



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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DENR MIMAROPA
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DATE NO. _____

May 18, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO : **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
DENR Region IV-B
515, L & S Building, Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas and Environment

SUBJECT : **INCIDENT REPORT REGARDING SUNKEN DIVE YACHT
M/Y DREAM KEEPER WITHIN THE VICINITY OF
TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN
PALAWAN**

DATE :

We acknowledge with thanks the above cited report dated May 10, 2023 you sent to us via email.

Please continue submitting updates, assessments with parties concerned.

For compliance.


ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VOIP) Trunkline (632)7553330 local 1068

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretary**
Field Operations - Luzon, Visayas and Environment

FROM : **The Undersecretary**
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **INCIDENT REPORT REGARDING SUNKEN DIVE YACHT
M/Y DREAM KEEPER WITHIN THE VICINITY OF
TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN PALAWAN**

DATE : **MAY 10 2023**

We are respectfully referring the attached electronic mail dated 05 May 2023 from DENR MIMAROPA in connection to the Incident Report regarding the sunken yacht M/Y Dream Keeper within the vicinity of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) in Palawan.

For your information and appropriate action, please.

ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES



Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

OSEC-2023-002929: INCIDENT REPORT RE: SUNKEN YACHT M/Y DREAM KEEPER WITHIN THE VICINITY OF TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN PALAWAN (RDATS NO. 2023-108931)

DENR OSEC Referral <osec.referral@denr.gov.ph>

Fri, May 5, 2023 at 9:57 AM

To: Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment <officeofuseccuna@denr.gov.ph>, od@emb.gov.ph, Biodiversity Management Bureau <bmb@denr.gov.ph>, director@bmb.gov.ph, "Marcial Amaro, Jr." <mcamarojr@denr.gov.ph>

Cc: jonasrleones@gmail.com, Joe-Mar Perez <jperez@denr.gov.ph>, Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation <ouot@denr.gov.ph>, Geospatial Office <geospatial@denr.gov.ph>, CP David <cpdavid@denr.gov.ph>, "Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs" <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

Sir/ Madam:

Respectfully referred to your good office for information and appropriate action, with EDATS No. OSEC-2023-002929.

Thank you!

NOTE: DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. For updates, inquiries and other communications, please send to osec@denr.gov.ph.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
4/F DENR Main Building
Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City

From: **DENR Mimaropa Region** <mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph>

Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 2:08 AM

Subject: INCIDENT REPORT RE: SUNKEN YACHT M/Y DREAM KEEPER WITHIN THE VICINITY OF TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN PALAWAN (RDATS NO. 2023-108931)

To: Office of the DENR Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>, Marilou Erni <mgerni@denr.gov.ph>, Marilou Erni <merni@denr.gov.ph>, Juan Miguel Cuna <jmtcuna@denr.gov.ph>, Juan Miguel Cuna <usecmitchcuna@denr.gov.ph>, Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment <officeofuseccuna@denr.gov.ph>, Augusto Dela Pena <addelapena@denr.gov.ph>, CP David <cpdavid@denr.gov.ph>, Gilbert Gonzales <gcgonzales@denr.gov.ph>

Cc: Marcial Amaro, Jr. <mcamarojr@denr.gov.ph>

Good day!

Please find the attached files regarding the above subject.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you.



OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MIMAROPA REGION

P: (02) 8248-3367/ 8248-3468

A: DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 L&S, Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila 1000

W: <http://mimaropa.denr.gov.ph/>

E: mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph



2 attachments



2023 05 02 INCIDENT REPORT RE TUBBATAHA.pdf
470K



ATTACHMENTS.zip
1813K



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

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THRU : **USEC MARILOU G. ERNI**
Chief of Staff and Supervising Undersecretary
for Strategic Communications

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I
Undersecretary for Field Operations -
Luzon, Visayas and Environment

USEC AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA
Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation and Human
Resources and Undersecretary Coordinator on PCG, Philippine
Navy and Other Enforcement Agencies Related to Oil Spill and
Marine Incidents

USEC CARLOS PRIMO C. DAVID, PH.D.
Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science

ENGR. GILBERT C. GONZALES, CESO III
OIC, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Luzon and Visayas

FROM : **THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT : **INCIDENT REPORT RE: SUNKEN DIVE YACHT M/Y DREAM
KEEPER WITHIN THE VICINITY OF TUBBATAHA REEFS
NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN PALAWAN (RDATS NO. I-2023-
108931)**

DATE : **MAY 02 2023**

Please find the attached emailed Incident Report dated 02 May 2023 of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) Superintendent Angelique Songco with the following information:

1. On 30 April 2023 at around 3:20 am, M/Y Discovery Palawan sent a call through a marine band radio informing that M/Y Dream Keeper was in distress at the vicinity of TRNP.
2. On 30 April 2023 at around 3:30 am, M/Y Discovery Palawan, which was 4 nautical miles away from M/Y Dream Keeper proceeded to its location.
3. On 30 April 2023 at around 4:15 am, M/Y Discovery Palawan arrived at the area and found that M/Y Dream Keeper has already sunk and immediately it started search and rescue operations.

for Ksm

4. On 30 April 2023 at around 4:50 am, the crew of M/Y Discovery Palawan successfully rescued twenty-eight (28) people composed of fifteen (15) crew members, eleven (11) guests and two (2) divemasters. However, the following four (4) passengers were missing:
 - i. Boat Owner Denke "Jackie" Yang (36 years old)
 - ii. Passenger Nino Anthony Labrador (36 years old)
 - iii. Passenger Marianne Paz Labrador (36 years old)
 - iv. Dive Master Timmy Jean Bejoc (32 years old)
5. On 30 April 2023 at around 6:46 am, the Philippine Coast Guard, Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) and LGU personnel with other dive boats proceeded in the incident area at the north of the North Atoll to conduct search and rescue operations. Debris were found in the area but the four (4) passengers were still missing.
6. On 30 April 2023 at around 2:00 pm, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) arrived at TRNP.
7. On 30 April 2023 at around 3:30 pm, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) coordinated the transfer of the survivors from M/Y Discovery Palawan to their vessel and continued search and rescue operations.
8. On 01 May 2023 at around 6:00 am, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) continued search and rescue operations at the South Atoll and sailed back to Puerto Princesa at 7:30 am. Survivors were expected to arrive at Puerto Princesa in the afternoon.
9. The Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard continuously coordinated and provided updates with their mother units. TMO also coordinated with the management of M/Y Dream Keeper regarding ongoing search and rescue operations.
10. On 01 May 2023 at around 8:00 am, US aircraft P8-436 conducted airborne search and rescue operations within TRNP.

PASu Songco informed PENRO Felizardo Cayatoc that the four (4) missing passengers have not yet been found. Dr. Cesar Villanoy provided a model of the possible location of the missing passengers. This model was sent to Western Command and Philippine Navy.

Hereunder are the relevant information about TRNP:

- TRNP is a marine protected area located 150 kilometers southeast of Puerto Princesa City.
- TRNP also protects one of the few remaining colonies of breeding seabirds in the region.

for USM center

- TRNP lies at the heart of the **Coral Triangle**, the geographic centre of world marine biodiversity.
- TRNP has 10,000 hectares of reef ecosystems that are home to:
 - ▶ 700 species of fish
 - ▶ 360 species of corals (about half of all coral species in the world)
 - ▶ 11 species of sharks and rays
 - ▶ 13 species of dolphins and whales
 - ▶ 100 species of birds
 - ▶ hawksbill and green sea turtles
- In 1993, TRNP was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
- On April 06, 2010, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed Republic Act 10067, an Act establishing the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in the province of Palawan as a Protected Area under the NIPAS Act (RA 7586) and the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act (RA 7611).
- Ten (10) stations were regularly monitored from 2012. Two (2) new stations were established for 2021 and 2022.
- In 2022, TMO conducted monitoring of corals within 12 stations.
- All trips bound to TRNP are vessel-based or "liveboard" since there are no accommodation facilities in the area.

The TRNP has an average depth of 750 meters. Based on the coordinates (Lat 08°512.36 N Long 120°01.58 E) given by the captain of the yacht M/Y Discovery Palawan, the area where the yacht sank is within the TRNP and has an average depth of 1,500 meters according to PASu Songco who is now in the TRNP station. PASu Songco reported that the captain or crew of the M/Y Dream Keeper did not coordinate with the TMO for their entry to the TRNP as they could have been assisted in mooring the yacht and could have avoided mishap due to the local thunderstorm.

The TMO and Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board (TPAMB), wherein PCG and WESCOM are included as members, will conduct an assessment/coral reef monitoring in collaboration with the UP-MSI to ascertain if damage has been done to the coral reef systems.

The report of PENRO Felizardo Cayatoc is also attached with the map showing the location of the sinking incident, for your information and further instructions, if any.


LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV



RDATS NO. I-2023-108931
 CDD / PAMBC / MTR / 05-02-2023

Cc: **ASEC MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR., CESO II**
 Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted
 and Special Projects and BMB Director, in concurrent capacity

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