

**[BFAR FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.
226, August 01, 2008]**

**REGULATION ON THE MESH SIZE OF TUNA PURSE SEINE NETS
AND TRADING OF SMALL TUNA**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2 paragraph c, Section 65, paragraph n and 89 of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (Republic Act 8550), the following management and conservation measures to minimize/reduce the catching of small tuna purse seine nets are hereby promulgated:

WHEREAS, tuna is one of the top marine export products of the Philippines and the fishery resource have been exploited by purse seine net which are observed to catch significant number of small tunas;

WHEREAS, the harvest of small tuna has caused alarm and grave concern since it effects the recruitment of tuna stocks as significant numbers are caught before reaching maturity;

WHEREAS, the commercial fisheries sector is manifesting the strains of reduced catch since purse seine nets contribute to the harvest of small tuna;

WHEREAS, the Philippine waters, particularly Davao Gulf, Moro Gulf, Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea is known as the breeding grounds of tuna species.

WHEREAS, the Fisheries Code of 1998 and other international agreements call for the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following management and conservation measures to prescribe the mesh size of tuna purse seine nets in catching tuna and regulation on the trading of small tuna are hereby promulgated;

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms - The terms as used herein shall be construed as follows:

- a. Bycatch Ceiling - refers to the ceiling often percent (10%) of small tunas caught during fishing operation.
- b. Small tuna - are young of tuna fish less than 500 grams which includes yellowfin tuna, big eye tuna, and skipjack tuna.
- c. Mesh size for tuna purse seine nets - refers to the minimum mesh size not less than 3.5 inches (8.89 cm) at the bunt or bag portion for catching tuna.
- d. Tuna - are migratory pelagic fishes characterized by their streamline, spindle-shaped bodies which taper to slender caudal fin and series of detached finlets