

**[BFAR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 202, S.
2000, August 14, 2000]**

BAN ON CORAL EXPLOITATION AND EXPORTATION

Pursuant to Section 91 of R.A. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, this regulation banning coral exploitation and exportation is hereby promulgated.

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms . — As used in this Order, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. Person — includes a natural or juridical person
- b. Coral — consists of small anemone-like organisms belonging to Phylum Coelenterata which secrete their own skeletons of various forms that may be hard, soft, stony or horny, and shall include the following:
 - i) Precious coral — skeleton of anthozoan coelenterata characterized as having a rigid axis of calcareous or horny spicules, belonging to the genus *Corallium* as represented by the red, pink and white corals.
 - ii) Semi-precious coral — skeleton of anthozoan coelenterata characterized a thorny, horny axis, such as the Antipatharians as represented by the black corals.
 - iii) Ordinary coral — all kinds of coral other than precious and semi-precious corals.
- c. Exploitation — the actual extraction, gathering and collection in accordance with acceptable coral development and conservation practices.
- d. Exportation — the actual sending or shipping of corals to another country for sale.

SECTION 2. Prohibition . — It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation to gather, possess, sell or export ordinary, precious and semi-precious corals whether in raw or in processed form.

SECTION 3. Exception . — The Secretary of Agriculture through the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources may, however, issue a special permit to research institutions to gather any coral in limited quantities for scientific or research purposes, except those coral species listed in CITES Appendix.