



**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR/TO** : **The Technical Working Group**  
Special Order Nos. 2023-732 and 2024-235

**FROM** : **The Undersecretary**  
Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs

**SUBJECT** : **REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF THE DRAFT DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON THE GUIDELINES FOR THE  
IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC LANDS SUITABLE FOR SALT  
PRODUCTION**

**DATE** : **14 MAY 2024**

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In reference to the agreements made during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on the Philippine Salt Industry Development Act held on 8 May 2024, the Secretariat has drafted the Department Administrative Order (DAO) on the guidelines for the identification of public lands suitable for salt production.

In this regard, we request the TWG to review and provide comments, if any, to the draft DAO. Kindly submit your comments to the Legislative Liaison Office via email at [denrlo@denr.gov.ph](mailto:denrlo@denr.gov.ph) on or before 15 May 2023, 5 PM. Should there be no comments received by the aforementioned deadline, it will be understood that there are no further remarks or suggestions to be considered.

Attached herewith is the draft DAO, for your comments or other appropriate action, please.

  
**IGNATIUS LOYOLA A. RODRIGUEZ**

MEMO NO. 2024 - 429



**DENR Administrative Order**  
**No. 2024-\_\_\_\_\_**

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC LANDS SUITABLE FOR SALT PRODUCTION**

Pursuant to Section 9, of Republic Act No. 11985 otherwise known as the Philippine Salt Industry Development Act and to ensure the sustainable production of salt, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hereby adopts and promulgates the following Procedure and Guidelines:

**SECTION 1. Basic Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to revitalize the Philippine salt industry while preserving, protecting, and rehabilitating the natural environment in the actualization of its developmental policies.

**SECTION 2. Objectives.** These Guidelines are hereby promulgated to achieve the following objectives:

- 2.1. To provide criteria and guidelines for the mapping, identification, and designation of public lands, including portions of municipal waters, as potential areas suitable for salt production.
- 2.2. To be able to identify public lands suitable for salt production in accordance with Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11985.
- 2.3. To transfer public lands suitable for salt production to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) within 90 days upon effectivity of Republic Act No. 11985.
- 2.4. To ensure sustainable production, management and harvesting, and soil and water conservation practices in salt-farming areas through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Order, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- 3.1. Salt – refers to an unrefined salt derived directly from a living sea or ocean, harvested through the process of cooking, smoking or solar evaporation. Regardless of the manner of production, it retains natural traces of minerals coming from seawater.
- 3.2. Salt Producer – refers to an individual, corporation, cooperative or association involved in the production of salt.

- 3.3. Salt Production – refers to the process of generating salt from saltwater utilizing solar evaporation or cooking and other acceptable methods.
- 3.4. Salt farms – refer to areas of land, shorelines or coastal areas, including their buildings, machinery, and equipment, used in salt production.
- 3.5. Salt Production Tenurial Instrument (SPTI) – a tenurial instrument issued by BFAR to qualified salt producers for the use of public lands suitable solely for salt production.
- 3.6. Critical Wetlands – refers to areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters; this may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six meters at low tide lying within the wetlands.
- 3.7. Critical Habitat Areas - refers to areas that are known habitats to threatened species, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act

**SECTION 4. Areas Available for Salt Production.** The areas available for salt production include:

- 4.1. Areas currently devoted to salt production. The objective is to increase efficiency and productivity using cost-effective technologies, utilizing the same areas instead of expanding to other areas.

For other technologies that do not utilize any permanent structures, such as but not limited to salt farms, an appropriate evaluation will be done, and the criteria will be different;

- 4.2. Areas with natural salt deposits;
- 4.3. Areas suitable for salt production, provided that the following shall be considered:
  - 4.3.1. The natural ecosystems (e.g. tidal flats and mangroves);
  - 4.3.2. Areas that are regenerating natural vegetation;
  - 4.3.3. Current livelihood of local communities; and
  - 4.3.4. Tidal hydrology

In any area identified, the DENR will evaluate, in consultation with the scientific community and relevant stakeholders, the most beneficial use for the area.

**SECTION 5. Areas Excluded for Commercial Salt Production.** The protected areas and other critical wetlands and habitat areas shall not be identified for commercial salt production.

**SECTION 6. Criteria for Identification and Prioritization of Areas Suitable for Salt Production.** The criteria for identifying areas suitable and available for salt production are the following:

- 6.1. **Topography, Slope, and Elevation** – The area should have good drainage (has ability to drain off water during normal low tide), be situated at least 100 meters from any river mouth.  
It should generally be of low elevation and gentle gradient. Selection should reference historical storm surge or inundation data during events of extreme weather condition.
- 6.2. **Climatic Conditions** – The area should preferably be situated in regions with climatic type 1 and 3, in that order, of Modified Corona Classification (MCC); with seasons dry from November to April, and wet during the rest of the year. It should be exposed to the northeast and easterly winds and with a below normal rainfall conditions or normal precipitation levels.
- 6.3. **Water Quality** – The water quality of the area should be free from contamination sewage and industrial and agricultural run-off/ pollutants.

**SECTION 7. Prioritization of Areas Suitable for Salt Production.** Public lands situated in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Marinduque, Quezon Province, Misamis Oriental, and Antique are declared priority areas for salt production. Provided, that public lands in other regions shall also be subsequently mapped out, identified, and designated as potential areas suitable for salt production.

**SECTION 8. Responsibilities in the Identification of Public Lands Suitable for Salt Production.** The DENR Regional Offices, in collaboration with the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), shall be responsible for the mapping out, identification, and designation of areas suitable for salt production. The list shall be endorsed to the Secretary through the Undersecretary for Field Operations.

**SECTION 9. Transfer of Public Lands Identified as Suitable for Salt Production from DENR to BFAR.** The Department shall, in accordance with RA 11985, transfer to the BFAR the administrative jurisdiction of the mapped out, identified, and designated public lands suitable for salt production. The transfer to the BFAR shall be made through an instrument identified by the Undersecretary for Legal, pursuant to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

**SECTION 10. Environmental Monitoring.** Existing policies related to EIA, Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), and environmental quality monitoring shall be adhered to.

**SECTION 11. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

**SECTION 12. Repealing Clause.** All Administrative Orders and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 12. Effectivity.** This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of the receipt of the copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

**MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA**  
Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



BAGONG PILIPINAS

NOV 06 2023

**SPECIAL ORDER**  
NO. 2023- 732

**SUBJECT: CREATION OF A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) FOR THE COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (DA-BFAR) ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF PUBLIC AREAS RELEASED FOR FISHPOND PURPOSES**

In the interest of service and in support of Senate Bill No. 2243 or "*An Act Strengthening and Revitalizing the Salt Industry in the Philippines*", and in fulfillment of the Department's commitment to identifying areas for salt production and mapping of all public land released from DENR to DA-BFAR for fishpond purposes, a TWG is hereby created and shall be composed of the following members:


Office	Name/Position
Legal Affairs Service	<b>Atty. Rosette S. Ferrer</b> Attorney IV
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)	<b>Mr. Richard A. Lugod</b> Senior Remote Sensing Technologist  <b>Mr. Jonathan Brian C. Lao</b> Senior Remote Sensing Technologist
Forest Management Bureau (FMB)	<b>For. Amie T. Rabang</b> Supervising Forest Management Specialist  <b>For. Charles Ivan Jolyous T. Fernandez</b> Forest Management Specialist I
Land Management Bureau (LMB)	<b>Engr. Esjiemar-Levi R. Rito</b> Engineer III
Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)	<b>Mr. Joshua T. Herras</b> Geologist II  <b>Ms. Laila Carmela T. Masangkay</b> Science Research Specialist II

<b>Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)</b>	<b>Engr. Regina Paula D. Eugenio</b> <b>Engineer III</b>  <b>Mr. Aldrin O. Maranan</b> <b>Senior Environmental Management Specialist</b>
<b>Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)</b>	<b>Ms. Siara Jeanne F. Nulada</b> <b>Environmental Management Specialist II</b>  <b>Mr. Joaquin Rogelio P. Silvestre</b> <b>Project Evaluation Officer</b>

The TWG shall coordinate with the DA-BFAR to establish a framework for collaboration and define the roles and responsibilities of each agency to establish a timeline of activities, from creating shape files of FLA survey plans and maps to conducting ground surveys and verifying these areas.

The DENR-Legislative Liaison Office shall serve as the Secretariat.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
**AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA**  
 Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation  
 and Human Resources



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN**



APR 24 2024

**SPECIAL ODER  
NO. 2024 - 235**

**SUBJECT: AMENDING SPECIAL ORDER NO. 2023-732 ENTITLED  
"CREATION OF A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)  
FOR THE COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE - BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND  
AQUATIC RESOURCES (DA-BFAR) ON THE  
IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF PUBLIC AREAS  
RELEASED FOR FISHPOND PURPOSES"**

In the interest of service and to strengthen the current TWG created for the collaboration with DA-BFAR on the identification and mapping of public areas, the following are designated:

<b>Dr. Carlos Primo C. David</b> <i>Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science</i>	<b>Chairperson</b>
<b>Atty. Ignatius Loyola A. Rodriguez</b> <i>Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs</i>	<b>Co-chairperson</b>
<b>Dir. Romirose B. Padin</b> <i>Director for Legislative Liaison Office</i>	<b>Vice Chairperson</b>
<b>Atty. Crizaldy M. Barcelo</b> <i>Regional Executive Director, Region I</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Engr. Ralph C. Pablo</b> <i>Regional Executive Director, Region III</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dir. Felix S. Mirasol, Jr.</b> <i>Regional Executive Director, Region IV-B</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>For. Livino B. Duran</b> <i>Regional Executive Director, Region 6</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dr. Henry A. Adornado</b> <i>Regional Executive Director, Region 10</i>	<b>Member</b>




<b>Atty. Andrea M. Cabagbag</b> <i>Attorney III, Legal Research and Opinion Division, Legal Affairs Service</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Raymond Thaddeus C. Ancog</b> <i>Senior Geologist, Lands Geological Survey Division, Mines and Geosciences Bureau</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Ms. Harley A. Lacbawan</b> <i>Geologist II, Lands Geological Survey Division, Mines and Geosciences Bureau</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Mr. Anton V. Bien</b> <i>Senior Geologist, Mining Tenements Management Division, Mines and Geosciences Bureau</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Engr. George M. Silvederio</b> <i>Engineer II, Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Division, Environmental Management Bureau</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Engr. Macrina L. Mercene</b> <i>Appraiser II, Land Management Division, Land Management Bureau</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Ms. Agatha Bedi</b> <i>Executive Assistant III, Geospatial Database Office</i>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Ms. Layla Sevilla</b> <i>Geographic Information Systems Specialist, Geospatial Database Office</i>	<b>Member</b>

The TWG shall develop guidelines on the identification and mapping of public areas released for salt production.

All other provisions stipulated in Special Order No. 2023 - 732 dated 06 November 2023 shall remain the same.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
**AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA**  
 Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation  
 and Human Resources