

**JOINT DENR-DA-DILG-DND
Administrative Order
No. 97-01
September 08, 1997**

**SUBJECT : Setting of Moratorium on the Deployment
of Artificial Reef Nationwide**

WHEREAS, artificial reefs are defined as sets of any hard structure or material placed on the seabed to provide dwelling or shelter for fish and other marine organisms;

WHEREAS, experiences with the deployment of ARs in the country since 1977 point to disadvantages rather than advantages;

WHEREAS, deployment of ARs is believed to cause further overfishing and depletion of fish stocks; serving as “fish aggregating devices” or FADs, ARs aggregate fish in one area to increase Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) or “catchability” by fishermen;

WHEREAS, an interagency committee should be organized to review the results of the study and to formulate policy guidelines for implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers vested in the undersigned Department Secretaries, an inter-agency committee is hereby organized to:

1. Institute the moratorium on the deployment of artificial reefs nationwide effective immediately until such time that the policy guidelines on this matter are formulated after a year;

2. Formulate policy guidelines on the deployment and use of artificial reefs in the country immediately after completion of the policy study;
3. Consist of the following agencies with a Chairman chosen by and from among themselves;
 - a. Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - b. Secretary, Department of Agriculture
 - c. Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government
 - d. Secretary, Department of National Defense
 - e. Secretary, Presidential Management Staff

And two (2) additional members to be chosen by the Committee from the Federations of fishing associations and non-government organizations actively engaged in fisheries research and conservation.

Should any member coming from the government not be able to attend any of the Committee's regular meetings, such member may designate a representative to appear in his stead, provided, such representative shall be duly authorized in writing, to act and decide for his principal.

4. Coordinate all government and non-government efforts in the study and formulation of policy guidelines on the deployment, use and management of artificial reefs;
5. To submit to the President a periodic report of its activities and accomplishments.

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of September in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven.

(Sgd.) VICTOR O. RAMOS Secretary Department of Environment and Natural Resources	(Sgd.) SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III Secretary Department of Agriculture
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(Sgd.) ROBERT Z. BARBERS Secretary Department of Interior And Local Government	(Sgd.) RENATO S. DE VILLA Secretary Department of National Defense
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