

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9116**



**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO,
JOCELYN P. TULFO, ERWIN T. TULFO, EDVIC G. YAP, AND ERIC GO YAP**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY AND
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that 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.

Likewise, the Supreme Court in the case of *Resident Mammals of the Protected Seascape Tañon Strait v. Secretary Reyes, et al.* (2015) reiterated the principle that "humans are stewards of nature", a doctrine that was first enunciated in the landmark case of *Oposa v. Factoran* (1993), insofar as it refers to minors and generations yet unborn. In *Oposa*, the Court stated that every generation has a responsibility to the next to preserve that rhythm and harmony for the full enjoyment of a balanced and healthful ecology, echoing the constitutional mandate enshrined under Article II, Section 16.

By adopting a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive framework for the stewardship of our seas and coasts, this proposed measure seeks to develop, manage, protect, and preserve our marine ecosystems and coastal resources in a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient manner for the benefit of our present and future generations.

Salient provisions of this bill include the creation of a National Maritime Council – which will formulate the Policy Framework on Blue Economy, an integrated strategy to promote blue economy and ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources, and lead the conservation, protection, and rehabilitation of the nation's aquatic species and habitats. This proposed measure also calls for the adoption of an environmental-economic accounting of marine ecosystems and

resources and the development of various frameworks catering to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

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



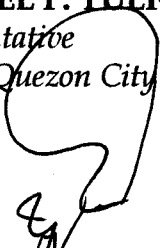
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:*

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Blue Economy Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to:

(a) Adopt blue economy as a framework for sustainable and safe use and development of marine wealth within our Maritime Zones, as a pillar of our national economy and patrimony;

(b) Exercise stewardship of our seas and coasts, and protect and conserve the health and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations;

(c) Preserve our maritime heritage, recognize the social, cultural, and historical value of our seas and coasts, and foster public understanding and respect of the value of our seas and coasts to build a strong foundation for social responsibility;

1
2 (d) Enrich scientific understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems, the benefits we
3 gain from these ecosystems (e.g., carbon sequestration), their changing conditions
4 and causes thereof, and use the best available scientific knowledge to inform
5 decisions affecting our seas and coasts and to enhance our capacity to respond
6 and adapt to changing maritime environments;

7
8 (e) Foster international cooperation, and exercise rights and jurisdiction in
9 accordance with applicable international laws, including on freedom of
10 navigation;

11
12 (f) Ensure a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive, integrated framework
13 for the stewardship of our seas and coasts to facilitate cohesive action of the
14 National Government, local authorities, academe, non-governmental
15 organizations, the private sector, and the public.
16

17 **SEC. 3. *Scope of Application.*** – For purposes of this Act, the Philippines shall exercise
18 sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as
19 appropriate, in internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone,
20 exclusive economic zone, and continental shelf, herein collectively referred to as
21 “Maritime Zones”, including its seabed and subsoil, and any and all maritime features
22 within the Maritime Zones now known or to be known in the future, without prejudice
23 to the power, authority, and right granted exclusively to the Bangsamoro Government
24 under Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the “Organic Law for the
25 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao”, to explore, develop, and
26 utilize natural resources within its territorial jurisdiction.
27

28 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.*** – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
29 be applicable:
30

31 (a) *Aquaculture* refers to the farming of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs,
32 crustaceans and aquatic plants. Farming implies some sort of intervention in the

rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc. Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated, the planning, development, and operation of aquaculture systems, sites, facilities and practices, and the production or transport;

(b) *Aquisilviculture* refers to a multi-purpose production system that allows production of fish in a mangrove reforestation project;

(c) *Blue economy* refers to a practical ocean-based economic model using green infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms, and proactive institutional arrangements for meeting the twin goals of protecting our oceans and coasts and enhancing its potential contribution to sustainable development, including improving human well-being and reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities;

(d) *Commercial fishing* refers to the harvesting of fish, either in whole or in part, for sale, barter, or trade;

(e) *Ecosystem services* refer to the flow of benefits which humans gain from ecosystems through biological processes and climate, hydrological and biochemical cycles, and experiences that contribute to intangible culture;

(f) *Environmental-economic accounting* refers to a systematic way of measuring and reporting stocks and flows of natural assets and resources—both biotic and abiotic, renewable and non-renewable—and ecosystem services to determine the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment;

(g) *Environmental-economic accounts* refer to statistical information, in physical or monetary terms, about the extraction of natural resources, their use within the

economy, natural resource stock levels, the changes in those stocks during a specific period, and such other economic activities related to the environment;

(h) *Integrated marine and coastal area management* refers to a participatory process for decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts from human activities in the marine and coastal environment, and to contribute to the restoration of degraded coastal areas;

(i) *Investment promotion agencies* refer to government entities created by law, executive order, decree or other issuance, in charge of promoting investments, granting and administering tax and non-tax incentives, and overseeing the operations of the different economic zones and freeports in accordance with their respective special laws. These include the Board of Investments (BOI), Regional Board of Investments-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (RBOI-ARMM), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), Phividec Industrial Authority (PHIVIDECA-IA), Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority (APECO), Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and all other similar existing authorities or that may be created by law;

(j) *Mariculture* refers to the farming of organisms, both plants and animals, in an aquatic medium or environment which may be completely marine, or sea water mixed to various degrees with fresh water. This definition would include both sea and inland brackish water areas;

(k) *Marine scientific research* refers to any research activity, which is conducted for exclusively peaceful purposes, for the purpose of increasing scientific

1 knowledge about the marine environment, including all natural resources,
2 toward the benefit of mankind and according to the 1982 United Nations
3 Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

4
5 (l) *Maritime domain awareness* refers to the effective understanding of any activity
6 that could impact upon the security, safety, economy, or environment;

7
8 (m) *Maritime spatial planning* refers to a process by which human activities in
9 Maritime Zones are analyzed and organized, based on best available scientific
10 knowledge, and to achieve economic, ecological, and social objectives;

11
12 (n) *Ocean-based activities* refer to activities that are undertaken in the ocean (*e.g.*,
13 fisheries and aquaculture, offshore oil and gas, mining, ocean energy,
14 desalination, shipping and marine transportation, marine tourism, and marine
15 construction);

16
17 (o) *Ocean-related activities* refer to activities that use products from the ocean (*e.g.*,
18 seafood processing, marine biotechnology, chemicals, salt, etc.) and produce
19 products and services for the ocean and ocean-based activities (*e.g.*, ship
20 building and repair, ports, tourist resorts, communication, maritime insurance
21 and law, maritime technical services, etc.);

22
23 (p) *Ocean literacy* refers to an understanding of the ocean's influence on humans and
24 human influence on the ocean; and

25
26 (q) *Subsistence fishing* refers to fishing for personal consumption or
27 traditional/ceremonial purposes.

28 29 CHAPTER II

30 NATIONAL MARITIME COUNCIL

31
32 **SEC. 5. *National Maritime Council.*** – The National Coast Watch Council, created
33 under Executive Order No. 57, series of 2011 (EO No. 57, s. 2011), is hereby renamed

1 and reconstituted as the National Maritime Council, herein referred to as the “Council”,
2 and its functions expanded to include the formulation of an integrated strategy to
3 promote blue economy and ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine
4 resources.

5
6 **SEC. 6. *Composition.*** – The Council is composed of the following:

- 7
8 (a) Executive Secretary, as Chairperson;
9 (b) Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning;
10 (c) Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;
11 (d) Secretary of National Defense;
12 (e) Secretary of Foreign Affairs;
13 (f) Secretary of Justice;
14 (g) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
15 (h) Secretary of Agriculture;
16 (i) Secretary of Tourism;
17 (j) Secretary of Transportation;
18 (k) Secretary of Trade and Industry;
19 (l) Secretary of Energy;
20 (m) Secretary of Science and Technology; and
21 (n) Secretary of Finance.

22
23 Department Secretaries may designate an Undersecretary, whose portfolio covers
24 matters directly or principally relating to the development or management of coastal
25 and marine resources and ecosystems, if applicable. They shall sit in a permanent
26 capacity, and their acts shall be considered the acts of their principals.

27
28 **SEC. 7. *Secretariat.*** – The Coastal Watch Council Secretariat, created under Section
29 4 of EO No. 57, s. of 2011, is hereby renamed as the National Maritime Office and shall
30 continue to provide technical and administrative support to the Council.

1 **SEC. 8. *Support Agencies.*** – Section 6 of EO No. 57, s. of 2011, is hereby amended to
2 include the following agencies to provide material or technical support to the Council,
3 as may be deemed necessary:

- 4
- 5 (a) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP);
 - 6 (b) BOI;
 - 7 (c) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);
 - 8 (d) Philippine Statistics Authority;
 - 9 (e) National Mapping and Resources Information Authority;
 - 10 (f) Environmental Management Bureau;
 - 11 (g) Biodiversity Management Bureau – Coastal and Marine Division;
 - 12 (h) Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards;
 - 13 (i) Philippine Fisheries Development Authority;
 - 14 (j) Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries;
 - 15 (k) Maritime Industry Authority;
 - 16 (l) Philippine Ports Authority;
 - 17 (m) Philippine Reclamation Authority;
 - 18 (n) Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research
19 and Development;
 - 20 (o) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
21 Administration (PAGASA);
 - 22 (p) Department of Foreign Affairs – Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office;
 - 23 (q) National Museum – Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Division;
 - 24 (r) University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute; and
 - 25 (s) Investment promotion agencies.
- 26

27 In order to ensure the efficient and effective discharge of its responsibilities, the
28 Council may create working groups and call upon other departments, bureaus, offices,
29 and instrumentalities of the Government, and academic research institutions engaged
30 in marine science and ocean-based or ocean-related activities to participate in working
31 groups, as it may deem necessary.

1
2
3 **CHAPTER III**
4 **POLICY FRAMEWORK ON BLUE ECONOMY**

5 **SEC. 9. *Policy Framework on Blue Economy.*** – The Council shall, within six (6)
6 months from the effectivity of this Act, formulate a Policy Framework on Blue
7 Economy, herein referred to as the “Policy Framework”. The Policy Framework shall
8 serve as the basis for marine spatial planning, determination of investments to enhance
9 maritime domain awareness, and enforcement of economic and environmental
10 regulations within our Maritime Zones. The Policy Framework shall be subject to
11 mandatory review and modification every five (5) years.
12

13 **SEC. 10. *Components of the Policy Framework on Blue Economy.*** – The Policy
14 Framework shall include the following components:
15

- 16 (a) Review of existing policies, plans, programs, projects, rules, and regulations on
17 ocean-based and ocean-related activities;
18
19 (b) Adherence to international maritime laws;
20
21 (c) Analysis of current and emerging trends and changes in demography,
22 consumption, trade, technology, and climate that show the interaction between
23 the economy and the environment, and present threats and pressures on coastal
24 and marine environments;
25
26 (d) Environmental-economic accounting of coastal and marine assets and
27 resources, and ecosystem services from coastal and marine environments;
28
29 (e) Priority strategic and sustainable ocean-based and ocean-related economic
30 activities, which may include:
31

- (1) Fisheries, including commercial fishing, but with preference to subsistence fishing, as mandated by Section 7, Article XIII of the Constitution;
 - (2) Aquaculture, mariculture, and aquasilviculture;
 - (3) Marine and coastal tourism;
 - (4) Reclamation;
 - (5) Shipping, logistics, and maritime transport;
 - (6) Ship-building and ship repair;
 - (7) Exploration, exploitation, and extraction of oil and natural gas;
 - (8) Production of renewable energy from marine sources;
 - (9) Submarine mining or extraction of minerals and aggregates;
 - (10) Installation of submarine cables and pipelines;
 - (11) Marine biotechnology and bioprospecting;
 - (12) Desalination; and
 - (13) Underwater and cultural heritage and maritime archaeology.
- (f) Guiding framework for integrated marine and coastal area management;
- (g) Guiding framework for blue finance;
- (h) Priority research and development agenda;
- (i) Promotion of ocean literacy and social responsibility towards the protection of coastal and marine environments;
- (j) Enhancement of capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and civilian agencies to enforce laws, rules, and regulations to protect our marine wealth; and
- (k) Goals, targets, and indicators for growth, resilience, and sustainability of priority strategic and sustainable ocean-based and ocean-related activities, including its contribution to Gross Domestic Product and job creation.

CHAPTER IV

ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME INSTRUMENTS

SEC. 11. *International Maritime Instruments.* – The State shall adhere to the provisions of the UNCLOS and relevant international conventions relating to maritime activities. Towards this end, the Council shall establish mechanisms for the full and effective implementation and enforcement of the following international maritime instruments and their subsequent amendments:

- (a) Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES);
- (b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- (c) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, and its Protocol of 1988 (SOLAS 74);
- (d) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its Protocol of 1978 (MAPROL 73/78);
- (e) Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended (COLREG 72);
- (f) International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 and its Protocol of 1988, as amended (LL 66);
- (g) International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (TONNAGE 69);
- (h) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 (SUA) and its Protocol;
- (i) International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation 1990 (OPRC 1990);
- (j) International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM 2004);
- (k) Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972, as amended, and its 1996 Protocol (LCP);

- (l) Special Trade Passenger Ships Agreement, 1971 (STP 71);
- (m) Convention on the International Mobile Satellite Organization, as amended (IMSO 1976) and its Operating Agreement (INMARSAT);
- (n) International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW 78);
- (o) International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 (AFS 2001);
- (p) Protocol of 1992 to Amend the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969; and
- (q) Protocol of 1992 to Amend the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971.

SEC. 12. *Application.* – Unless otherwise indicated, the international conventions enumerated in the preceding section shall apply to:

- (a) All ships, whether seagoing or coastwise, which are registered under the Philippine flag;
- (b) All persons, partnerships, corporations, firms, and other entities duly registered or licensed in the Philippines to engage in ocean-based or ocean-related enterprise, or those acting on their behalf; and
- (c) All foreign ships that are within the waters, ports, harbors, and offshore terminals of the Philippines regardless of whether or not they are registered in, or belong to, State Parties to the conventions sought to be implemented by this Act.

1 CHAPTER V

2 ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING

3
4 SEC. 13. *Environmental-Economic Accounting.* – The Council shall undertake
5 environmental-economic accounting of maritime ecosystems and resources, based on
6 the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Members of the
7 Council and heads of support agencies shall contribute data on environmental-
8 economic accounts relating to their mandates.

9
10 SEC. 14. *Framework.* – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall develop a
11 framework for the collection, compilation, processing, analysis, publication, and
12 dissemination of environmental-economic accounts and its integration in the national
13 accounts: *Provided, That* PSA shall integrate the collection of environmental-economic
14 accounts into the Community-Based Monitoring System for local government units
15 (LGUs): *Provided, further, That* the PSA shall coordinate with and provide technical
16 assistance to Members of the Council, support agencies, investment promotion agencies
17 and LGUs to ensure compliance to standard environmental-economic accounting
18 techniques, methodologies, concepts, definitions, and classifications to prevent
19 duplication in collection of statistical information.

20
21 CHAPTER VI

22 INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT

23
24 SEC. 15. *Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM).* – The
25 Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM) shall be the framework to
26 address human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity, and for promoting
27 conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity.

28
29 SEC. 16. *Elements of the National IMCAM Framework.* – The Council shall develop
30 and implement the National IMCAM Framework within one (1) year from the
31 effectivity of this Act to provide direction, support, and guidance to relevant member

1 and support agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders, according to the Elaborated
2 Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity contained in the Annex
3 to Decision VII/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Environmental
4 Programme Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

5
6 Accordingly, the National IMCAM Framework shall consider the following
7 elements:

8
9 (a) Building capacity of stakeholders, in both national and local levels, to apply
10 relevant policy instruments to address legal issues, institutionalize participatory
11 processes, and develop strategies to promote multi-disciplinary and multi-
12 sectoral ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine environments;

13
14 (b) Direct action to protect coastal and marine environments from negative impacts,
15 such as:

16 (1) Identification, protection, prevention of alteration and destruction, and
17 restoration of coastal and marine habitats, particularly areas important for
18 reproduction, *inter alia*, coral reef systems;

19 (2) Prevention, reduction, or control of marine pollution;

20 (3) Protection of coastal and marine environments from land-based sources,
21 including proper coastal land use and watershed management;

22 (4) Establishment of closed fishing areas; and

23 (5) Reduce by-catch; and

24
25 (c) Establishment of mechanisms and guidelines for research, monitoring, and
26 assessment of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources, including indicators
27 to measure natural and human-induced impacts.

1 **CHAPTER VII**
2 **PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE**
3 **RESOURCES**
4

5 **SEC. 17. *Protection of Endangered Species.*** – The Council shall spearhead the
6 conservation, protection, and rehabilitation of rare, threatened, and endangered aquatic
7 species as it may determine, including their habitats. It shall recommend to the
8 President and Congress the designation of coastal and marine areas as protected areas
9 under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System or under Republic Act
10 (RA) No. 8550, otherwise known as the “Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, as
11 amended by RA No. 10654, and in compliance with the relevant provisions of
12 international treaties and agreements such as, the CITES, the UNCLOS, and the CBD.
13

14 **SEC. 18. *Policy Coordination.*** – The Council shall harmonize rules and regulations
15 of all relevant agencies responsible for the implementation and enforcement of laws to
16 prevent and eliminate illegal fishing such as the Fisheries Code, as amended.
17

18 **CHAPTER VIII**
19 **DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**
20

21 **SEC. 19. *Maritime Spatial Planning.*** – The Council shall undertake a nationwide
22 maritime spatial planning to identify the spatial and temporal distribution of priority
23 activities and uses and the interactions thereof in Maritime Zones, in order to reduce
24 conflict among uses, facilitate complementary uses, mitigate environmental impacts,
25 and preserve ecosystem services.
26

27 **SEC. 20. *Industry Development Plans.*** – The Council, through working groups
28 created for the purpose, shall prepare five-year and ten-year development plans for
29 each priority strategic and sustainable ocean-based or ocean-related industry, in
30 accordance with the Policy Framework.
31

1 **SEC. 21. *Integration with Area and National Development Plans.*** – The National
2 Economic and Development Authority shall integrate the maritime spatial plan and
3 industry development plans into the Philippine Development Plan, the National
4 Priority Plan, the National Physical Framework Plan, and Area Spatial Development
5 Framework.

6
7 **SEC. 22. *Inclusion in Strategic Investment Priority Plan.*** – The Council shall
8 recommend to the BOI the inclusion of identified priority strategic ocean-based and
9 ocean-based activities in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan.

10
11 **SEC. 23. *Blue Economic Zones.*** – Investment promotion agencies shall encourage the
12 establishment of blue economic zones and the transformation of existing special
13 economic zones (SEZs) into the same, where locator enterprises engaged in ocean-based
14 or ocean-related activities shall enjoy the privileges, benefits, advantages, or exemptions
15 granted to economic zones and freeports in accordance with their respective special
16 laws.

17
18 In addition, the incentives provided for under the following laws may be granted to
19 blue SEZs:

- 20
21 (a) RA No. 9003, otherwise known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act
22 of 2000”;
23 (b) RA No. 9275, otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004”;
24 (c) RA No. 9513, otherwise known as the “Renewable Energy Act of 2008”; and
25 (d) RA No. 10771, otherwise known as the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016”.

26
27 Blue SEZs may also qualify for financing provided for under RA No. 11293,
28 otherwise known as the “Philippine Innovation Act”.

1 **CHAPTER IX**
2 **BLUE FINANCE**
3

4 **SEC. 24. *Role of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.*** – In the exercise of its regulatory
5 powers over financial institutions, the BSP shall mandate banks and quasi-banks to
6 adopt the United Nations Environment Programme Sustainable Blue Economy Finance
7 Principles as a foundation of corporate governance and risk management.
8

9 **SEC. 25. *Role of Securities and Exchange Commission.*** – The SEC shall encourage
10 the issuance of blue bonds where proceeds will be exclusively applied to finance or
11 refinance, in part or in full, strategic and sustainable ocean-based or ocean-related
12 activities, in accordance with ASEAN Green Bonds Standards and Green Bonds
13 Principles, as developed and may be revised from time to time by the ASEAN Capital
14 Markets Forum and the International Capital Market Association, respectively.
15

16 **SEC. 26. *Role of Government Financial Institutions.*** – The Land Bank of the
17 Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines shall allocate five percent
18 (5%) of its regular loan portfolio for credit to strategic and sustainable ocean-based or
19 ocean-related enterprises.
20

21 **CHAPTER X**
22 **MARINE SCIENCE AND OCEAN LITERACY**
23

24 **SEC. 27. *Marine Scientific Research.*** – The State recognizes marine science as a
25 foundation of maritime governance, insofar as rules governing the use of coastal and
26 marine resources must be based on the sound scientific understanding of the marine
27 environment. In accordance with UNCLOS, the Philippines has the exclusive rights to
28 regulate, authorize, and conduct marine scientific research in our internal waters,
29 archipelagic waters, and territorial sea; whereas, the Philippines has rights to regulate,
30 authorize, and conduct maritime research in our exclusive economic zone and
31 continental shelf: *Provided, That the marine scientific research activities shall not*

1 unjustifiably interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea and shall not constitute the
2 legal basis for any claim to any part of the marine environment or its resources.

3
4 Marine scientific research by foreign states and competent international
5 organizations may only be conducted with the express consent of and according to the
6 conditions set forth by the Council, in accordance with the UNCLOS.

7
8 **SEC. 28. *Ocean Literacy Framework.*** – The Department of Education, Commission
9 on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and
10 other government agencies implementing sector-specific literacy programs, in
11 consultation with relevant Members of the Council or support agencies, shall integrate
12 into the curricula of K-12, the Alternative Learning System, general education programs
13 of higher education institutions, technical and vocational education and trainings, and
14 other community-based training programs, the essential principles and fundamental
15 concepts of ocean sciences to develop the following competencies:

- 16
17 (a) Understanding the importance of the ocean to humankind;
18 (b) Communicating about the ocean in a meaningful way; and
19 (c) Making informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its
20 resources.

21
22 **CHAPTER XI**
23 **FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION**
24

25 **SEC. 29. *Archipelagic Sea Lanes.*** – The Council shall designate sea lanes and air
26 routes there above, suitable for the continuous and expeditious passage of foreign ships
27 and aircrafts through or over the archipelagic waters and the adjacent territorial sea,
28 and shall, where necessary as regards to the safety of navigation, require foreign ships
29 exercising the right of innocent passage to use such lanes and traffic separation schemes
30 in accordance with the UNCLOS.

1 Thereafter, the amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be included in
2 the annual General Appropriations Act.

3
4 **SEC. 34. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Council shall issue the
5 implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act:
6 *Provided,* That failure to issue rules and regulations shall not in any manner affect the
7 executory nature of the provisions of this Act.

8
9 **SEC. 35. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act or a portion thereof is
10 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not
11 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

12
13 **SEC. 36. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
14 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended,
15 or modified accordingly.

16
17 **SEC. 37. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
18 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

19
20 *Approved,*