

**[ BFAR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 204, S.  
2000, August 14, 2000 ]**

**RESTRICTING THE USE OF SUPERLIGHTS IN FISHING**

Pursuant to Section 44 and 93 of R.A. No. 8550, this order restricting the use of superlights in fishing in Philippine waters is hereby issued for the information, guidance, and compliance of all concerned.

**SECTION 1. Definition** . — “Superlight” also called “magic light” is a type of strong light using halogen or metal halide either submerged or located or located above the sea surface, consisting of a ballast, regulator, electric cable and socket, the power of which comes from a generator, battery, dynamo or the main engine of the boat.

**SECTION 2. Prohibition** . — It shall be unlawful to operate municipal and commercial fishing boats using superlights while fishing/operating in municipal waters, or for commercial fishing boats to fish/operate beyond municipal waters using the same in excess of the herein prescribed wattage:

- a. Small-scale commercial fishing boats (3.1 to 20 GT)
  - 20 KW per vessel
- b. Medium-scale commercial fishing boats (20.1 to 150 GT)
  - 36 KW per vessel
- c. Large-scale commercial fishing boats (more than 150 GT)
  - 40 KW per vessel

Provided, that a gratuitous permit to use superlights in fishing within municipal waters may be issued by the Local Chief Executive in consultation with its FARMC to any government or private research and educational institution for research, experimental, educational and scientific purposes, and by the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in consultation with the NFARMC in areas beyond municipal waters both of which shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the said Local Chief Executive or the BFAR Director respectively may deem wise to impose.

**SECTION 3. Penalty** . — Violation of this Order shall hold the offender liable to the penalty of imprisonment from six (6) months to two (2) years or a fine of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per superlight, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court, without prejudice to the confiscation of the superlight used, fishing vessel and the gear.