



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5500**



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Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the second paragraph of Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution:

“The State shall protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens.”

Since the country is an archipelago endowed with vast coastal and ocean resources, its marine life and marine biodiversity is thriving. It is therefore imperative for the government to protect our marine life not only to preserve the different species endemic to the Philippines, but also contribute to the conservation of the environment.

Several laws protect our marine life, including Proclamation No. 57 that declares the month of May of every year as “The Month of the Ocean” and Republic Act No. 9417, otherwise known as the “Wildlife Resources and Protection Act.”

And one of the hidden gems of the sea that needs protection is the marine turtle that thrives within Philippine seas. Hence, this bill.

This representation is refiling this measure that seeks to declare the month of June of every year as the “Marine Turtle Awareness Month.” The Committee on Natural Resources and the whole House of Representatives already approved the contents of this bill, as embodied in House Bill No. 10824, during the 18th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN**

Representative

Lone District, Basilan



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**“AN ACT  
DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS THE  
“MARINE TURTLE AWARENESS MONTH”**

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

**SECTION 1. *Title***– This Act shall be known as the “*Marine Turtle Awareness Month Act*”.

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy***. – It shall be the policy of the State to conserve and protect the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability and to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity.

In the pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following objectives:

- (a) to promote full awareness and widest dissemination of policies on marine turtle conservation and protection;
- (b) create, promote and sustain awareness on the importance of the irreplaceable ecological roles played by marine turtle species to help sustain the health of the marine ecosystem; and

- (c) promote further the advocacy on marine turtle protection and sustainability.

The month-long celebration will provide for more platforms and opportunities for the protection and conservation of marine turtles and important habitats where these species are present.

**SEC. 3.** The month of June of every year is hereby declared as the "Marine Turtle Awareness Month."

All heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including Government-owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and local government units (LGUs) shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted in celebration of the "Marine Turtle Awareness Month."

**SEC. 4. *Communication, Education and Public Awareness Plan.*** The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with concerned government agencies, local government units, and the private sector shall prepare and implement annual program of activities pursuant to the observance of the "Marine Turtle Awareness Month."

The DENR shall also undertake marine turtle information awareness and information sharing with the assistance of other national agencies and local government units to further strengthen the enforcement of this Act.

**SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall, after consultation with concerned government agencies, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*