

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 154, December 06, 2013]

ADOPTING A NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT, DETER, AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Section 2 (c) of Republic Act (RA) No. 8550,, or the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," provides that it is the policy of the State to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management, and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters, including the exclusive economic zone, and in the adjacent high seas, consistent with the primordial objective of maintaining a sound ecological balance, and protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment;

WHEREAS, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing undermines national and regional efforts to manage fisheries in a sustainable manner, destroys marine habitats, jeopardizes the viability of resources, depletes fish stocks worldwide, and threatens the food and livelihood security of coastal communities;

WHEREAS, there is a need to address the ecological, biological, and socio-economic challenges posed by IUU fishing in a coordinated and integrated manner through a collaborative institutional mechanism involving the concerned departments and agencies of the government;

WHEREAS, the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) was endorsed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO) Council on 23 June 2001; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Philippines, as a member of UN-FAO, to develop and implement a national plan of action to achieve the objectives of the IPOA-IUU.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Adoption of the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU). The NPOA-IUU for the Philippines, attached hereto as Annex A, is hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Establishment of the Philippine Committee Against IUU Fishing. Pursuant to the NPOA-IUU, a Philippine Committee Against IUU Fishing (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") is hereby created, which shall be composed of, but not limited to, duly authorized representatives from the Office of the President, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Finance, Department of Justice, Department of National Defense, and Department of Foreign Affairs and their respective offices and attached agencies, including concerned economic zone authorities, as well as representatives from the private sector. The