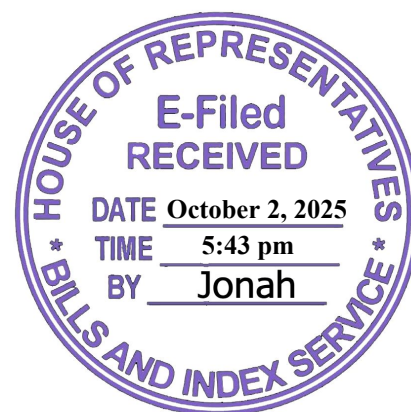


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5116



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, with its vast maritime domain and rich coastal ecosystems, stands at a pivotal moment to harness the potential of the blue economy – a sustainable ocean-based development model that balances economic growth with environmental stewardship.

In 2023, ocean-based industries contributed P943 billion to the national Gross Domestic Product¹, yet the country ranked 214th out of 220 in the Ocean Health Index². This signals the need for urgent reforms in marine governance and sustainability. The proposed Blue Economy Act establishes a comprehensive framework to promote stewardship, resilience, and inclusive development through a science-based and ecosystem-based management of marine resources.

Among the salient features of this proposed measure are the following:

- Creation of the Blue Economy Council to coordinate national strategies;
- Institutionalization of marine spatial planning and ocean accounting;
- Promotion of blue finance through blue bonds and sustainable investments;

¹ [2022 KPEScalona.pdf](#)

² ["Marine spatial planning \(MSP\) in the Philippines: an approach towards " by Garry Laynesa](#)

- Expansion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), proven to enhance biodiversity and local economies;
- Empowerment of Local Government Units (LGUs) to integrate coastal management into development plans.

Aligned with international frameworks such as United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 14, this measure supports innovation, climate resilience, and inter-agency collaboration. It also addresses threats like illegal fishing, land-based pollution, and habitat degradation, while fostering opportunities in fisheries, tourism, biotechnology, and renewable energy.

This piece of legislation is a strategic step toward securing the Philippines' maritime heritage and ensuring long-term benefits for present and future generations.

This bill was also previously filed and approved on third reading during the 19th Congress.

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


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

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 coastal and maritime domain, as a pillar of our national economy and patrimony;
- b) Exercise stewardship of our coasts and oceans, and protect and conserve the health and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats to promote the well-being, inclusive prosperity and security of present and future generations, and expand areas under protection to meet the nation’s international obligations especially in refugial habitats;

- 1 c) Preserve our maritime heritage, recognize the economic, social, cultural, and
2 historical value of our coasts and oceans, and foster public understanding and
3 respect of the value of our coasts and oceans to build a strong foundation for social
4 responsibility;
5
6 d) Enrich scientific understanding of ocean, marine and coastal ecosystems, the
7 benefits we gain from these, their changing extent and conditions and the causes
8 thereof, and use the best available scientific knowledge to inform decisions
9 affecting our coasts and oceans, and to enhance our capacity to respond and adapt
10 to changing ocean environments;
11
12 e) Exercise rights and jurisdiction, and enjoyment of freedom of the high seas, in
13 accordance with applicable international laws;
14
15 f) Strategically address the factors that adversely affect the oceans and the living and
16 non-living resources that comprise our seas, turning threats into opportunities and
17 preventing further harm to all water bodies including land-based pollution,
18 biodiversity loss, and climate change;
19
20 g) Ensure a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive and integrated framework
21 for the stewardship of our coasts and oceans to facilitate cohesive action of the
22 National Government, local authorities, academe, civil society organizations,
23 indigenous peoples and local communities, and private sector, to secure our
24 people's safe and access to, enjoyment of, and opportunities to invest on sustaining
25 their benefits from our blue economy; and
26
27 h) Uphold marine science as a foundation of maritime governance ensuring that all
28 rules, policies, and plans governing the use of coastal and marine resources will be
29 based on sound scientific understanding of the marine environment.
30

31 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:
32

- 33 a) *Aquaculture* refers to fishery operations involving all forms of raising and culturing
34 fish and other fishery species in fresh, brackish, and marine water areas;

- 1 b) *Aquasilviculture* refers to a multi-purpose production system that allows the
2 production of fish in a mangrove reforestation project;
3
- 4 c) *Blue economy* refers to the practical ocean-based economic model using green
5 infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms, and proactive
6 institutional arrangements for meeting the twin goals of protecting our oceans and
7 coasts and enhancing its potential contribution to sustainable development,
8 including improving human well-being, and reducing environmental risks and
9 ecological scarcities;
10
- 11 d) *Coast* refers to the interface where the land meets the ocean, encompassing
12 shoreline environments as well as adjacent coastal waters. Its components can
13 include river deltas, coastal plains, wetlands, beaches and dunes, reefs, mangroves
14 forests, lagoons and other coastal features;
15
- 16 e) *Fishing* refers to the taking of fishery species by passive or active gear for trade,
17 business and profit beyond subsistence or sports fishing, to be further classified as:
18
- 19 1. small-scale commercial fishing - fishing with passive or active gear utilizing
20 fishing vessels of 3.1 gross tons (gt) up to twenty (20) gt;
21 2. medium-scale commercial fishing - fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of
22 20.1 gt up to one hundred fifty (150) gt; and
23 3. large commercial fishing - fishing utilizing active gears and vessels of more
24 than one hundred fifty (150) gt.
25
- 26 f) *Ecosystem* services refer to the benefits supplied by the functions of ecosystems and
27 received by humanity and all elements of living systems, which support life systems
28 on the planet. Ecosystem services consist of provisioning services, regulating and
29 maintenance services, and cultural services;
30
- 31 g) *Environmental sustainability* refers to responsible use of coastal, marine, and
32 freshwater resources offers protection of the marine ecosystem from harmful effects
33 and degradation. Environmental sustainability includes (a) stewardship by the
34 government and local communities to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the

1 coastal, freshwater, and marine environment; (b) mitigate the impacts of climate
2 change; and (c) protect biodiversity.

3
4 h) *Integrated marine and coastal area management* refers to coordinated and
5 sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, and participatory process
6 for planning and decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts
7 from human activities in the marine and coastal environment, biodiversity and
8 climate, and to contribute to the restoration of degraded coastal areas, protection of
9 habits, and reduction of multiple resource-use conflicts among various stakeholders
10 in order to pursue sustainable and inclusive growth, support jobs and livelihood,
11 and enhance food, energy and water security, climate resilience, and wellbeing;

12
13 i) *Investment promotion agencies* refer to government entities created by law,
14 executive order, decree or other issuance, in charge of promoting investments,
15 granting and administering tax and non-tax incentives, or overseeing the operations
16 of the different economic zones and freeports in accordance with their respective
17 special laws;

18
19 j) *Land-based pollution* refers to municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and
20 run-off including but not limited to sewage and waste water, persistent organic
21 pollutants (including pesticides), heavy metals, oils, nutrients, sediments, and
22 plastic wastes, whether brought by rivers or discharged directly into coastal waters;

23
24 k) *Marine resources* refer to the diverse range of living and non-living components
25 found within marine ecosystems, including oceans, seas, and coastal areas;

26
27 l) *Marine spatial planning* is the public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial
28 and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological,
29 economic, and social objectives. It is a practical way to create and establish more
30 rational organization of marine space and the interactions between its uses to
31 balance between demands for development with the need to protect marine
32 ecosystems, and to achieve social and economic objectives in an open and planned
33 way;

1 m) *Maritime zones* refer to (a) the maritime zones of the Philippine archipelago
2 comprising of internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone,
3 exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and continental shelf; and (b) all other territories
4 over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction likewise have their
5 respective maritime zones, as appropriate, in accordance with the 1987 constitution
6 and international law, particularly, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law
7 of the Sea (UNCLOS);

8
9 n) *Ocean accounting* refers to a statistical framework that guides the compilation and
10 integration of a series of standardized and regular measurements of stocks and flows
11 of ocean economic, societal and environmental components through specific
12 accounting table groups and comprehensive indicators critical for informed and
13 evidence-based decisions;

14
15 o) *Ocean-based activities* refer to activities that are undertaken in the ocean, such as
16 fisheries and aquaculture, offshore oil and gas, mining, ocean energy, desalination,
17 shipping and marine transportation, ship building and repair, marine tourism, ports,
18 tourist resorts, communication, marine construction, maritime insurance and law,
19 maritime technical services, *etc.*;

20
21 p) *Ocean-related activities* refer to activities that use products from the ocean such as
22 seafood processing, marine biotechnology, chemicals, salt, *etc.*, and produce
23 products and services for the ocean and ocean-based activities;

24
25 q) *Subsistence fishing* refers to fishing for personal consumption or
26 traditional/ceremonial purposes; and

27
28 r) *Ocean literacy* refers to an understanding of the ocean's influence on humans and
29 human influence on the ocean as well as the linkage of ocean and climate and its
30 effect on humans, water, and ecosystems.

31
32 **SEC. 4. *Scope of Application.*** – For purposes of this Act, the Philippines shall exercise
33 sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as
34 appropriate, in internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive

1 economic zone and continental shelf, herein collectively referred to as “coastal and marine
2 zones”, including its seabed and subsoil, and any and all maritime features within the maritime
3 zones now known or to be known in the future.

4 5 **CHAPTER II** 6 **BLUE ECONOMY COUNCIL** 7

8 **SEC. 5. *Blue Economy Council.*** – The Blue Economy Council, herein referred to as
9 the “Council,” is hereby established to formulate an integrated strategy to strengthen, grow,
10 and sustain the Philippines’ blue economy, integrated marine and coastal management, and
11 ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources.

12
13 **SEC. 6. *Composition.*** – The Council shall be composed of the following:
14

- 15 a. Executive Secretary - Chairperson;
- 16 b. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources - Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 17 c. Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning - Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 18 d. Secretary of National Defense - Member;
- 19 e. Secretary of Foreign Affairs - Member;
- 20 f. Secretary of Justice - Member;
- 21 g. Secretary of the Interior and Local Government - Member;
- 22 h. Secretary of Agriculture - Member;
- 23 i. Secretary of Tourism - Member;
- 24 j. Secretary of Transportation - Member;
- 25 k. Secretary of Trade and Industry - Member;
- 26 l. Secretary of Energy - Member;
- 27 m. Secretary of Science and Technology - Member;
- 28 n. Secretary of Finance - Member; and
- 29 o. Secretary of Public Works and Highways - Member.

30
31 Department Secretaries may designate an Undersecretary, whose portfolio covers
32 matters directly or principally relating to the development or management of coastal and marine
33 resources and ecosystems, if applicable. They shall sit in a permanent capacity, and their acts
34 shall be considered the acts of their principals.

1 A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

2
3 **SEC. 7. *Mandates, Powers, and Functions of the Blue Economy Council.*** – The
4 Council shall be responsible for formulating a clear, coherent, and comprehensive policy
5 framework and strategic action plan on blue economy. It shall:
6

- 7 a) Develop the country’s policy framework and strategic vision for the growth and
8 sustainable development of the country’s blue economy;
- 9 b) Institutionalize an integrated marine and coastal management;
- 10 c) Enhance the country’s ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine
11 resources;
- 12 d) Align integrated coastal management (ICM) plans, fisheries management plans,
13 coastal resource management plans, climate action plans, and marine spatial plans
14 to determine zones, designate allowed, regulated, and restricted activities;
- 15 e) Strengthen economic and environmental regulations within our coastal and marine
16 areas to preserve the value and sustainability of ocean resources and their protection
17 from threats;
- 18 f) Identify climate-resilient and environmentally sound investments, infrastructure,
19 and technologies;
- 20 g) Ensure an enabling environment for the growth and development of sustainable
21 investment and finance;
- 22 h) Identify priority blue economy sectors;
- 23 i) Institutionalize regular coastal and ocean monitoring and accounting;
- 24 j) Coordinate the development of marine spatial plans;
- 25 k) Coordinate with various sectors and agencies to promote policy and program
26 coherence;
- 27 l) Coordinate and cooperate with maritime industry authority to ensure that the
28 framework shall be in harmony with and not overlap with the maritime industry
29 development plan;
- 30 m) Coordinate with the inter-agency coordinating committee on ratification and
31 accession to and implementation of maritime conventions (ICCRAIMC) and ensure
32 that it will aid in the implementation thereof;
- 33 n) Conduct, support, fund, engage, collaborate, and/or coordinate research and
34 development in blue economy;

- o) Develop, expand, and strengthen investments in capacity building and skills enhancement programs for the blue economy, and encourage such to be featured in the work planning of governments, the private sector, and civil society organizations;
- p) Review, update, and disseminate the policy framework and strategic action plan on blue economy; and
- q) Perform other functions as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Secretariat.* – A Secretariat to the council shall be established within NEDA, to be headed by an Executive Director III (Salary Grade 28) who shall be appointed by the president of the Philippines. The Secretariat shall be under the control and supervision of the NEDA Director General. The Executive Director III shall have at least seven (7) years of experience and practice in the fields of marine science and research, blue economy and ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources, environmental economics, environmental accounts, and financial analysis to qualify for appointment.

The initial staffing structure and complement of the Secretariat shall be submitted by the NEDA to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for funding. NEDA shall constitute an interim Secretariat within one month from the effectivity of this Act, through the temporary detail of personnel from its Member agencies.

The Secretariat shall have the following functions:

- a) Provide Secretariat support to the Council, including the preparation of draft strategies, priorities, and other outputs to be adopted by the Council;
- b) Consult with experts who can offer insights on blue economy and ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources policymaking and priority setting;
- c) Coordinate with various agencies of the government, private sector, academe, scientific community, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the public;
- d) Design and implement a blue economy development program to promote its use and adoption in the government bureaucracy;
- e) Develop recommendations for consideration by the Council; and
- f) Perform other functions as may be directed by the Council.

1 **SEC. 9. *Support Agencies.*** – The following agencies to provide material or technical
2 support to the Council, as may be deemed necessary:

- 3
- 4 a) Climate Change Commission (CCC);
 - 5 b) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP);
 - 6 c) Board of Investments (BOI);
 - 7 d) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);
 - 8 e) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
 - 9 f) National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA);
 - 10 g) Environmental Management Bureau (EMB);
 - 11 h) Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);
 - 12 i) Bureau Of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
 - 13 j) National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI);
 - 14 k) Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA);
 - 15 l) Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF);
 - 16 m) Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);
 - 17 n) Philippine Ports Authority (PPA);
 - 18 o) Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and
 - 19 Development (PCAARRD);
 - 20 p) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
 - 21 (PAGASA);
 - 22 q) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
 - 23 r) Philippine Coast Guard (PCG);
 - 24 s) Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG);
 - 25 t) Philippine Navy (PN);
 - 26 u) National Museum-Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Division (NM-
 - 27 MUCHD);
 - 28 v) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
 - 29 w) Relevant Institutions and Components of the University of the Philippines (UP);
 - 30 and
 - 31 x) investment promotion agencies.
- 32

33 In order to ensure the efficient and effective discharge of its responsibilities, the Council
34 may create working groups, and call upon other departments, bureaus, offices, and

1 instrumentalities of the Government, and academic and research institutions engaged in marine
2 science and ocean-based or ocean-related activities to participate in Working Groups, as it may
3 deem necessary.

4 5 **CHAPTER III** 6 **THE BLUE ECONOMY FRAMEWORK** 7

8 **SEC. 10. *Policy Development Framework on Blue Economy.*** – The Council shall,
9 within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, formulate a policy framework on blue
10 economy, herein referred to as the Framework. The Framework is a development model that
11 aims to help the country define a roadmap to a diversified and sustainable ocean economy in a
12 manner that provides long-term economic and social benefits while building resilience to
13 climate change and without compromising the safety of our marine ecosystems. The
14 Framework shall be subject to mandatory review and modification every five (5) years.

15
16 **SEC. 11. *Components of the Policy Framework on Blue Economy.*** – The Framework
17 shall include the following components:

- 18
19 a) Review of all existing policies, plans, programs, projects, rules, and regulations on
20 ocean-based and ocean-related activities;
21 b) Adherence to international maritime laws;
22 c) Analysis of current and emerging trends and changes in demography, consumption,
23 trade, energy, technology, environmental quality, and climate that show the
24 interaction between the economy and the environment, present and future threats
25 and pressures on coastal and marine environments, and damage estimation;
26 d) Environmental-economic accounting of coastal and marine assets and living and
27 non-living resources, and ecosystem services from coastal and marine
28 environments, including assessment of losses due to degradation or major pollution
29 events such as oil spills;
30 e) The integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) shall be the
31 framework to address human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity,
32 and for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity;
33 Accordingly, the national IMCAM framework shall consider the following
34 elements:

- i. Building capacity of stakeholders, at both national and local levels, to apply relevant policy instruments to address legal issues, institutionalize participatory processes, and develop strategies to promote multidisciplinary and multisectoral ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine environments;
 - ii. Direct action to protect coastal and marine environments from negative impacts, such as:
 - a. Alteration and destruction, of coastal and marine habitats, particularly areas important for reproduction, inter alia, coral reef systems, sea grass areas, and the sea bed;
 - b. Marine and land-based pollution;
 - c. Improper coastal land use, and the mismanagement of watersheds;
 - d. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, by-catch especially of threatened species; and
 - iii. Establishment of mechanisms and guidelines for research, monitoring, assessment and valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources, including indicators to measure natural and human-induced impacts.
- f) Priority strategic and sustainable ocean-based and ocean-related economic activities, which may include:
- 1) Fisheries, including commercial fishing, seafood processing, and commercial research and development, but with preference to subsistence fisheries, as mandated by Section 7, Art. XIII, of the Constitution;
 - 2) Aquaculture, mariculture and aquasilviculture;
 - 3) Marine and coastal tourism;
 - 4) Shipping, logistics, and maritime transport;
 - 5) Ship-building and ship repair;
 - 6) Production of renewable energy from marine sources;
 - 7) Installation of submarine cables and pipelines;
 - 8) Bioremediation, marine biotechnology and bioprospecting;
 - 9) Desalination; and
 - 10) Underwater cultural heritage and maritime archaeology;
- g) Guiding framework for integrated marine and coastal area management;

- h) Guiding framework for blue finance;
- i) Priority research and development agenda, maximizing opportunities created for pollution control, remediation, used water economics, and other industries that address threats;
- j) Promotion of ocean literacy and social responsibility towards the protection of coastal and marine environments;
- k) Enhancement of the capability of the relevant agencies to enforce laws, rules and regulations to protect our marine wealth;
- l) Goals, targets, and indicators for growth, resilience, and sustainability of priority strategic and sustainable coastal and ocean-based and ocean-related activities, including its contribution to gross domestic product, job creation, and livelihoods;
- m) Scaling up the expansion and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in line with integrated coastal management to help boost the country's blue economy by protecting and conserving the coastal and marine ecosystems and resources;
- n) Mainstreaming of circular and resource efficiency approaches on the blue economy framework to address the longstanding problem on marine litter and microplastics;
- o) Integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM) strategies to help operationalize the country's nationally determined contributions (NDC); and
- p) Strengthening of management capacities of national and local governments, including relevant sectors, to enhance the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems and such other components as may be determined by the Council.

CHAPTER IV OCEAN ACCOUNTING

SEC. 12. *Ocean Accounting.* – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall undertake environmental-economic accounting of ocean, maritime ecosystems, and resources, based on the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Members of the council and heads of support agencies shall contribute data and submit reports on environmental-economic accounts relating to their mandates including damage estimation and sea level rise projections.

CHAPTER V MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

SEC. 13. *Marine Spatial Planning.* – The Blue Economy Council shall undertake a nationwide marine spatial planning (MSP) with the participation of key stakeholders to identify the spatial and temporal distribution of priority activities and uses and the interactions thereof in maritime zones, in order to reduce conflict among uses, facilitate complementary uses, mitigate environmental impacts, prevent marine dead zones, rehabilitate dead zones or non-attainment areas if any, reduce wastage and ensure efficiency in marine supply chains, and preserve ecosystem services with the national MSP providing the guiding principles and overarching delineations, and identifying the spatial and temporal distribution of allowed, restricted and regulated human activities and priority uses and the interactions thereof in the coastal and marine zones, and encourage and support the development of regional and local MSPs, which can provide a level of granularity that can be linked to actionable investments, regulations and enforcement, coastal and marine resource management and conservation measures, and reduction of risks from climate change and natural disasters.

SEC. 14. *Blue Economic Zones.* – Investment promotion agencies shall encourage the establishment of blue economic zones and the transformation of existing special economic zones (SEZs) into the same, where registered business enterprises engaged in ocean-based or ocean-related activities as listed under the strategic investment priority plan (SIPP) shall enjoy the privileges, benefits, advantages or exemptions granted to economic zones and freeports in accordance with their respective special laws and with the applicable laws, rules and regulations on Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE).

In addition, registered business enterprises operating within blue SEZs may also qualify for financing provided for under Republic Act No. 11293, or the "Philippine Innovation Act, " as applicable.

CHAPTER VI

BLUE FINANCE

SEC. 15. *Role of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).* – In the exercise of its regulatory powers over financial institutions, the BSP shall provide an enabling regulatory environment to promote the development of the country’s blue economy, considering international standards and best practices.

SEC. 16. *Role of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).* – The SEC shall encourage the issuance of blue bonds where proceeds will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance, in part or in full, eligible blue programs, activities and projects (PAPs) in accordance with SEC guidelines, and ASEAN Green Bonds Standards and Green Bonds Principles, as developed and may be revised from time to time by the SEC, the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum and the International Capital Market Association, respectively. All designated blue PAPs must provide clear benefits to ocean health and the blue economy and must contribute substantially to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 14, which will be assessed together with compliance with environmental laws and standards, and, where feasible, quantified by the corporation that will issue the blue bonds.

The eligibility of these blue PAPs shall be subject to the guidelines that will be issued by the SEC.

SEC. 17. *Role of Government Financial Institutions.* – The Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines shall provide credit to strategic and sustainable ocean-based or ocean-related enterprises.

CHAPTER VII

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES

SEC. 18. *Protection of Endangered Species.* – The Blue Economy Council shall monitor, coordinate, and ensure the conservation, protection, and rehabilitation of rare, threatened, and endangered aquatic species as it may determine, including their habitats and migratory routes, in coordination with BFAR and in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. It shall recommend to the President and Congress the designation of coastal and marine areas as protected areas under Republic Act No. 11038, or the “Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System”, or sanctuaries of local conservation areas under the Republic Act No. 8550, or the Fisheries Code, as amended, and Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code, as amended, and in compliance with the relevant provisions of international treaties and agreements, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of

wild animals, and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

SEC. 19. *Policy Coordination.* – The Blue Economy Council shall harmonize rules and regulations of all relevant agencies responsible for the implementation and enforcement of laws to prevent and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing such as Republic Act No. 8550, also known as the “Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998,” as amended, setting strategic and measurable targets and ensuring the best use of technology such as vehicle monitoring system. Further, the Council shall act as the coordinating and monitoring arm of the government in ensuring other government agencies’ compliance with said laws.

CHAPTER VIII ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SEC. 20. *Role of Local Government Units.* – Cities and municipalities shall continue to exercise jurisdiction over municipal waters, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the “Local Government Code of 1991,” as amended, and Republic Act No. 8550, as amended. Consistent with this mandate, LGUs in coastal and marine areas shall act as the frontline agencies in the formulation, planning, and implementation of IMCAM in their respective jurisdictions. The LGUs shall develop their local marine spatial plan in accordance with the National Maritime Spatial Plan, and integrate them in their comprehensive land use plan, comprehensive development, and annual investment plan, ICM or Coastal Resource Management Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, and opportunities such as the National Sewage and Septage Management Plan and the funds under the Republic Act No. 9275.

SEC. 21. *Inter-LGU Cooperation.* – Consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, LGUs may group themselves, consolidate, or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for the accomplishment of the objectives of this Act.

CHAPTER IX FINAL PROVISIONS

1 **SEC. 22. *Congressional Oversight.*** – For the effective implementation of this Act, a
2 Congressional Oversight Committee is created to be known as the Blue Economy Oversight
3 Committee. The Blue Economy Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators
4 and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the
5 House of Representatives, respectively. The minority in the Senate and the House of
6 Representatives shall each have at least one (1) seat in the Oversight Committee. The Blue
7 Economy Oversight Committee shall be jointly chaired by the Chairperson of the Senate
8 Committee on Economic Affairs and the Chairperson of the House Committee on Economic
9 Affairs.

10
11 **SEC. 23. *Appropriations.*** – The initial implementation of this Act shall be charged
12 against the current year’s appropriations of the departments or agencies concerned. Thereafter,
13 the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the respective
14 budgets of the departments, and agencies concerned in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15
16 **SEC. 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
17 approval of this Act, the Council shall issue the implementing rules and regulations; *Provided,*
18 That failure to issue rules and regulations shall not in any manner affect the executory nature
19 of the provisions of this Act.

20
21 **SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
22 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and
23 effect.

24
25 **SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters
26 of instruction, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the
27 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

28
29 **SEC. 27. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following publication
30 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

31
32 *Approved,*