



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4067

BY REPRESENTATIVES ANTONINO-CUSTODIO, VIRADOR, MARIANO, VILLAFUERTE, MACARAMBON, GARIN, MACAPAGAL ARROYO, NICOLAS, MALANYAON, APOSTOL, PICHAY, GUINGONA, ESCUDERO, OCAMPO, CASIÑO, BELTRAN, MAZA, NOGRALES AND ANTONINO (R.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 613

AN ACT DEFINING HANDLINE FISHING AND PROVIDING REGULATIONS FOR UTILIZATION OF HANDLINE FISHING BOATS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Handline
2 Fishing Law”.

3 SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
4 terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

5 (1) *Handline Fishing* – a traditional fishing method that uses the hook
6 and line, a passive fishing gear with a single vertical line carrying one hook

1 and used by simply dropping the line into the water and waiting for the fish to
2 bite.

3 (2) *Handline Fishing Boat* – a traditional fishing boat of sixty (60)
4 gross tons and below, with or without auxiliary small boats on board, that
5 exclusively utilizes the handline fishing method.

6 SEC. 3. *Handline Fishing Boat Registration.* – The registration,
7 documentation, inspection and manning of the operation of handline fishing
8 boats as Flag boats shall be with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA),
9 while the registration and documentation of said boats as fishing boats shall be
10 with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR): *Provided*, That
11 the MARINA, the BFAR, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the National
12 Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and other concerned government
13 agencies shall establish a one-stop-shop to cater to the needs of the handline
14 fishing industry.

15 SEC. 4. *Fishing by Philippine Handline Fishing Boats in International*
16 *Waters.* – Handline fishing boats of Philippine registry may operate in
17 international waters or waters of other countries that allow such operations:
18 *Provided*, That they comply with the minimum safety, manning, radio
19 communications and other requirements as stated in this Act: *Provided*,
20 *however*, That they secure an international fishing permit and certificate of
21 clearance from the BFAR: *Provided, further*, That the fish caught by handline

1 fishing boats shall be considered as caught in Philippine waters and therefore
2 not subject to all import duties and taxes when the same is landed in
3 government fish landings and fish ports in the Philippines: *Provided, finally,*
4 That fishermen on board Philippine registered handline fishing boats
5 conducting fishing activities beyond the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone
6 are not considered as overseas Filipino workers.

7 *SEC. 5. Manning Complement of Handline Fishing Boats.* – Every
8 handline fishing boat of Philippine registry when actually operated, shall be
9 manned in accordance with the following:

10 (a) The person holding the position of Boat Master shall be issued a
11 Boat Captain License after submitting a Certificate of Engagement from the
12 previous/present industrial partner, affidavit of boat owner taking the risk and
13 responsibility for engaging the Boat Captain, and a Certificate of
14 Apprenticeship from a licensed Boat Captain or Certificate of Completion for
15 theoretical and practical training for all applicants to the position. The
16 identification card of the Boat Captain shall be stamped with the words
17 “ONLY FOR HANDLINE FISHING BOAT 60 GT AND BELOW”

18 (b) The person holding the position of Assistant Boat Master shall be
19 issued a Marine Diesel Mechanic License after submitting a Certificate of
20 Engagement from the previous/present industrial partner, affidavit of boat
21 owner taking the risk and responsibility for engaging the Marine Diesel

1 Mechanic, and a Certificate of Apprenticeship from a licensed Boat Captain or
2 Certificate of Completion for theoretical and practical training for all
3 applicants to the position. The identification card of the Marine Diesel
4 Mechanic shall be stamped with the words "ONLY FOR HANDLINE
5 FISHING BOAT 60 GT AND BELOW": *Provided*, That upon approval of
6 this Act, incumbent Boat Masters and Assistant Boat Masters shall be issued
7 their respective licenses after submission of their Certificate of Engagement
8 and Affidavit of Owner's Risk and Responsibility: *Provided, further*, That for
9 handline fishing boats that fish outside Philippine waters, the Boat Captain and
10 Marine Diesel Mechanic shall also submit a copy of their respective Seaman's
11 Identification and Record Book.

12 SEC. 6. *Construction of Handline Fishing Boats.* - Existing and newly
13 constructed handline fishing boats shall be admeasured/re-admeasured and
14 shall follow prepared boat plans based on the following:

15 (a) For boats of five gross tons and below, a picture and actual
16 dimensions of the boat submitted by the owner or boat builder; and

17 (b) For boats above five gross tons, the boat plan signed and sealed by
18 a Naval Architect. However, boat plans complying with the dimensions and
19 specifications of previously approved and sealed plans by a registered Naval
20 Architect shall be considered as having been approved and sealed by a
21 registered Naval Architect.

1 *SEC. 7. Medical Supplies and Life-Saving Devices* – Handline fishing
2 boats shall maintain adequate medical supplies to provide for First Aid and
3 Life-Saving Devices sufficient and adequate for the crew.

4 *SEC. 8. Operation of Radio Communication Facilities on Board*
5 *Handline Fishing Boats.* – Handline fishing boats when actually operated shall
6 be required to have at least minimum and appropriate radio communications
7 equipment. The operation of said equipment shall be performed by a holder of
8 a valid Special Radio Operator Permit (SROP). The SROP may be obtained
9 after attending a seminar conducted by the NTC.

10 *SEC. 9. Reportorial Requirement.* – For purposes of complying with
11 the reportorial requirements under Section 38 of Republic Act No. 8550,
12 otherwise known as the “Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, the owner of the
13 handline fishing boat or his/her authorized representative shall report the fish
14 catch, quantity and value of fish caught and off-loaded for sale and/or other
15 disposal to the designated fish port officer or his authorized representative,
16 which detailed information shall be duly certified by the owner or his/her
17 authorized representative, after unloading at the nearest government fish
18 landing or fish port.

19 *SEC. 10. Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
20 approval of this Act, the BFAR, the MARINA, the PCG, the NTC and other
21 concerned government agencies, in consultation with fisherfolk and handline

1 fishing industry organizations and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the
2 necessary rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act:
3 *Provided, however,* That the said rules and regulations shall be submitted to
4 both Houses of Congress for review before promulgation.

5 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
6 administrative orders and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are
7 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

8 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
9 its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,