

**DENR Administrative Order
No. 97-23
July 24, 1997**

SUBJECT : Updating Departments Administrative Order No. 34, Series of 1990 Otherwise Known as the Revised Water Usage Classification/Water Quality Criteria Amending Section Nos. 68 and 69, Chapter III of the 1978 NPCC Rules and Regulations

Section 1. In conjunction with DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 34, Series of 1990, the quality of Philippine waters shall be maintained in a safe and satisfactory condition according to their best usage. For this purpose, Section 68 of DAO 34 S. 90, is hereby amended as follows:

"(b) Coastal and Marine Waters

"Classification

Beneficial Use

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| "Class SA | 1) | Waters suitable for the propagation, survival and harvesting of shellfish for commercial purposes; |
| | 2) | National marine parks and marine reserves established under existing laws and/or declared as such by the appropriate government agency; and |

- 3) Coral reef parks and reserves designated by law and concerned authorities.
- "Class SB
- 1) Tourist zones and marine reserves primary used for recreational activities such as bathing, swimming, skin diving, etc. established under existing laws and/or declared as such by the appropriate government agency;
 - 2) Recreational Water Class I (Areas regularly used by the public for bathing, swimming, skin diving, etc.); and
 - 3) Fishery Water Class I (Spawning areas for *Chanos chanos* or *Bangus* and similar species).
- "Class SC
- 1) Recreational Water Class II (e.g. boating, etc.);
 - 2) Fishery Water Class II (commercial and sustenance fishing) and
 - 3) Marshy and/or mangrove areas declared as fish and wildlife sanctuaries.
- "Class SD
- 1) Industrial and Water Supply Class II (e.g. cooling, etc.); and

- 2) Other coastal and marine waters, by their quality, belong to this classification."

Sec. 2. Section 69 on Water Quality Criteria shall be amended as follows:

"TABLE 3 WATER QUALITY CRITERIA FOR CONVENTIONAL AND OTHER POLLUTANTS AFFECTING AESTHETICS AND EXERTING OXYGEN DEMAND FOR COASTAL AND MARINE WATERS ^{xxx}

"PARAMETER	UNIT	CLASS SB
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"xxx	xxx	xxx
"Fecal coliforms	MPN/100ml	200(P)
"xxx	xxx	xxx"

Footnote for Table 3

(P) This limit refers to the geometric mean of the results of at least five (5) consecutive sampling events.

Sec. 3. The following operational procedures shall be observed in the monitoring of fecal coliforms in tourist zones and bathing areas in tourist zones.

1. The sampling frequency should be at regular intervals and at least six (6) times a month whenever there are indications of the presence of pollution sources. The sampling frequency could be adjusted to a lesser intensity during periods of low bathing activity and when pollution sources are effectively mitigated as determined by appropriate authorities.
2. The prescribed sampling locations should be in areas not less than 1 meter deep and the samples shall be collected 20-30 centimeters from the water surface.
3. The appropriate protocols for sample containers, sample collection, sample preservation and handling, chain-of-custody, sample analysis, and quality assurance/quality control shall be strictly observed.

This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

(Sgd.) VICTOR O. RAMOS
Secretary