

APR 19 2004

JOINT DA-DENR  
SPECIAL ORDER NO. 259  
Series of 2004

SUBJECT: **Creation of Joint Quick Response Teams,  
Defining Their Membership and Functions**

In the interest of the service and pursuant to Article VI of the DA-DENR Joint Memorandum Order No. 1 (JMO) dated 17 May 2000 providing for the creation of a Joint Quick Response Team (JQRT) to address aquatic pollution cases, the following guidelines in the formation of the JQRT is hereby promulgated.

**Sec. 1. Creation.** The JQRT is hereby created at the national and regional levels for DA-BFAR and DENR.

**Sec. 2. Membership.** The JQRT shall be comprised of the following officials:

a. National JQRT

- i. Department of Agriculture (DA)
  - Undersecretary for Fisheries
  - Director, Legal Services, DA
  - BFAR Director
  
- ii. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
  - Undersecretary for Management and Technical Services
  - Director, Policy Planning Studies Office (PPSO)
  - Director, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
  - Executive Director, Coastal and Marine Management Office (CMMO)
  - Bureau/Agency Head(s) concerned

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) shall be properly invited during the deliberations/discussions to address aquatic pollution concerns/cases.

b. Regional JQRT

i. DA

- BFAR Regional Director
- Chief, FRMD, BFAR Regional Office
- Chief, Licensing and Inspection Division, BFAR Regional Office
- Provincial Fishery Officer(s)
- Regional Fish Health Officers (RFHOs) concerned

ii. DENR

- Regional Technical Director for Protected Areas, Wildlife and Coastal Zone Management Services
- Regional Director for Environment
- Regional Technical Director(s) concerned
- Chief, Coastal and Marine Management Division (CMMD)
- PENROs/CENROs concerned

The National Team shall be co-chaired by both DA and DENR and shall be designated by their respective secretaries. In the Regional level, the Heads of Regional Offices of both departments shall co-chair the team.

The Secretariat of the National JQRT shall be composed of representatives from both departments to be designated permanently by their respective Secretaries. The aforementioned members may assign an alternate member to represent them in meetings/other initiatives for which the principal may not be available. Said assignment shall be done in writing and submitted to the chairman of the JQRT.

The Regional JQRT Secretariat should follow the same procedure but representatives will be designated by their respective Heads of the Regional Offices of both departments.

All documents at the National level approved by both chairmen shall temporarily be housed at the DENR - Coastal and Marine Management Office (CMMO) for the national level, and at the DENR - Coastal and Marine Management Division (CMMD) for the Regional level, provided, that the BFAR Director and Regional Director concerned shall be furnished with duplicate copies thereof for record purposes.

**Sec. 3. Functions.** The JQRT shall have the following duties/responsibilities:

a. National level:


- i. Overall supervision of the implementation of the JMO;
- ii. Formulate Manual of Operations within a year upon approval of the Special Order to address point source and non-point sources of pollution such as but not limited to industrial, domestic and aquaculture wastes and initiate the formulation of the required JAOs and other policy instruments;
- iii. Refer to/coordinate with other concerned agencies such as, but not limited to, the DOTC-Philippine Coast Guard and the PNP-Maritime Group, on issues related to the implementation of RA 8550;
- iv. Address aquatic pollution cases pursuant to Art. VI of DA-DENR JMO No. 1, s2000 and will act as arbiters of conflicts between and/or among regional offices;
- v. Provide technical logistical support to the Regional JQRT;
- vi. Convene at least once a month, or as necessary, to review issues decided upon by the regional JQRTs and to monitor said performance;
- vii. Review, clarify, and harmonize existing policies and proposed department orders, including those of other agencies, which might have an impact on the implementation of both RA 8550 and the JMO but also of all other laws, rules and regulations on pollution;
- viii. Formulate policies and procedures for approval by respective Secretaries; and,
- ix. Prepare contingency measures.

b. Regional level:

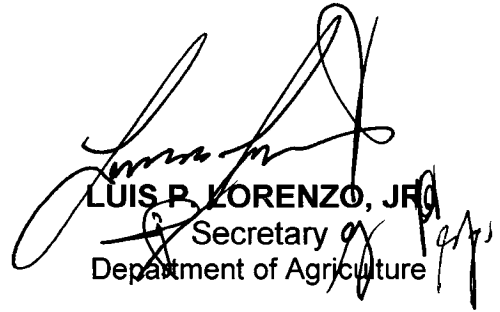
- i. Oversee implementation of the JMO in accordance with the Manual of Operations;
- ii. Resolve issues referred to by CENROs, PENROs, RFHOs, PFOs, LGUs, POs and NGOs;
- iii. Convene regular meetings;
- iv. Recommend to National JQRT issues needing further deliberation, action or collaborative action;
- v. Coordinate with other concerned agencies/offices;
- vi. Conduct investigations in accordance with the approved Manual of Operations;
- vii. Undertake IEC campaign pertaining to aquatic pollution; and,
- viii. Inform National JQRT of decisions made regarding pertinent issues.

**Sec. 4. Funding.** All expenses in the conduct of the National and Regional JQRT's functions and activities shall be in accordance with an approved Work and Financial Plan. The budget of the Work and Financial Plan shall be equally shared between the two departments, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
ELISEA G. GOZUN  
Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

  
LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.  
Secretary  
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