

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 117, August 11, 1993]

ESTABLISHING AN INTER AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines ordains that the State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone;

WHEREAS, consistent with this mandate, it is imperative to institutionalize a cooperative and coordinated working relationship among department/agencies to strengthen the present support structures enforcing coastal environmental protection throughout the archipelago and optimize government efforts, as government resources may permit, to more efficient and effective levels;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Navy initiated, on localized basis, the establishment of an inter-agency task force, TF Sagip Buhay Dagat, with other government agencies, in Davao, for the effective protection of our marine and aquatic resources and that the successful experience/results gained therefrom made more manifest the need to implement/set-up the same working program, on a broader scale, to promote a national awareness on the priority of environmental concerns, and to insure a more effective and sustained law enforcement system on this regard, throughout the country;

WHEREAS, there is a need to create a cohesive coordinating body that shall trigger the needed response to fittingly meet the constitutional mandate and ensure the government's compliance thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Inter-Agency Task Force for Coastal Environmental Protection (IATFCEP) is hereby established and institutionalized, and shall be composed of the following:

1. The Executive Secretary
2. The Secretary of National Defense
3. The Secretary of Interior and Local Government
4. The Secretary of Agriculture
5. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources
6. The Secretary of Justice
7. The Flag Officer in Command, Philippine Navy
8. The Director General, Philippine National Police Force

The Chairman of the IATFCEP shall be the Secretary of the department designated herein as a lead agency thereof.