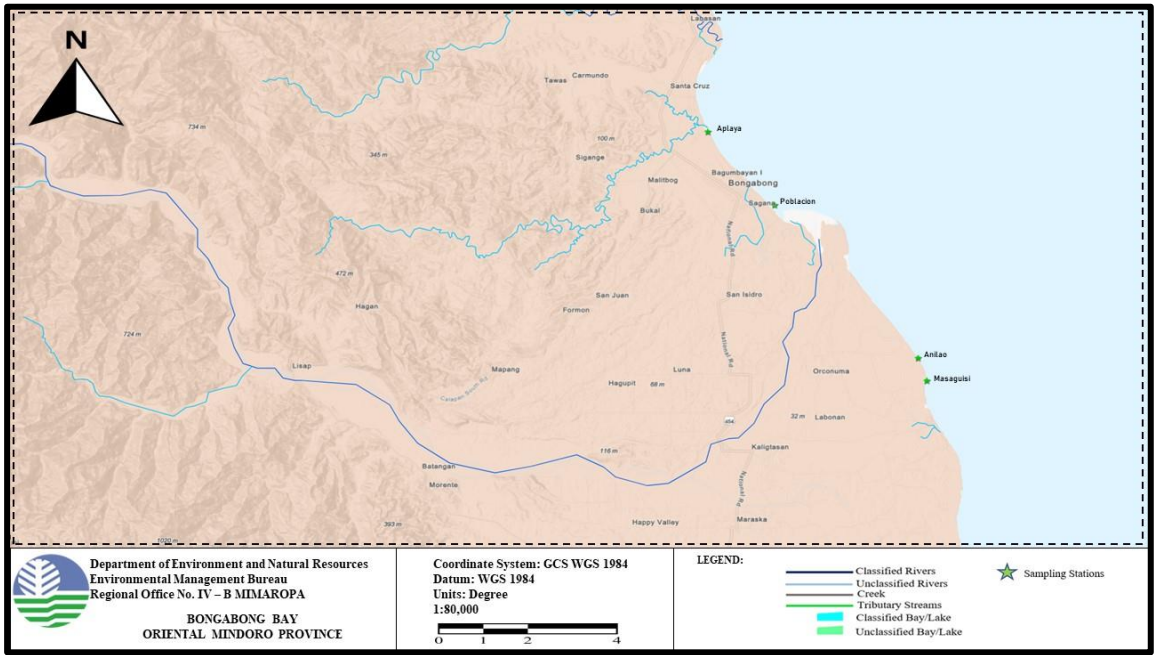
SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO



Source	Station No.	Station Identification	Classification	WQG	Date of Sampling				
					March 1, 2023	March 2, 2023	March 3, 2023	March 4, 2023	March 5, 2023
Tablas Strait (Pola Bay), Pola, Oriental Mindoro		Kwebang Tagumpay	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	10 mg/L	-	-
		Tugihan	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	6 mg/L	25 mg/L	-
		Pula River Estuary	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	-
		Pula River Mangrove	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	-	-	14 mg/L	-

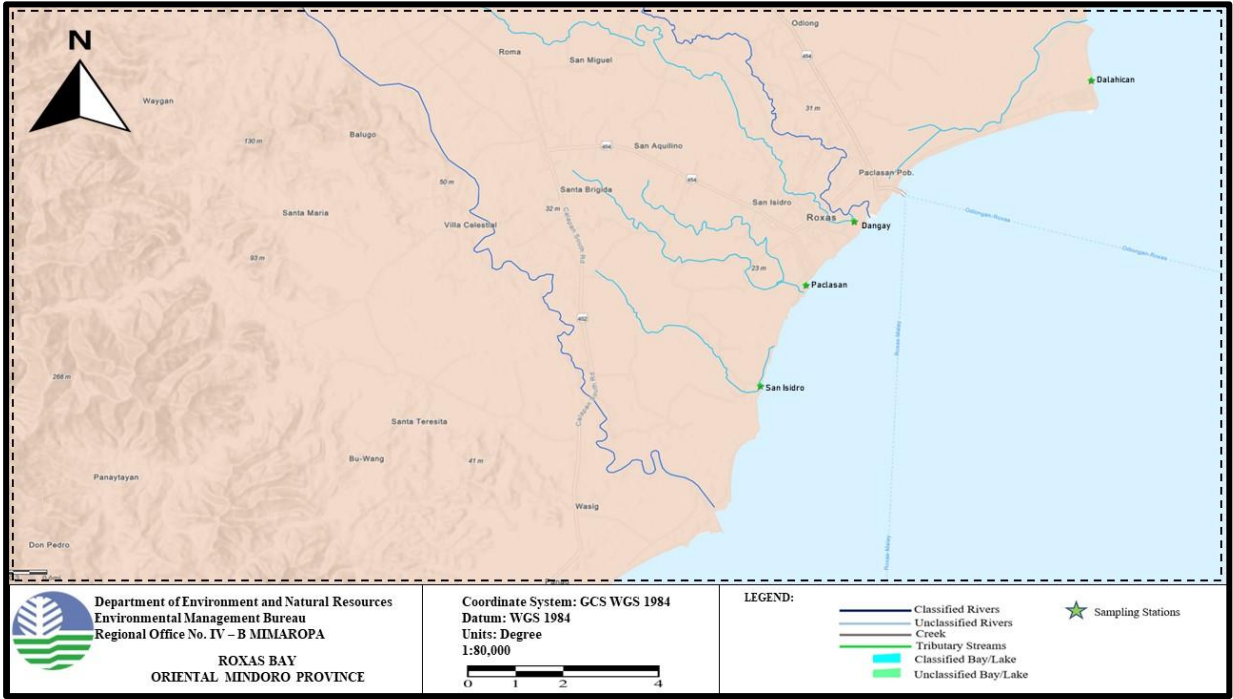
Source	Station No.	Station Identification	Classification	WQG	Date of Sampling				
					March 1, 2023	March 2, 2023	March 3, 2023	March 4, 2023	March 5, 2023
Pola Shoreline	1	Calima Proper	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	3 mg/L	8 mg/L	5 mg/L	-
	2	Polacay Beach	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	1 mg/L	4 mg/L	5 mg/L	-
	3	Central Tagumpay	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	10 mg/L	7 mg/L	15 mg/L	-
	4	Misong	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	20 mg/L	5 mg/L	3 mg/L	-

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - BONGABONG, ORIENTAL MINDORO



Source	Station No.	Station Identification	Classification	WQG	Date of Sampling				
					March 1, 2023	March 2, 2023	March 3, 2023	March 4, 2023	March 5, 2023
Bongabong Bay, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro	1	Aplaya	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	5 mg/L	10 mg/L	3 mg/L
	2	Poblacion	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	6 mg/L	2 mg/L
	3	Anilao	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	6 mg/L	11 mg/L	<1 mg/L
	4	Masaguisi	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	3 mg/L	6 mg/L	13 mg/L

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO



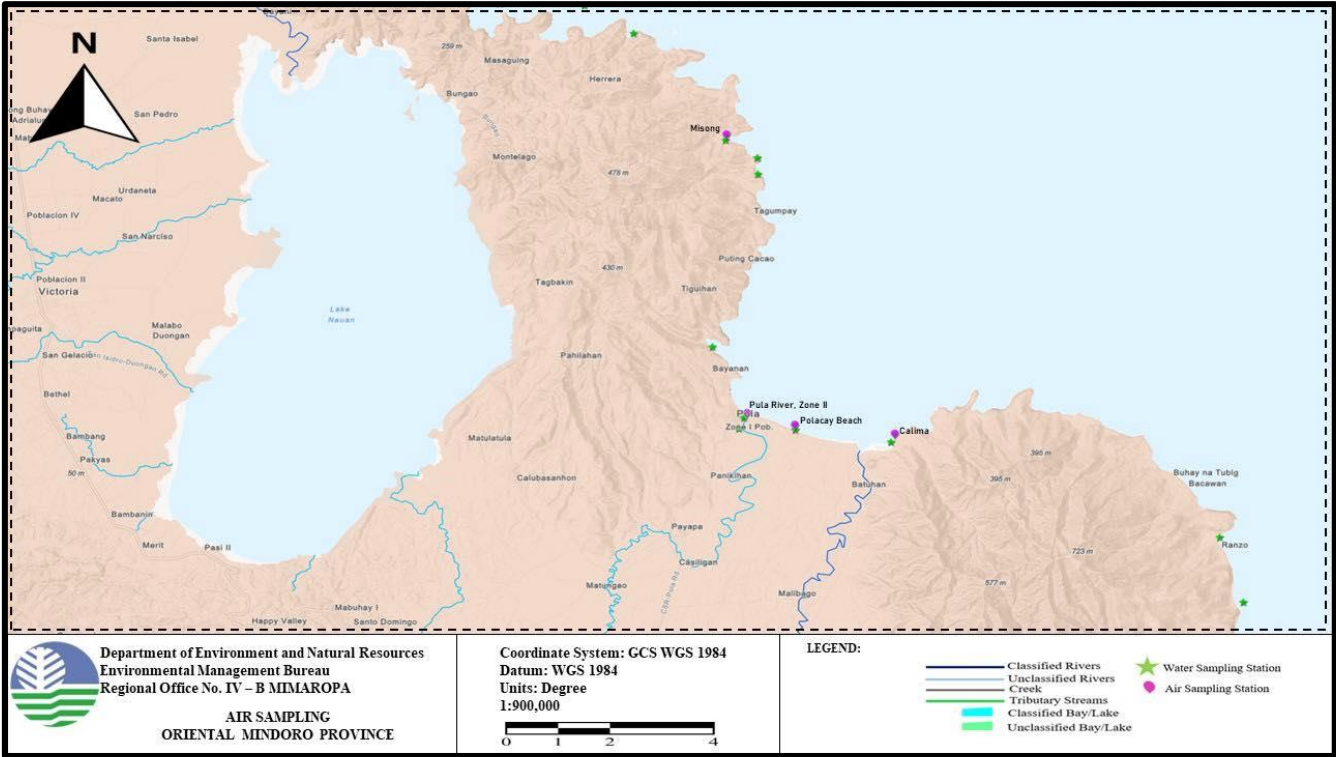
Source	Station No.	Station Identification	Classification	WQG	Date of Sampling				
					March 1, 2023	March 2, 2023	March 3, 2023	March 4, 2023	March 5, 2023
Roxas Bay, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro	1	Dalahican	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	6 mg/L	14 mg/L
	2	Dangay	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	5 mg/L	3 mg/L
	3	Paclasan	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	2 mg/L
	4	San Isidro	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	3 mg/L	15 mg/L	<1 mg/L



On 05 March 2023, personnel from Optimal Laboratories have assisted our personnel from the Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) – Oriental Mindoro in conducting ambient air sampling at Brgy. Misong, Brgy. Calima, Polacay Beach and Casiligan River in Pola, Oriental Mindoro.

On 07 March 2023, the results of the ambient air sampling was released. Based on the results of the samples, the parameters for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Source Specific Air Pollutants from Industrial Sources/Operations under Republic Act 8749 otherwise known as The Philippine Clean Air Act.

AMBIENT AIR SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO



AIR SAMPLING STATIONS	COORDINATES		Nitrogen Dioxide (ug/Ncm)	National Air Ambient Air Quality Standards for Source Specific Air Pollutants from Industrial Sources/Operations	Remarks	Sulfur Dioxide (ug/Ncm)	National Air Ambient Air Quality Standards for Source Specific Air Pollutants from Industrial Sources/Operations	Remarks
	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE						
1. <u>Brgy. Misong</u>	13.2122643	121.4381515	11	260	Passed	8	340	Passed
2. <u>Calima</u>	13.13860563	121.4775451	3	260	Passed	6	340	Passed
3. <u>Polacay Beach</u>	13.14084606	121.4542205	2	260	Passed	12	340	Passed
4. <u>Casiligan River</u>	13.14368984	121.4429454	2	260	Passed	9	340	Passed

As previously reported, this Office has also conducted water quality sampling in the following sampling locations in Coron, Palawan, to wit:

1. Diwaran Island
2. Dimatuya Reef North
3. Dimatuya Reef South



4. Dibatang Island, Coron South
5. Banwang Daan, Coron Island
6. Cabugao



Furthermore, our Office has also received seventy (70) boxes of KN95 as donation from Temasek Foundation International thru Filinvest Land Inc. as represented by Arch. Noel Advincula - Assistant Vice President, Mr. Rainer Pantua - Senior Manager, Engr. Injing T. Gitalan – Manager. Also, Coral Bay Nickel Corporation donated five (5) boxes of absorbent pads.

Lastly, Mr. Adz Hazen Dimapilis, EMS II, of our Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division will be attending the Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health at the Department of Health – Central Office today to discuss the background and updates on the status of the oil spill situation.

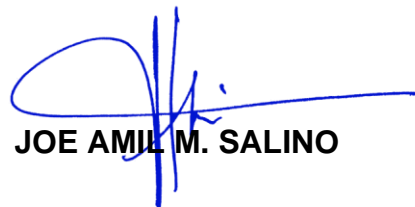
We will be providing additional updates as soon as verified information becomes available.

#### IV. WAYS AHEAD

This Office will also be conducting water quality sampling in certain locations in Agutaya, Palawan which were identified as areas with oil slicks sightings, as soon as weather conditions permit us and gale warning has been lifted by the Philippine Coast Guard . Furthermore, this Office will also be having a coordination meeting with other EMB Regions and Philippine Coast Guard for the possibility of filing of appropriate cases against the vessel owner.

This Office shall continue to monitor the situation and apprise the Undersecretary on all the latest situation development.

For the Undersecretary's information, reference and further instructions, if any.

  
**JOE AMIL M. SALINO**

***Copy furnished:***

**ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I**

*Undersecretary for Field Operations  
Luzon, Visayas, and Environment*

**ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES, CESO I**

*Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs*

**LORMELYN A. CLAUDIO, CESO IV**

*Regional Executive Director  
DENR – MIMAROPA Region*



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