

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9379, March 08, 2007 ]**

**AN ACT DEFINING HANDLINE FISHING, PROVIDING EFFECTIVE REGULATIONS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "The Handline Fishing Law".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- a. To promulgate specific policies and procedures governing handline fishing and utilization of handline fishing boats;
- b. To support the development of the handline fishing industry and promote the competitiveness, sustainability and social development of handline fishing and its allied industries;
- c. To strengthen existing rules and regulations governing handline fishing and ensure the safety and seaworthiness of handline fishing boats.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

1. *Handline Fishing*- a traditional fishing method that uses the hook and line, a passive fishing gear with a single vertical line carrying one hook and used by simply dropping the line into the water and waiting for the fish to bite.
2. *Handline Fishing Boat*- a fishing boat with or without outrigger and with or without auxiliary small boats on board that exclusively utilizes the handline fishing method.

SEC. 4. *Handline Fishing Boat Documentation.* - The registration, inspection, manning and other documentation of handline fishing boats as flag boats shall be with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), while the licensing and related documentation of said boats as fishing boats shall be with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

SEC. 5. *Fishing by Philippine Handline Fishing Boats in International Waters.* - Handline fishing boats of Philippine registry may operate in international waters or waters of other countries that allow such operations: *Provided*, That they comply with the appropriate and applicable safety, manning, radio communications and other standards and requirements geared at promoting seaworthiness: *Provided, however*, That they secure an appropriate international fishing permit and certificate of clearance from the BFAR: *Provided, further*, That the fish caught by handline fishing boats shall be considered as caught in Philippine waters and therefore not subject to all import duties and taxes when the same is landed in government designated fish landings and fish ports in the Philippines: *Provided, finally*, That