

**[BFAR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 194, S.
1998, June 24, 1998]**

**MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS IN LINGAYEN
GULF**

Whereas, Lingayen Gulf has been declared environmentally critical area through Presidential Proclamation 156;

Whereas, scientific studies showed that overfishing in Lingayen Gulf is due to: unabated operations of trawl, Danish seines and other commercial fishing vessels; increasing number of small fishing boats; and prevalent occurrence of dynamite fishing and cyanide fishing;

Whereas, fishing with the above gears contribute to the depletion of the fishery resources, destroy the coral reefs, seagrass beds and other coastal habitats;

Whereas, while the commercial fisheries sector contributes about 3,220 metric tons of fish per year (average from 1991-1995) and provides employment to about 2,000 individuals, studies indicate that the entire gulf waters can only accommodate about 15-20 commercial fishing boats. However, records reveal that there are now 76 commercial fishing boats operating in the area;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Sections 107 and 128 of Republic Act 8550, "An Act Providing for the Development, Management and Conservation of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Integrating All Laws Pertinent Thereto, and for Other Purposes," otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, the following rules and regulations governing commercial fishing operations in Lingayen Gulf are hereby promulgated.

SECTION 1. *Definition.* — The terms as used herein shall be construed as follows:

- a. *Bureau* — refers to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).
- b. *Commercial Fishing* — the taking of fishery species by passive or active gear for trade, business or profit beyond subsistence or sports fishing, to be further classified as:
 - (1) *Small-scale commercial fishing* — fishing with passive or active gear utilizing fishing vessels of 3.1 gross tons (GT) up to twenty (20) GT;
 - (2) *Medium-scale commercial fishing* — fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of 20.1 GT up to one hundred fifty (150) GT; and
 - (3) *Large-scale commercial fishing* — fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of more than one hundred fifty (150) GT.