

**[BFAR FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.
232 S. 2010, March 24, 2010]**

LIMITING COMMERCIAL FISHING IN MANILA BAY

In compliance to the decision of the Supreme Court (SC) in G.R. Nos. 171947-48 dated December 18, 2008, this Order limiting commercial fishing in Manila Bay is hereby promulgated for the guidance of all concerned.

Section 1. Acronyms and Definitions. The following acronyms and definitions are used in this Order:

- a. BFAR – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
- b. DBM – Department of Budget and Management
- c. DILG – Department of the Interior and Local Government
- d. CFVGL – Commercial Fishing Vessel and Gear License
- e. Commercial fishing – the taking of fishery species by passive or active gear for trade, business or profit beyond subsistence or sports fishing, further classified as: small-scale commercial fishing or fishing with passive or active gear utilizing fishing vessels of 3.1 gross tons up to twenty (20) GT; medium-scale commercial fishing or fishing utilizing active gear and vessels of 20.1 up to one hundred fifty (150) GT; and large-scale commercial fishing or fishing utilizing active gear and vessels of more than one hundred fifty (150) GT.
- f. Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) - serves as a land-based component for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), which operates and maintains the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) software that has the capability to monitor, track and communicate with different Automatic Locator Communication (ALCs) or Mobile Tracking Unit (MTUs) onboard fishing vessels operating in national, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and international waters. It also maintains the Vessel Database and other systems application.
- g. IFARMC – Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
- h. MARINA – Maritime Industry Authority
- i. NAMRIA – National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
- j. NTC – National Telecommunications Commission
- k. Transponder – short for transmitter-responder, it is an automatic tracking device installed in fishing vessels that utilizes a satellite navigation and communication system in monitoring fishing vessels operating in both international and domestic waters.
- l. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) – software that has the capability to track and monitor the position, time and course and speed of commercial fishing vessels in the territorial waters, EEZ and the high seas.

Section 2. Limiting Commercial Fishing in Manila Bay. – In order to minimize stress on the fishery and aquatic resources, ensure sustainable utilization and enhance the natural regenerative capacity of Manila Bay herein described in NAMRIA Chart No. 4255 with a plot of the waters for commercial fishing, a limited access policy is hereby established to be implemented in two phases.

A. Phase 1

2.1 No applications for new CFVGL shall be accepted by BFAR except for the following:

- (a) Applications for new CFVGL filed prior to the effectivity date of this Order;
- (b) Those covered by construction clearance or clearance to import issued prior to the effectivity date of this Order, provided that applications for new CFVGL are filed within three (3) months from effectivity date of this Order;
- (c) Applications for renewal filed prior to the effectivity date of this Order; and,
- (d) Applications by owners of under-admeasured commercial fishing vessels registered and licensed by the local government units of the coastal municipalities straddling Manila Bay, who shall cause the re-admeasurement, registration, and licensing of their fishing vessels in the joint mobile registration and licensing to be conducted by a composite team of representatives from the IFARMC, municipalities straddling Manila Bay, MARINA, NTC and BFAR.

2.2 New CFVGLs will be issued to applicants covered by the exceptions in paragraphs (a) to (d) after compliance with the requirements and payment of fees.

B. Phase 2

2.3 Upon the expiration of licenses which are still valid upon the effectivity of this Order and the licenses issued in Phase 1, BFAR will no longer issue new CFVGLs for Manila Bay. Only applications for renewal shall be accepted subject to the following terms and conditions in addition to the requirements in Fisheries Administrative Order No. 198:

- (a) the applicants shall install transponders in their fishing vessels and shall be covered by BFAR's VMS;
- (b) the applicants shall exclusively fish in the waters for commercial fishing in Manila Bay;