

[BFAR FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 246, S. 2013, September 12, 2013]

BANNING THE OPERATION OF DANISH SEINE AND MODIFIED DANISH SEINE IN PHILIPPINE WATERS

WHEREAS, the Bureau in Fisheries Administrative Order No. 222, Series of 2003, allowed the operation of modified Danish Seines in waters beyond fifteen (15) kilometers from the shoreline of any municipality provided that it shall not use tom weights and any method/accessories that destroy coral reefs, seagrass beds and other fishery marine habitats and that the minimum mesh size of the net shall not be less than three (3) centimetres;

WHEREAS, modified Danish Seines operating in Philippine waters continue to use tom weights and heavily weighted scarelines;

WHEREAS, a tom weight is a required operating component of modified Danish Seines without which the said gear will fail to carry out its ultimate objective to capture fish;

WHEREAS, these tom weights and heavily weighted scarelines contribute to the destruction of marine habitats as well as fishery resources;

WHEREAS, Section 92 of Republic Act 8550 makes it unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to fish with gear method that destroys coral reefs, seagrass beds, and other fishery marine life habitat as may be determined by the Department;

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Section 92 of Republic Act 8550, this Order banning the operation of the Danish Seine and Modified Danish Seine in Philippine waters is hereby promulgated, and the previous FAO 222, S. 2003, is hereby repealed. For the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms - The terms used in this Order shall be construed as follows:

- a. *Danish Seine* - is an active fishing gear which consists of a conical net with a pair of wings, the ends of which are connected to a rope embedded with buri, plastic strips, sinkers or any similar materials to serve as scaring/herding device and hauled through a mechanical winch or by manpower.
- b. *Modified Danish Seine* - is an active fishing gear locally termed as holbotholbot, palusot, zipper, bira-bira, hulahoop, liba-liba, buli-buli and other coined names consists of a conical net with a pair of wings, the ends of which are connected to a rope embedded with buri, plastic strips, sinkers or any similar materials to serve as scaring/herding device as hauling ropes passing through a ring permanently attached to a tom weight (linggote) and hauled through a mechanical winch or by manpower.