



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 : 08 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**

On 07 March 2023, the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro together with various government agencies conducted a press briefing to update the members of the media of the latest status regarding the oil spill.

During the press conference, the Philippine Coast Guard provided an update on the structure of organization pertaining to the clean-up operations, to wit:

1. Department of Health shall be in charge of placing health protocols;
2. Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office shall be in charge of logistics;
3. PCG – Marine Environmental Protection Unit

3.1 Harbor Star was contracted by the PCG to hire workers from the affected fisherfolks, based on the list provided by the local government units, who will assist in the clean-up operations;

3.2 Offshore – Malayan Offshore clean-up

4. Municipal Agriculturist Office and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;
5. DENR will be in charge with the collection and disposal of toxic wastes and oil contaminated wastes.

The Hon. Maria Antonia Yulo – Loyzaga, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was joined by Usec. Jonas Leones, Usec. Juan Miguel Cuna and DENR – MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Lormelyn Claudio, in providing the updates on the actions being taken by the Department.

Sec. Loyzaga stated that the Department are undertaking three (3) actions, specifically:

1. Disaster Forensics is being conducted in partnership with the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UP – MSI) in making projection models of the locations where the oil spill will spread.

The Secretary highlighted the importance of Disaster Forensics stating that it can help in preventing the oil spill from reaching Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), beachlines, etc. and addressing the potential social impact to the communities.

2. Coastal Clean-up specifically on disposal of oil-based wastes. The Secretary also emphasized that these wastes must be sealed and placed on a temporary storage.

### 3. Air and Water Quality Sampling

Moreover, during the press conference, Sec. Loyzaga also mentioned the use of organic and fibrous materials by the Environmental Management Bureau, such as coconut coirs as alternative oil absorbent materials and spill boom.

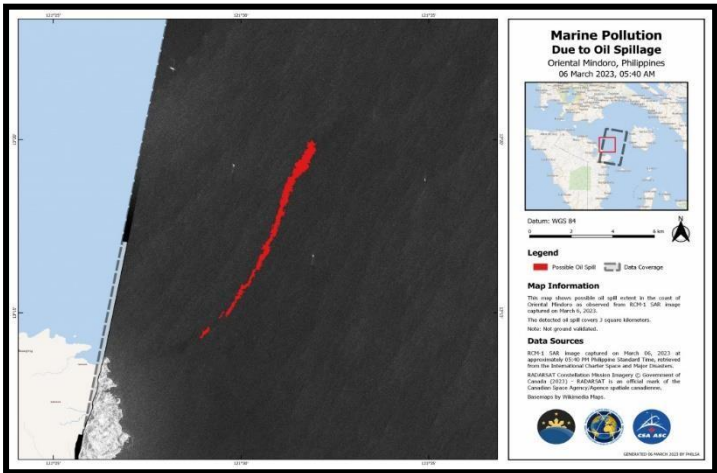
Finally, the Secretary expressed that the Department is committed in containing and mitigating the oil spill and restore the livelihood of residents affected by the oil spill.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health (DOH) has reported that they have recorded eighteen (18) oil spill related health incidents in Pola, Oriental Mindoro, mostly respiratory through inhalation. Likewise, they have already placed advisories and notices cautioning residents to move and cease from going 100 meters from the shoreline.

Further, DOH also requested for the clean-up operations to be conducted immediately to minimize the exposure of residents affected by the oil spill due to the health hazards which it may pose.

Gov. Dolor of the Province of Oriental Mindoro also announced during the press conference that the PLGU will be sharing to the media the official results on water quality everyday while the results of air quality will be released every three (3) days, after 5:00 PM.

At 4:38 PM, the Philippine Space Agency, through their official social media platforms has posted an update showing the possible extent of the oil spill in the coast of Oriental Mindoro.

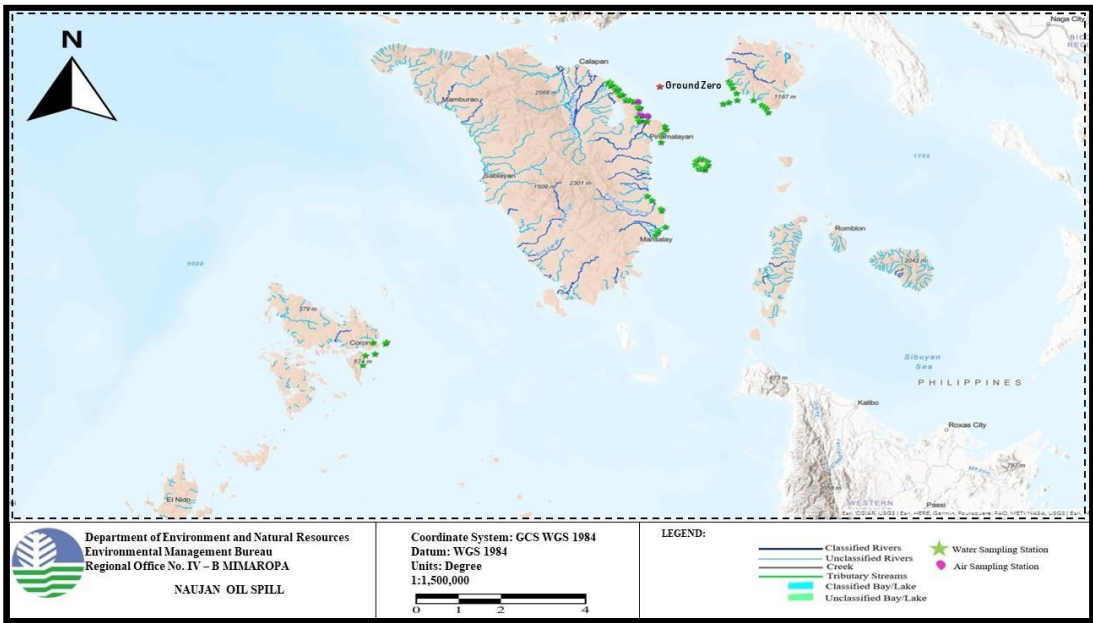


Based on the image taken by RCMI – SAR on 06 March 2023, the detected oil spill covers 3 square kilometers.

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 6, 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.

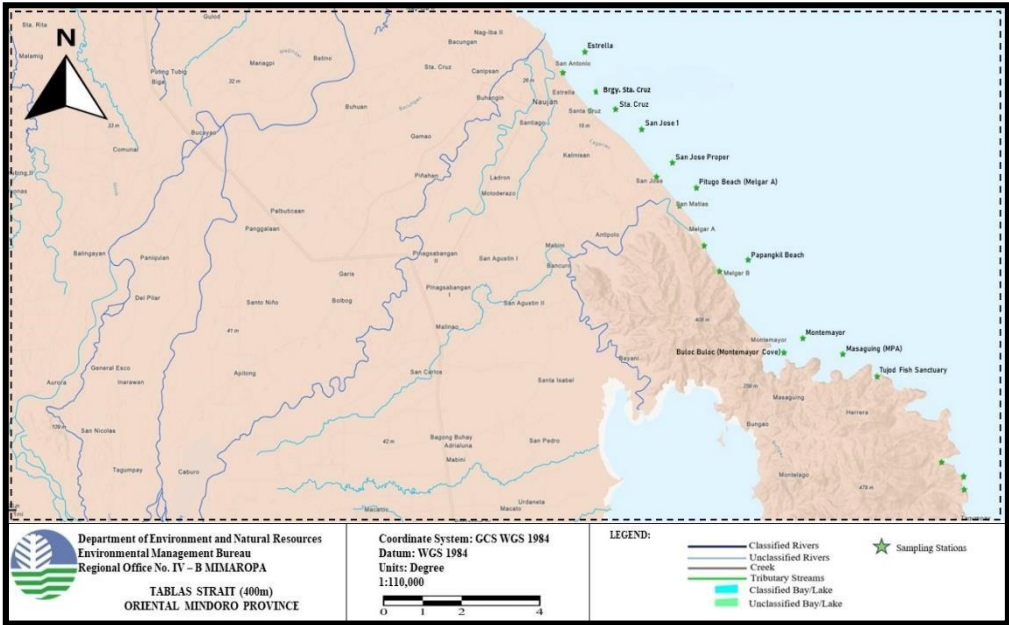
**SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS – GROUND ZERO**





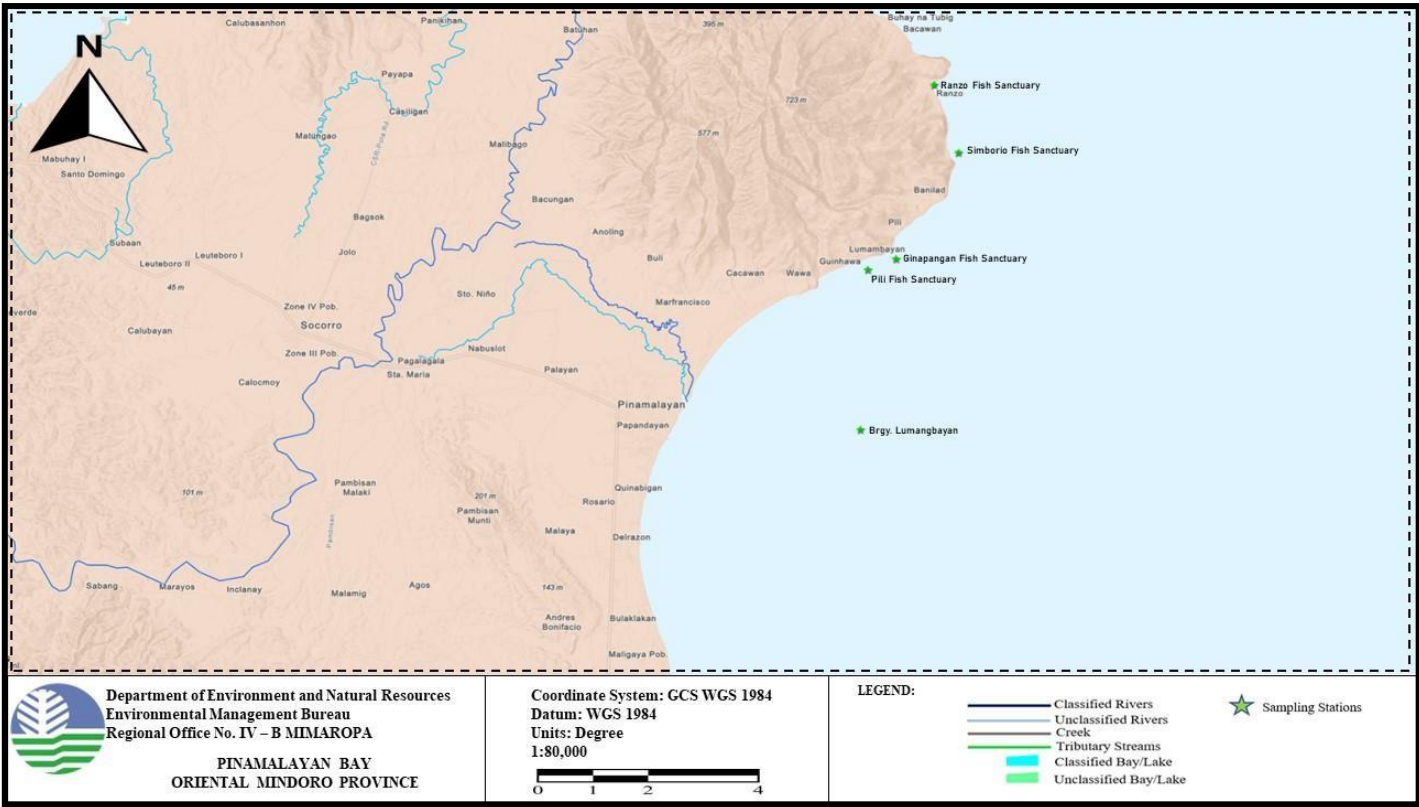
Source	Station No.	Station Identification	Date of Sampling	Results	Classification	WQG	Remarks
Alleged oil Spillage Area in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro	1	13°18.924 N, 121°31.854 E 11 kms from the coast of Brgy Estrella Naujan	March 1, 2023	36 mg/L	Class SD	5 mg/L	EXCEEDANCE
Tablas Strait (Oil Spillage Area), 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	March 6, 2023
Naujan Municipal Waters	1	Estrella	Class SB	2 mg/L	2 mg/L	5 mg/L	3 mg/L	8 mg/L	3 mg/L	<1 mg/L
	2	Sta. Cruz	Class SB	2 mg/L	13 mg/L	5 mg/L	3 mg/L	13 mg/L	<1 mg/L	3 mg/L
	3	San Jose (Sitio Pitoño)	Class SB	2 mg/L	<1 mg/L	4 mg/L	49 mg/L	9 mg/L	16 mg/L	1 mg/L
	4	San Jose (Sitio 1)	Class SB	2 mg/L	11 mg/L	5 mg/L	8 mg/L	12 mg/L	10 mg/L	3 mg/L
	5	Antipolo/San Jose Proper	Class SB	2 mg/L	21 mg/L	-	-	-	-	-
	6	Brgy. Melgar A/ Pitoño Beach	Class SB	2 mg/L	7 mg/L	8 mg/L	3 mg/L	15 mg/L	2 mg/L	5 mg/L
	7	Melgar B/ Papankil Beach	Class SB	2 mg/L	9 mg/L	5 mg/L	6 mg/L	11mg/L	<1 mg/L	9 mg/L
	8	Buloc-Buloc Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	<1 mg/L	-	-	9 mg/L	-	
	9	Montemayor Proper	Class SA	1 mg/L	2 mg/L	-	-	5 mg/L	-	
	10	Masaguing	Class SA	1 mg/L	<1 mg/L	-	-	12 mg/L	-	
	11	Tujod Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	15 mg/L	-	-	8 mg/L	-	

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - PINAMALAYAN, 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	March 6, 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 mg/L
	2	Ginapangan Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	47 mg/L	6 mg/L	17 mg/L	3 mg/L	1 mg/L
	3	Pili Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	6 mg/L	5 mg/L	1 mg/L
	4	Ranzo Fish Sanctuary	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	3 mg/L	6 mg/L	2 mg/L	3 mg/L	16 mg/L

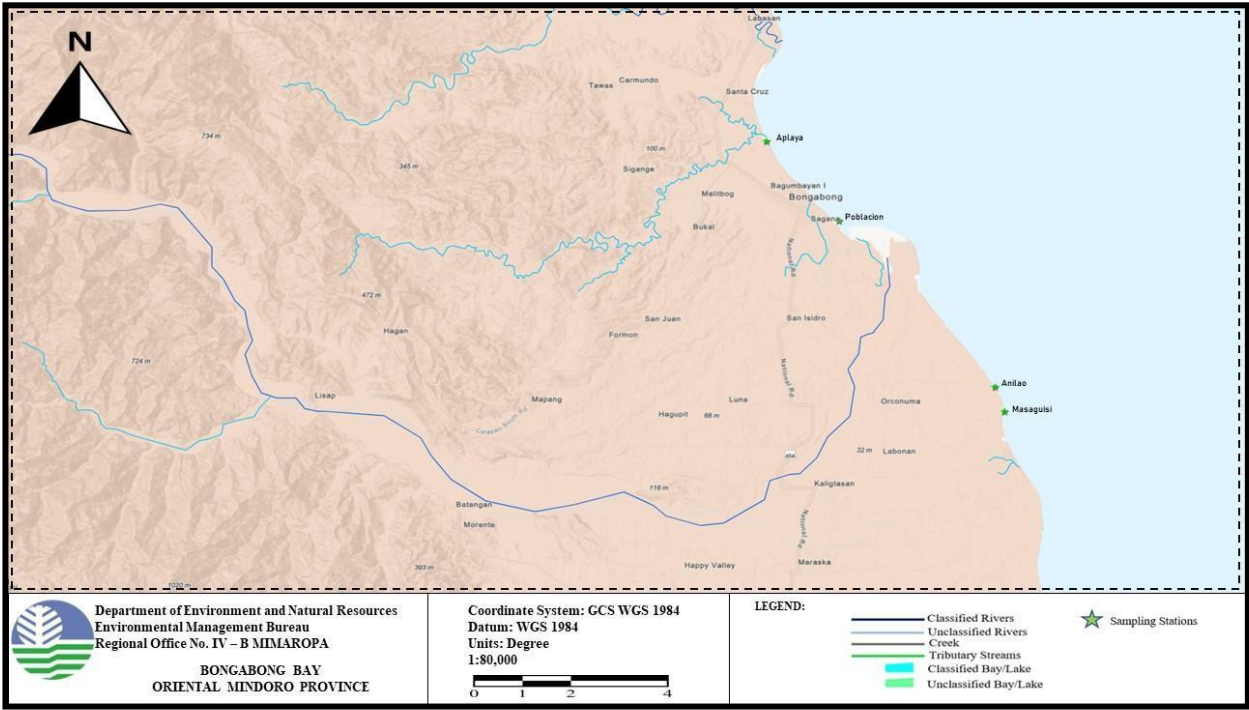
SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO

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	March 6, 2023
Pola Shoreline	1	Misong MPA	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	20 mg/L	5 mg/L	3 mg/L	-	4 mg/L
	2	Central Tagumpay MPA	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	10 mg/L	7 mg/L	15 mg/L	-	7 mg/L
	3	Tuguihan MPA	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	-	6 mg/L	25 mg/L	-	5 mg/L
	4	Casiligan River Estuary	Class SC	3 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	-	4 mg/L
	5	Calima MPA	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	3 mg/L	8 mg/L	5 mg/L	-	-
	6	Polacay Beach	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	1 mg/L	4 mg/L	5 mg/L	-	-
	7	Casiligan River Mangrove	Class SA	1 mg/L	-	-	-	14 mg/L	-	-
		Kwebang Tagumpay	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	10 mg/L	-	-	-

\*maps and names of waterbodies are still subject to change upon verification/validation with our field personnel and coordination with LGUs

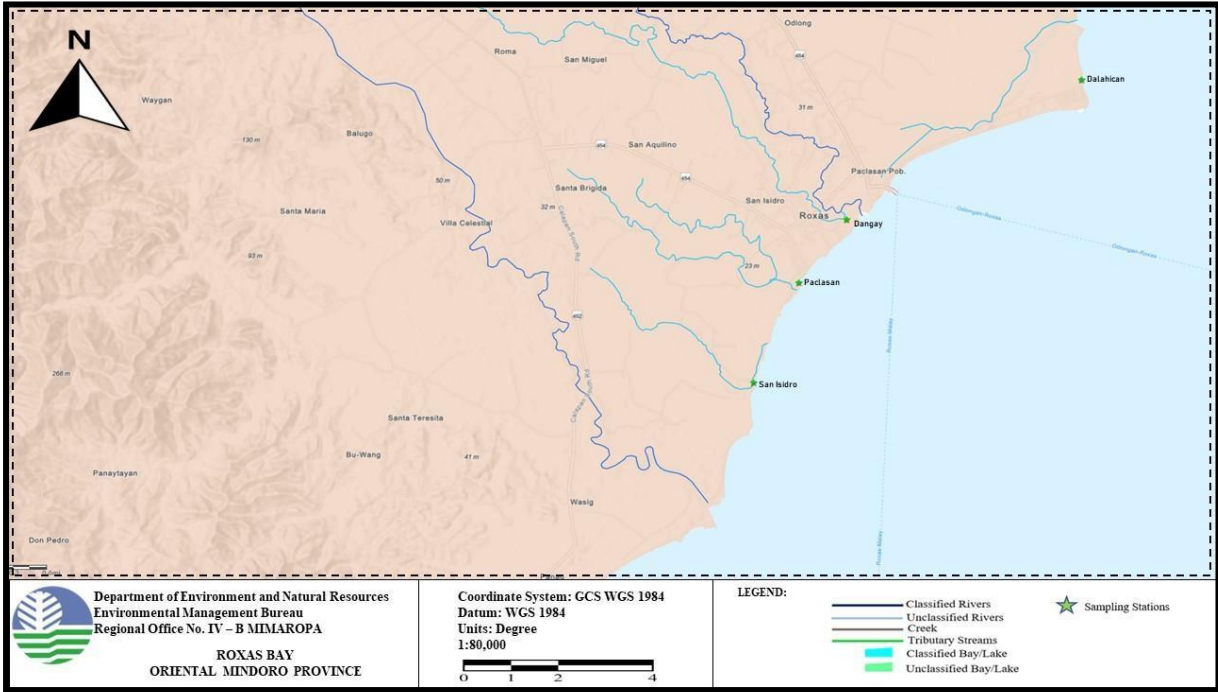


SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - BONGABONG, ORIENTAL MINDORO



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	March 6, 2023
Bongabong Bay, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro	1	Aplaya	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	5 mg/L	10 mg/L	3 mg/L	3 mg/L
	2	Poblacion	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	6 mg/L	2 mg/L	3 mg/L
	3	Anilao	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	6 mg/L	11 mg/L	<1 mg/L	19 mg/L
	4	Masaguisi	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	3 mg/L	6 mg/L	13 mg/L	4 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	March 6, 2023
Roxas Bay, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro	1	Dalahican	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	6 mg/L	14 mg/L	4 mg/L
	2	Dangay	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	5 mg/L	3 mg/L	4 mg/L
	3	Paclasan	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	4 mg/L	4 mg/L	2 mg/L	4 mg/L
	4	San Isidro	Class SB	2 mg/L	-	-	3 mg/L	15 mg/L	<1 mg/L	3 mg/L

As of March 8, 2023, Engr. Rochelle Padirayon, Chief, Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Monitoring Section, led the coordination meeting with PDRRMO Chief Vincent Gahol, Pola MDRRMO, PCG personnel and PNP personnel relevant to the establishment of collection points for hazardous materials collected during the clean-up activities in Pola, Oriental Mindoro.



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

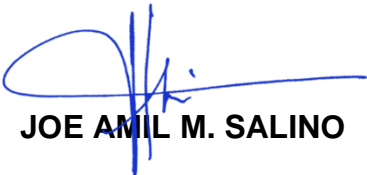
#### IV. WAYS AHEAD

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 clearance has been given by the Philippine Coast Guard for us to proceed. Furthermore, this Office will also be having a coordination meeting with DENR, EMB – CO, EMB – Region 6 and Philippine Coast Guard for the possibility of filing of appropriate cases against the vessel owner.

This Office will also be providing the official results of the water quality sampling conducted in Coron, Palawan as soon as validation of the laboratory results has been completed.

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:**

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*Governor, Province of Oriental Mindoro*