

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1698, May 22, 1980 ]

## **AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1219 DATED OCTOBER 14, 1977, PROVIDING FOR RE EXPLOITATION, EXPLOITATION, UTILIZATION AND CONSERVATION OF CORAL RESOURCES**

**WHEREAS**, coral resources are known to exist beneath territorial waters and in the marine economic zone of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the exploitation of these resources, especially the precious coral varieties, will bring revenue to the country and generate employment in the processing and utilization of these resources;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary that the exploration, exploitation, utilization and conservation of these resources be properly regulated to insure the preservation of the country's marine environment;

**WHEREAS**, conservation of ordinary corals is necessary for the preservation of the natural breeding ground, habitat or abode of fishes and other marine organisms;

**WHEREAS**, ordinary corals are natural protection of the shore and adjacent infrastructure against destructive effects of wave erosion;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to fully implement the policies established in Presidential Decree No. 1219; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to reorient these policies with the realities and conditions of our coral reef resources;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order and decree:

**SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 1219 dated October 14, 1977, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"SEC. 4.** Implementing Agency. This Decree shall be implemented by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, who shall have jurisdiction and responsibility in the exploration, exploitation, utilization and conservation of coral resources."

**SEC. 2.** Section 5 of the same Decree is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"SEC. 5.** *Ordinary Coral*—The gathering, harvesting, collecting, transporting, possession, sale and/or exporting of ordinary corals either in raw or processed form in any quantity, is prohibited. The use of corals as materials in buildings and other man-made structures, such as but not limited' to piers, dams and dikes, is likewise prohibited."

**SEC. 3.** Section 6 of the same Decree is hereby amended to read as follows: