[BFAR FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 224, S. 2004, February 13, 2004]

ESTABLISHMENT OF TUNA PRODUCTIVITY PROJECT IN DAVAO GULF

WHEREAS, the indiscriminate utilization of the Philippine fishing grounds has resulted to the massive depletion of fish stocks, thereby compelling the small-scale and medium-scale commercial fishing vessels to venture farther out to the international waters to fish;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to revive the viability of the local fishing grounds by discouraging the harvest of juvenile fish and by encouraging the practice of environmentally sound fishing methods;

WHEREAS, one of the effective fish attracting devices is the payao while the traditional handline or hook and line is found to be an environmentally sound fishing method;

WHEREAS, the small-scale and medium-scale commercial fishing boat operators of Malita, Davao del Sur and Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental have organized into a cooperative and, in order to revitalize the fishing grounds in the Southern Philippines, have embarked on a tuna fishing project where the use of "payao" and the traditional handline or hook and line fishing method shall be integrated into the Tuna Productivity Project in Davao Gulf;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises and pursuant to Sections 4 (14) and 86 of R.A. No. 8550, this order for the establishment of the Tuna Productivity Project in Davao Gulf beyond municipal waters is hereby issued for the information, implementation and compliance by all those concerned.

SECTION 1. Definition. - The terms as used in this order shall be construed as follows.

a) TPP - refers to the Tuna Productivity Project in Davao Gulf of the BFAR jointly with the cooperative of small-scale and medium-scale commercial fishing vessels using only the traditional handline or hook and line gear in catching tuna in the network of "payaos."

b) "Payao" or fish shelter - is a fish aggregating device consisting of a floating raft or drums anchored by a weighted line with suspended materials such as palm fronds which attract pelagic and schooling species of fish.