

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 600, December 09, 1974 ]

## PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the marine environment and the living organisms which it supports are of vital importance to humanity, and all people have an interest in assuring that it is managed and protected, and its quality is not impaired;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that the capacity of the sea to assimilate wastes and render them harmless, and its ability to regenerate natural resources is limited;

**WHEREAS**, knowing that marines pollution originates from many sources, such as dumping discharging through the rivers, estuaries, brooks or spring;

**WHEREAS**, it is our responsibility to control public and private activities that cause damage to the marine environment by using the best practicable means and by developing improved disposal processes to minimize harmful wastes;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to prevent, mitigate or eliminate the increasing damages to marine resources as a result of pollution;

**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 decree and order the following:

**SECTION 1. Title.** — This Decree shall be known as the Marine Pollution Decree of 1974.

**SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.**—It is hereby declared a national policy to prevent and control the pollution of seas by the dumping of wastes and other matter which create hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine life, damage amenities, or interfere with the legitimate uses of the sea within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines.

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** — As used in this Decree:

- a. "Discharge" includes, but is not limited to, any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping.
- b. "Dumping" means any deliberate disposal at sea of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea, but does not include (1) the disposal at sea of wastes or other matter incidental to or derived from the normal operations of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea and their equipment, nor (2) the disposal of wastes or other matter directly arising from or related to the exploitation and associated off-shore processing of seabed mineral resources.
- c. "Oil" means oil of any kind or in any form including, but not limited to, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredge spoil.
- d. "Ocean Waters" means all marine waters other Philippines and other states.
- e. "Public Vessel" means a vessel owned or bareboat chartered and operated by the Republic of the Philippines, and political subdivision thereof, or by a foreign nation, except when such a vessel is engaged in commerce.