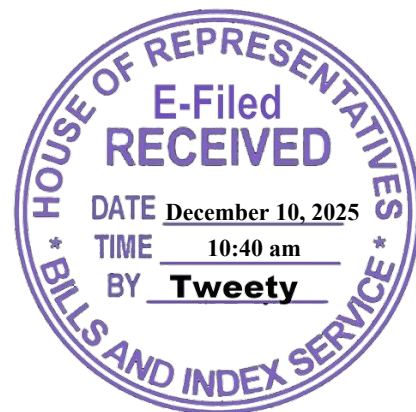


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 46

Submitted by the Committees on Economic Affairs, Ways and Means, and Appropriations on **December 10, 2025**.

Re : House Bill No. **6762**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1158, 1553, 2101, 2250, 2284, 2324, 2480, 2683, 2807, 3254, 3819, 4139, 4653, 4671, 4791, 4855, 4934, 5116, 5747, 6086, 6175, and 6297

Sponsors : Representatives Antonio B. Legarda, Jr., Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Atty. Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo, and Mikaela Angela B. Suansing

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Economic Affairs, Ways and Means, and Appropriations, to which were referred

House Bill No. 1158, introduced by Representative Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, entitled:

"AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR"

House Bill No. 1553, introduced by Representatives Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Vincenzo Renato Luigi R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, Terry L. Ridon, entitled:

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

AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 2101, introduced by Representative Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 2250, introduced by Representative Robert Nazal, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 2284, introduced by Representative Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 2324, introduced by Representatives Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 2480 introduced by Representative Antonio B. Legarda, Jr., entitled:

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

House Bill No. 2683, introduced by Representative Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 2807, introduced by Representative Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 3254, introduced by Representative Kristine Singson-Meehan, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 3819, introduced by Representatives Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo and Jocelyn P. Tulfo, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 4139, introduced by Representatives Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bryan B. Revilla, and Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 4653, introduced by Representatives Lordan G. Suan and Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK STRATEGY FOR THE
BLUE ECONOMY, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE BLUE
ECONOMY COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 4671, introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL
MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 4791, introduced by Representative Franz Vincent F. Legazpi, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 4855, introduced by Representative Antonino B. Roman III, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 4934, introduced by Representative Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY
AND PROMOTING THE STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCE”

House Bill No. 5116, introduced by Representative Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 5747, introduced by Representative Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY,
PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE
NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL

MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 6086, introduced by Representative Rosalie Ang Salvame, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY, PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 6175, introduced by Representative Adrian E. Salceda, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE TRANSITION OF THE PHILIPPINE OCEAN ECONOMY TO A BLUE ECONOMY, CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE BLUE ECONOMY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and **House Bill No. 6297**, introduced by Representative Eric L. Olivarez, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BLUE ECONOMY, PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES, REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE NATIONAL COAST WATCH SYSTEM AS THE NATIONAL MARITIME MONITORING SYSTEM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”


have considered the same and hereby recommend that the attached House Bill No. 6762, entitled:



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

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1158, 1553, 2101, 2250, 2284, 2324, 2480, 2683, 2807, 3254, 3819, 4139, 4653, 4671, 4791, 4855, 4934, 5116, 5747, 6086, 6175, and 6297, with Representatives Antonio B. Legarda, Jr., Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, Lani Mercado-

Revilla, Antonino B. Roman, III, Ryan S. Recto, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Irene G. Labadlabad, Robert Nazal, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Vincenzo Renato Luigi R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, Terry L. Ridon, Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Bryan B. Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Lordan G. Suan, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Franz Vincent F. Legazpi, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Raymond Adrian E. Salceda, Eric L. Olivarez, Ronaldo L. Macasaet, Salvador A. Pleyto, Jose Manuel F. Alba, Jesus "Jess" R. Marquez, Gerald Cloyd Alexis V. Galang, Brian Poe, Manuel "Manman" O. Ko, Atty. Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo, Antolin A. Oreta, III, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., Presley C. De Jesus, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Elijah R. San Fernando, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Joel R. Chua, Walfredo "Arman" R. Dimaguila, Jr., Loreto S. Amante, JC Rahman A. Nava, MD., Steve Chiongbian Solon, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Arthur C. Yap, Zaldy S. Villa, Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda, Ronald V. Singson, Dale B. Corvera, Roger Gaviola Mercado, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Laarni Lavin Roque, Leonel "Jhong" D. Ceniza, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Leody "Odie" F. Tarriela, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Bernadette S. Barbers, Emerson D. Pascual, Marlo C. Bancoro, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Esmael G. Mangudadatu, Angelo Marcos Barba, Wilton "Tonton" T. Kho, King Collantes, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Gil "Kabarangay Jr" Acosta, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Maria Kristina Jihan B. Glepa, Joseph Kim C. Yu, Jeyzel Victoria C. Yu, Bai Dimple I. Mastura, Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, Eduardo R. Rama, Maria Vanessa "Vanvan" C. Aumentado, RN, Anna York P. Bondoc, MD, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Ronaldo V. Puno, and Cielo Krisel Lagman as authors.

Respectfully submitted,


ANTONIO B. LEGARDA, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Economic Affairs

 **MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING**  **ATTY. ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**
Chairperson Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations Committee on Ways and Means

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6762

(in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1158, 1553, 2101, 2250, 2284,
2324, 2480, 2683, 2807, 3254, 3819, 4139, 4653, 4671, 4791, 4855, 4934,
5116, 5747, 6086, 6175, and 6297)

By Representatives Antonio B. Legarda, Jr., Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Antonino B. Roman, III, Ryan S. Recto, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Irene G. Labadlabad, Robert Nazal, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Vincenzo Renato Luigi R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, Terry L. Ridon, Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Bryan B. Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Lordan G. Suan, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Franz Vincent F. Legazpi, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Raymond Adrian E. Salceda, Eric L. Olivarez, Ronaldo L. Macasaet, Salvador A. Pleyto, Jose Manuel F. Alba, Jesus "Jess" R. Marquez, Gerald Cloyd Alexis V. Galang, Brian Poe, Manuel "Manman" O. Ko, Atty. Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo, Antolin A. Oreta, III, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., Presley C. De Jesus, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Elijah R. San Fernando, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Joel R. Chua, Walfredo "Arman" R. Dimaguila, Jr., Loreto S. Amante, JC Rahman A. Nava, MD., Steve Chiongbian Solon, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Arthur C. Yap, Zaldy S. Villa, Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda, Ronald V. Singson, Dale B. Corvera, Roger Gaviola Mercado, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Laarni Lavin Roque, Leonel "Jhong" D. Ceniza, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Leody "Odie" F. Tarriela, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Bernadette S. Barbers, Emerson D. Pascual, Marlo C. Bancoro, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Esmael G. Mangudadatu, Angelo Marcos Barba, Wilton "Tonton" T. Kho, King Collantes, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Gil "Kabarangay Jr" Acosta, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Maria Kristina Jihan B. Glepa, Joseph Kim C. Yu, Jeyzel Victoria C. Yu, Bai Dimple I. Mastura, Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, Eduardo R. Rama, Maria Vanessa "Vanvan" C. Aumentado, RN, Anna York P. Bondoc, MD, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Ronaldo V. Puno, and Cielo Krisel Lagman

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

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

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISION**

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 the Blue Economy as a framework for the 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, 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;

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

(d) Enrich scientific understanding of ocean, marine, and coastal ecosystems, the benefits we gain from these, their naturally changing extent and conditions, and the causes thereof, as well as anthropogenic pressures and impacts, while also using the best available scientific knowledge to inform decisions affecting our coasts and oceans, and to enhance our capacity to respond and adapt to changing ocean environments and climate;

(e) Exercise rights and jurisdiction, and enjoyment of freedom of the high seas, under applicable international laws;

(f) Strategically address the factors that adversely affect the oceans and the living and non-living resources that comprise our seas, turning threats into opportunities and preventing further harm to all water bodies, including land- and sea-based pollution, habitat and biodiversity loss, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, introduction of invasive alien species, illegal and environmentally unsound reclamation, and climate change;

1 (g) Ensure a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive and
2 integrated framework for the stewardship of our coasts and oceans and
3 management of ecosystems from ridge to reef to facilitate cohesive action of the
4 National Government, local authorities, academe, civil society organizations,
5 indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector, to secure our
6 people's safe access to, enjoyment of, and opportunities to invest in sustaining
7 their benefits from our blue economy;

8 (h) Uphold marine science as a foundation of maritime governance,
9 ensuring that all rules, policies, and plans governing the use of coastal and
10 marine resources will be based on sound scientific understanding of the marine
11 environment, while also recognizing the value of local and traditional ecological
12 knowledge in enhancing ocean governance and management;

13 (i) Uphold the value of natural ecosystems and their irreplaceability, as
14 activities that advance a blue economy, thereby explicitly excluding illegal
15 reclamation, unregulated habitat conversion, and other activities that remove,
16 replace, or destroy ecosystems from highlands to ocean.

17 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Act:

18 (a) *Aquaculture* refers to fishery operations involving the cultivation and
19 farming of fish and other fishery species in fresh, brackish, and marine water
20 areas. Aquaculture shall include aquasilviculture, a multi-purpose production
21 system that allows the production of fish in a mangrove reforestation project;

22 (b) *Bioprospecting* refers to the research, collection, and utilization of
23 biological and genetic resources for scientific or commercial purposes;

24 (c) *Blue carbon* refers to organic carbon that is captured by marine and
25 coastal ecosystems, such as algae, seagrass, mangroves, and other plants
26 growing in salt marshes and coastal wetlands. These ecosystems act as
27 important natural carbon sinks, with high sequestration rates, storing carbon
28 in their biomass and the soil below them. The term is used in the context of
29 climate change mitigation, as protecting and restoring these areas helps reduce
30 greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Blue Carbon is a means to incentivize
31 habitat protection by encouraging conservation and sustainable development;

32 (d) *Blue economy* refers to the practical ocean-based economic model
33 using green (i.e. environmentally sound, climate-smart, and biodiversity-
34 friendly) infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms,
35 and proactive institutional arrangements for meeting the twin goals of
36 protecting our oceans and coasts and enhancing its potential contribution to
37 sustainable development, including improving human well-being, reducing
38 environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and securing resources like food
39 and water, and building resilience to climate change, and other marine hazards
40 and risks;

1 (e) *Blue economy skills* refer to competencies, technical expertise, and
2 practical skills required for or beneficial to economic activities that sustainably
3 use marine and coastal resources, ensure a family living wage, and enhance
4 livelihood and community resilience, while promoting a healthful and balanced
5 ecology, such as sustainable fishing, aquaculture, post-harvest processing,
6 marine conservation, eco-tourism, and sustainable harvesting and processing
7 of high-value marine resources, including commercially valuable marine
8 species. These skills shall include ancillary skills such as maritime
9 entrepreneurship, financing and financial stewardship, accounting, and
10 management;

11 (f) *Blue finance* refers to financial, investment, and insurance
12 mechanisms specifically directed towards programs, projects, and initiatives
13 that positively impact marine and coastal-related industries, and activities
14 including the protection, regeneration, and conservation of marine and coastal
15 ecosystems;

16 (g) *Blue financial instruments* refer to financial products, such as
17 investments, loans, or bonds, that aim to direct capital toward the sustainable
18 use and conservation of ocean and freshwater resources, encompassing areas
19 such as marine biodiversity, fisheries, coastal resilience, and water security;

20 (h) *Blue public expenditure* refers to public expenditures that address
21 issues related to coastal and marine resources, environmental degradation,
22 and development aspirations that depend on marine resources and
23 environments;

24 (i) *Commercial Fishing* refers to the taking of fishery species by passive
25 or active gear for trade, business, and profit beyond subsistence or sports
26 fishing, to be further classified as: (1) Small-scale commercial fishing – fishing
27 with passive or active gear utilizing fishing vessels of 3.1 gross tons (gt) up to
28 20 gt; (2) Medium-scale commercial fishing – fishing utilizing active gears and
29 vessels of 20.1 gt up to 150 gt; and (3) Large commercial fishing – fishing
30 utilizing active gears and vessels of more than 150 gt;

31 (j) *Ecosystem services* refer to the benefits supplied by the functions of
32 ecosystems and received by humanity and all elements of living systems, which
33 support life systems on the planet. Ecosystem services consist of provisioning,
34 regulating, maintenance, and cultural services;

35 (k) *Environmental sustainability* refers to the responsible use of land,
36 coastal, marine, and freshwater, resources that protect the marine ecosystem
37 from harmful effects and degradation. Environmental sustainability includes
38 stewardship by the government, private sector, civil society, and local
39 communities to (1) prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the coastal,
40 freshwater, and marine environment; (2) mitigate the impacts of climate
41 change; and (3) protect habitats and biodiversity;

1 (l) *Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)* refers to
2 the coordinated, collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable management of
3 coastal and marine resources, and a participatory process for planning and
4 decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts of human
5 activities to the marine and coastal environment, biodiversity, and climate,
6 and to contribute to the restoration of degraded coastal areas, protection of
7 habitats, and reduction of conflicts among various stakeholders in order to
8 pursue sustainable, climate-smart, gender-responsive, and inclusive growth,
9 support jobs and livelihood, and enhance food, energy and water security,
10 climate resilience, and wellbeing;

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

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

21 (o) *Marine Genetic Resources (MGR)* refer to any material of marine
22 plant, animal, microbial, or other origin containing functional units of heredity
23 of actual or potential value;

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

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

34 (r) *Maritime zones*, as defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 12064,
35 otherwise known as the “Philippine Maritime Zones Act”, refer to (1) the
36 maritime zones of the Philippine archipelago comprising of internal waters,
37 archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone
38 (EEZ), and continental shelf, and extended continental shelf; and (2) the
39 respective maritime zones, as appropriate, of all other territories over which
40 the Philippines has sovereignty, sovereign rights, or jurisdiction, in accordance
41 with the 1987 Constitution and international law, particularly the 1982 United

1 Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

2 (s) *Ocean accounting* refers to a statistical framework that guides the
3 compilation and integration of a series of standardized and regular
4 measurements of stocks and flows of ocean economic, societal, environmental,
5 and natural capital components through specific accounting table groups and
6 comprehensive indicators critical for informed and evidence-based decisions;

7 (t) *Ocean-based activities* refer to activities that are undertaken in the
8 ocean, such as those relating to fisheries and aquaculture, exploration, drilling
9 and production of offshore oil, gas, and ocean energy, mining, desalination,
10 shipping and marine transportation, port operations, marine tourism
11 including management of tourist resorts, communication, marine construction,
12 maritime insurance and law enforcement, or maritime technical services;

13 (u) *Ocean-related activities* refer to activities that use products from the
14 ocean such as seafood processing, marine biotechnology, chemicals,
15 pharmaceuticals, and marine-based natural products, and salt production, and
16 produce products and services for the ocean and for ocean based activities, such
17 as shipbuilding and ship repair, and manufacturing of marine-related
18 equipment and machineries;

19 (v) *Ocean literacy* refers to an understanding of the ocean's influence on
20 humans, and human influence on the ocean, as well as the linkage of ocean,
21 biodiversity and climate and its effect on humans, water, and the biosphere;

22 (w) *Reclamation* refers to the deliberate process of converting foreshore
23 land, submerged areas, or bodies of water, into permanent land by filling or
24 other means using dredge fill and other suitable materials for specific
25 purposes;

26 (x) *Sea-based pollution* refers to wastes, including, but not limited to, oil
27 and chemical spills, ballast water, abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear,
28 and plastic wastes, generated by fishing and aquaculture, shipping, ocean and
29 coastal mining and quarrying, offshore oil and gas production, and other ocean-
30 based activities;

31 (y) *Subsistence fishing* refers to fishing and gleaning activities, for
32 personal consumption, or traditional orceremonial purposes; and

33 (z) *Value chain* refers to the full range of activities which are required
34 to bring a product or service from conception, through the different phases of
35 production (involving a combination of physical transformation and the input
36 of various producer services), delivery to final consumers, and final disposal
37 after use.

38 **SEC. 4. Scope of Application.** - For purposes of this Act, the
39 Philippines shall, in accordance with national and international law,

1 particularly the UNCLOS, exercise sovereignty, sovereign rights, and
2 jurisdiction, as appropriate, in internal waters, archipelagic waters, the
3 territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ, and continental shelf, including extended
4 continental shelf, as defined under RA 12064, herein collectively referred to as
5 “coastal and marine zones”, and any and all maritime features within the
6 maritime zones now known or to be known in the future.

7 The Blue Economy framework and this law shall cover the following:
8 a. coastal and marine zones as defined above; and
9 b. upstream and downstream sectors.

10 CHAPTER II 11 THE BLUE ECONOMY COUNCIL

12 **SEC. 5. *Blue Economy Council.*** - The Blue Economy Council, herein
13 referred to as the Council, is hereby established to formulate, oversee, and
14 coordinate an integrated strategy to strengthen, grow, and sustain the
15 Philippines’ Blue Economy, IMCAM, and ecosystem-based management of
16 coastal and marine resources.

17 Given that ocean issues are multi-faceted and transcend the boundaries
18 of any single department or jurisdiction, the Council shall serve as the cross-
19 sectoral and collaborative governance mechanism that shall integrate the
20 management of various ocean-related activities and resources across different
21 government agencies, the private sector, academia, and civil society to achieve
22 sustainable development goals.

23 **SEC. 6. *Composition.*** - The Council shall be composed of the following:

- 24 (a) The Executive Secretary as Chairperson;
25 (b) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources as Co-Vice
26 Chairperson;
27 (c) The Secretary of Economy, Planning, and Development as Co-Vice
28 Chairperson; and

29 the following as Members:

- 30
31 (a) The Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills
32 Development Authority (TESDA);
33 (b) The Secretary of Agriculture;
34 (c) The Secretary of Energy;
35 (d) The Secretary of Finance;
36 (e) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs;
37 (f) The Secretary of Human Settlements and Urban Development;
38 (g) The Secretary of Information and Communications Technology;
39 (h) The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
40 (i) The Secretary of Justice;
41 (j) The Secretary of National Defense;

- 1 (k) The Secretary of Public Works and Highways;
- 2 (l) The Secretary of Science and Technology;
- 3 (m) The Secretary of Tourism;
- 4 (n) The Secretary of Trade and Industry;
- 5 (o) The Secretary of Transportation;
- 6 (p) The Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission.

7 The Department Secretaries may designate an Undersecretary, whose
8 portfolio covers matters directly or principally relating to the development or
9 management of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems and ocean-based
10 and -related activities, if applicable, to sit in a permanent capacity, and whose
11 acts shall be considered the acts of his or her principal. Majority of the
12 members shall constitute a quorum.

13 **SEC. 7. Guiding Principles on Blue Economy.** - The Council shall be
14 guided by the following principles in performing its mandates, powers and
15 functions:

- 16 (a) holistic and integrated planning to undertake programming beyond
17 traditional, siloed management of individual sectors including, but not
18 limited to, fisheries, tourism, or shipping, to consider their cumulative
19 impacts and potential synergies of the various sectors;
20
- 21 (b) balancing economic growth, social equity (including improved
22 livelihoods and poverty reduction), and environmental sustainability
23 (preserving ocean health);
24
- 25 (c) science-based and ecosystem-based management by using robust data,
26 science, and integrated coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP),
27 and monitoring and evaluation, to inform decision-making and ensure
28 activities align with ecological boundaries;
- 29 (d) multi-level governance at the global, national, and local levels, requiring
30 continuous negotiation and cooperation across different scales to
31 address transboundary issues like illegal fishing and pollution, as well
32 as disruption of Critical Infrastructure, as defined in RA No. 11659, or
33 “An Act Amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, otherwise known as The
34 Public Service Act, As Amended”, installed or built in coastal and
35 marine zones; and
- 36 (e) stakeholder inclusion for effective implementation which requires
37 inclusive participation from all relevant stakeholders, including local
38 communities, indigenous groups, civil society organizations (CSOs), and
39 businesses, to ensure equitable access and benefit sharing.

40 **SEC. 8. Mandates, Powers, and Functions of the Council.** - The
41 Council shall be responsible for formulating and implementing, through the
42 mandated government agencies, a clear, coherent, and comprehensive policy
43 framework and strategic action plan on Blue Economy. It shall oversee and
44 coordinate the implementation of Blue Economy initiatives across all coastal

1 and marine zones. It shall:

- 2 (a) Develop the country's policy framework and strategic vision for the
3 growth and sustainable, inclusive, and climate-smart development of
4 the country's Blue Economy;
- 5 (b) Institutionalize an IMCAM;
- 6 (c) Enhance the country's ecosystem-based management of coastal and
7 marine resources;
- 8 (d) Align IMCAM plans, fisheries management plans, integrated coastal
9 management plans, coastal resource management plans, climate
10 action plans, tourism plans, national and local development plans,
11 and CMSP to determine zones, and designate allowed, regulated, and
12 restricted activities;
- 13 (e) Strengthen economic and environmental regulations within the
14 country's coastal and marine areas and adjacent watersheds to
15 preserve the value and sustainability of ocean resources and protect
16 them from threats;
- 17 (f) Identify climate-resilient and environmentally sound investments,
18 infrastructure, and technologies, including nature-based solutions;
- 19 (g) Ensure an enabling environment for the growth and development of
20 sustainable investment and finance, including promoting innovative
21 financing to finance sustainable projects;
- 22 (h) Ensure the integration of "natural capital accounting" into national
23 budgeting processes to help align economic decisions with the real
24 value of marine resources;
- 25 (i) Identify priority Blue Economy sectors, for potential for economic
26 contribution, social equity, and environmental sustainability;
- 27 (j) Coordinate with various agencies and stakeholders to fast-track
28 investments in water, sanitation, wastewater and solid waste
29 management, and habitat restoration, protection, and management
30 to protect human, and ocean health;
- 31 (k) Enhance data sharing and monitoring among concerned national
32 government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to gather
33 and consolidate consistent, updated data on fish catch, habitat
34 health, pollution levels, and economic activity, among others as basis
35 for evidence-based policy;
- 36 (l) Institutionalize regular coastal and ocean monitoring and
37 accounting;
- 38 (m) Coordinate the development of CMSPs and recommend its adoption
39 through an executive issuance;
- 40 (n) Coordinate with various sectors and agencies to promote policy and
41 program coherence;
- 42 (o) Coordinate and cooperate with the Maritime Industry Authority
43 (MARINA) to ensure that the maritime industry development plan
44 is consistent with the Blue Economy framework, such as on energy
45 security, trade and connectivity, navigational safety and security;
- 46 (p) Coordinate with the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee to
47 Facilitate the Ratification and Accession to and Implementation of

- 1 Maritime Conventions and ensure that it will aid in the
2 implementation thereof;
- 3 (q) Coordinate with the National Maritime Council, created under
4 Executive Order (EO) No. 57, series of 2024, to ensure that its
5 National Maritime Security Policy and Strategy and the Blue
6 Economy Framework complement with each other towards
7 enforcement of maritime regulations, coordinated efforts, and a
8 unified approach to marine and maritime governance. While the
9 National Maritime Council focuses on maritime security including
10 protecting country's maritime interest and sovereignty, it shall
11 provide critical support to enable Blue Economy, through
12 safeguarding navigation routes, providing important oceanographic
13 data to marine industries and protecting rights over valuable marine
14 resources and activities within maritime jurisdiction, among others;
- 15 (r) Conduct, support, fund, engage, collaborate, and coordinate research
16 and development in Blue Economy;
- 17 (s) Develop, expand, and strengthen investments in capacity building
18 and skills enhancement programs for the Blue Economy, and
19 encourage such to be featured in the work plans of governments, the
20 private sector, and CSOs;
- 21 (t) Review, update, and disseminate the policy framework and strategic
22 action plan on Blue Economy;
- 23 (u) Endorse to the Committee on Optimizing the Executive Branch,
24 created pursuant to RA No. 12231, otherwise known as the
25 "Government Optimization Act", recommendations to address
26 institutional gaps and harmonize overlapping and fragmented
27 functions among government agencies, for consideration in the
28 formulation of proposals to the President on the rationalization or
29 reorganization of agencies for a more coherent and effective
30 governance framework for sustainable Blue Economy development;
- 31 (v) Submit a proposed list of sustainable marine and coastal activities to
32 the Board of Investments (BOI), as the Secretariat, for inclusion in
33 the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP);
- 34 (w) Steer the development, research and sustainable resource
35 explorations in the maritime zones, especially in areas with high
36 economic potential such as the Philippine Rise and the West
37 Philippine Sea;
- 38 (x) Coordinate the maritime regulation or licensing and law enforcement
39 for strengthened preparedness and responsiveness to potential
40 security threats or concerns in the country's maritime areas and
41 zones;
- 42 (y) Build monitoring capacities, including the use of digital and
43 innovative technologies for security and surveillance activities;
- 44 (z) Review and ensure the ecological integrity compliance with the Blue
45 Economy Framework;
- 46 (aa) Develop and update marine scientific research, in accordance with
47 Section 27 of this Act;
- 48 (bb) Formulate guidelines on clear benefit-sharing for all Blue Economy

- 1 activities, in accordance with Section 28 of this Act; and
2 (cc) Perform other functions as may be necessary for the implementation
3 of this Act.

4 The Council is likewise authorized to convene committees and
5 subcommittees to oversee the abovementioned functions.

6 **SEC. 9. *Creation of Panel of Scientific and Technical Experts.* -**
7 To provide technical and scientific expertise to the Council, experts from the
8 different agencies, academe and other institutions shall be formed in the
9 following areas:

- 10 (a) Ocean accounting, particularly on the economic and scientific factors
11 affecting ocean health;
- 12 (b) Ocean finance and fiscal reforms to align financial flows with a
13 sustainable ocean economy; innovative and blended finance
14 mechanism;
- 15 (c) Ocean technology and innovations such as offshore wind and wave
16 energy technologies that are environmentally sustainable; blue
17 biotechnology which uses ocean-based production and new supply
18 chains for innovative products;
- 19 (d) Pollution control technologies such as those innovations to capture
20 plastic waste, to mitigate noise or oil pollution;
- 21 (e) Exploration and ocean research such as study of the ocean floor and
22 water column; and
- 23 (f) Other technical and scientific areas that may be agreed upon by the
24 Council.

25 **SEC. 10. *Secretariat.* -** The Presidential Office for Maritime Concerns
26 (POMC) under EO No. 57, series of 2024 shall serve as the Secretariat of the
27 Council and shall provide technical and administrative support to the Council
28 and perform its functions under the same EO.

29 The POMC, as Secretariat, shall have the following functions:

- 30 (a) Provide secretariat support to the Council, including the preparation
31 of draft strategies, priorities, and other outputs to be adopted by the
32 Council;
- 33 (b) Consult with scientific and technical experts, as identified in Section
34 9 of this Act, who can offer insights on Blue Economy and ecosystem-
35 based management of coastal and marine resources policymaking
36 and priority setting;

- 1 (c) Coordinate with various agencies of the government, private sector,
2 academe, scientific community, CSOs, indigenous peoples, local
3 communities, and the public;
- 4 (d) Design and implement a Blue Economy development program and
5 promote its use and adoption in the government bureaucracy;
- 6 (e) Develop recommendations for consideration by the Council; and
- 7 (f) Perform other functions as may be directed by the Council.

8 **Sec. 11. *Support Agencies.*** - The following agencies shall provide
9 material or technical support to the Council, as may be necessary:

- 10 (a) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP);
- 11 (b) Biodiversity Management Bureau;
- 12 (c) Board of Investments (BOI);
- 13 (d) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
- 14 (e) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- 15 (f) Department of Agriculture-Biotechnology Program Office;
- 16 (g) Department of Education (DepEd);
- 17 (h) Department of Foreign Affairs-Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office;
- 18 (i) Environmental Management Bureau;
- 19 (j) Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils;
- 20 (k) Forest Management Bureau;
- 21 (l) IPAs;
- 22 (m) MARINA;
- 23 (n) Mines and Geosciences Bureau;
- 24 (o) National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council;
- 25 (p) National Fisheries Research and Development Institute;
- 26 (q) National Mapping and Resources Information Authority;
- 27 (r) National Museum - Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage
28 Division;
- 29 (s) National Telecommunications Commission;
- 30 (t) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
31 Administration;
- 32 (u) Philippine Coast Guard;
- 33 (v) Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources
34 Research and Development;
- 35 (w) Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries;
- 36 (x) Philippine Fisheries Development Authority;
- 37 (y) Philippine National Police - Maritime Group;
- 38 (z) Philippine Navy;
- 39 (aa) Philippine Ports Authority;
- 40 (bb) Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA);
- 41 (cc) Philippine Space Agency;
- 42 (dd) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- 43 (ee) Relevant institutions and components of the University of the

1 present and future threats and pressures on coastal and marine environments,
2 impacts on ocean and human health;

3 (d) Mapping, assessment, and monitoring of coastal and marine
4 ecosystems to provide evidence necessary to effectively implement
5 management interventions;

6 (e) The IMCAM framework to harmonize the different plans and
7 activities in the coastal and marine areas, coordinate the various agencies,
8 sectors, and stakeholders, address human impact on marine and coastal
9 biological diversity, and promote the conservation and sustainable use of this
10 biodiversity. The national IMCAM framework shall consider the following
11 elements:

12 (1) Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing for stakeholders, at
13 both national and local levels, to apply relevant policy instruments to
14 address legal issues, institutionalize participatory, gender-responsive,
15 and inclusive processes, and develop strategies to promote
16 multidisciplinary and multisectoral ecosystem-based management of
17 coastal and marine environments, and adjacent watersheds;

18 (2) Restoration of critical habitats, and protection of coastal and
19 marine environments from negative impacts, such as:

20 (i) Alteration and destruction of coastal and marine
21 habitats, particularly areas important for
22 reproduction, coral reef systems, sea grass areas,
23 mangroves and coastal forests, mudflats, beach, and
24 the sea bed;

25 (ii) Marine and land-based pollution;

26 (iii) Improper coastal land use, and the mismanagement
27 of watersheds;

28 (iv) IUU fishing, and by-catch especially of endangered,
29 threatened, and protected species; and

30 (v) Introduction of invasive and alien species;

31 (3) Establishment of mechanisms and guidelines for research,
32 monitoring, assessment, and valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems
33 and resources, including indicators to measure natural and human-
34 induced impacts;

35 (4) Assessment and integration of local and traditional ecological
36 knowledge in marine and coastal governance, resource management,
37 and development of sustainable and inclusive livelihoods and nature-
38 based enterprises; and

39 (5) Development of CMSPs, and integration and mainstreaming
40 of CMSPs and IMCAM plans and programs into national and regional
41 development plans, investment plans, Comprehensive Land-Use Plans
42 (CLUPs), and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs);

43 (f) Priority strategic and sustainable, climate-smart, and inclusive
44 economic activities in the country's maritime zones, which may include:

- 1 (1) Fisheries, including municipal and commercial fishing,
2 seafood processing, and commercial research and
3 development, with preference to subsistence fisheries, as
4 mandated under Section 7, Article XIII of the Constitution;
 - 5 (2) Aquaculture and mariculture, and their Value Chains;
 - 6 (3) Marine and coastal tourism;
 - 7 (4) Shipping, logistics, and maritime transport;
 - 8 (5) Shipbuilding and ship repair;
 - 9 (6) Production of renewable energy from marine sources;
 - 10 (7) Installation of submarine cables and pipelines, including
11 submarine communications cables and systems;
 - 12 (8) Bioremediation, marine biotechnology, and
13 bioprospecting;
 - 14 (9) Desalination;
 - 15 (10) Underwater cultural heritage and maritime
16 archaeology; and
 - 17 (11) Marine science education and research, and
18 maritime education;
 - 19 (12) Marine Genetic Resources;
 - 20 (13) Seafood processing;
 - 21 (14) Exploration, exploitation and extraction of oil and natural
22 gas; and
 - 23 (15) Submarine mining or extraction of minerals and
24 aggregates;
- 25 (g) Promotion of sustainable blue finance, including Blue Carbon;
- 26 (h) Priority research, development and innovation agenda, and
27 investments that maximize opportunities created for the climate transition,
28 pollution control, remediation, used water economics, circular economy, and
29 other industries that address threats;
- 30 (i) Promotion of ocean literacy and social responsibility towards the
31 protection of coastal and marine environments;
- 32 (j) Enhancement of the capability of the relevant agencies to enforce
33 laws, rules, and regulations to protect our marine wealth;
- 34 (k) Analysis of investment needs across the Blue Economy sectors to
35 develop and sustain ocean-based industries, as well as formulate strategies for
36 mobilizing financial resources to close the investment gap;
- 37 (l) Goals, targets, and indicators for growth, resilience, and
38 sustainability of priority strategic and sustainable coastal, ocean-based and
39 ocean-related activities, including their contribution to gross domestic product,
40 job creation, and livelihood;

1 (m) Scaling up the expansion and management of national and local
2 marine protected areas (MPAs), MPA networks, and marine corridors, through
3 the protection and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and
4 resources;

5 (n) Mainstreaming of circular and resource efficiency approaches on the
6 blue economy framework to address the longstanding problem of marine litter
7 and microplastics;

8 (o) Integration of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation strategies
9 to help operationalize the country's Nationally Determined Contributions, and
10 the National Adaptation Plan;

11 (p) Strengthening of management capacities of national and local
12 governments, including relevant sectors, to enhance the protection of coastal
13 and marine ecosystems and such other components as may be determined by
14 the Council;

15 (q) Inclusivity of all stakeholders, ensuring that micro, small, and
16 medium enterprises, small-scale fishers, and local and coastal communities
17 have equitable access to the benefits of sustainable ocean and inland water
18 resource utilization;

19 (r) Promotion of enabling conditions for sustainable investment through
20 the development of modern and efficient infrastructure, well-organized
21 institutional arrangements, strong cooperation among stakeholders, and
22 capacity-building programs that equip sectors with the knowledge and
23 competencies needed for the blue economy;

24 (s) Enhancement of capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines
25 and civilian agencies to enforce laws, rules and regulations to protect our
26 marine wealth and capacity in performing activities on maritime security and
27 surveillance activities and in the protection of Critical Infrastructure, as
28 defined in RA No. 11659, installed or built in coastal and maritime zones; and

29 (t) Submission of list of sustainable marine and coastal activities to the
30 BOI, as the Secretariat, for inclusion in the SIPP, and facilitate inclusion of
31 such program, activities, and projects in the Public Investment Program, and
32 Consolidated List of Investment Programs (CLIPS) for Public-Private
33 Partnerships.

34 **CHAPTER IV**
35 **OCEAN ACCOUNTING**

36 **SEC. 14. *Ocean Accounting.*** - The PSA and DENR shall undertake
37 environmental-economic accounting of the ocean, coastal and marine
38 ecosystems, and resources, based on the United Nations System of
39 Environmental-Economic Accounting and in accordance with RA No. 11995,

1 otherwise known as the “Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital
2 Accounting System (PENCAS) Act”. Members of the Council and heads of
3 support agencies shall contribute data and submit reports on environmental-
4 economic accounts relating to their mandates including damage estimation
5 and sea level rise projections. The PSA shall likewise enhance the Philippine
6 Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts.

7 **CHAPTER V**
8 **DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

9 **SEC. 15. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.** - The Council shall
10 undertake a nationwide CMSP with the participation of key stakeholders to
11 identify the spatial and temporal distribution of priority activities, uses and
12 interactions thereof in maritime zones, to reduce conflict among uses; facilitate
13 complementary uses; mitigate environmental impacts; prevent marine dead
14 zones; protect the Critical Infrastructure, as defined in RA No. 11659, installed
15 or built in coastal and maritime zones; rehabilitate dead zones or non-
16 attainment areas, if any; reduce wastage and ensure efficiency in marine
17 supply chains; preserve ecosystem services with the national CMSP providing
18 the guiding principles and overarching delineations, consider the land-ocean
19 interface, and marine corridor and connectivities, and identifying the spatial
20 and temporal distribution of allowed, restricted, and regulated human
21 activities and priority uses and the interactions thereof in the coastal and
22 marine zones; integrating ocean accounting to quantify and value marine
23 ecosystem services, economic activities, and environmental impacts, thereby
24 supporting evidence-based planning, investment programming, and
25 sustainable resource management, and encourage and support the
26 development of regional and local CMSPs, which can provide a level of
27 granularity that can be linked to actionable investments, regulations and
28 enforcement, coastal and marine resource management and conservation
29 measures, and reduction of risks from climate change and natural disasters.

30 The Council shall ensure mainstreaming of climate change into CMSP
31 for improved preparedness and response, as well as reduced vulnerability
32 of marine systems. “Climate-smart CMSP” refers to planning initiatives in
33 the ocean space which integrate and may adapt to the effects of a changing
34 climate. For CMSP to become “climate-smart”, data and knowledge on the
35 pathways through which climate change impacts marine ecosystems and
36 human uses are needed at appropriate spatial scales.

37 The Council shall ensure that a common or unified or appropriate tool
38 for coastal and marine spatial planning among national government agencies,
39 local government units and academe for standard data inputs and more
40 effective basis for planning.

41 **SEC. 16. Blue Economic Zones.** - Investment promotion agencies, as
42 provided in the respective charters, shall encourage the establishment of blue

1 economic zones (BEZs) and the transformation of existing SEZs into BEZs.
2 Registered business enterprises (RBEs) engaged in ocean-based or ocean-
3 related activities as listed under the SIPP are eligible to receive the privileges,
4 benefits, advantages, or exemptions granted to economic zones and freeports
5 in accordance with their respective special laws, Title XIII of the National
6 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, and other applicable laws, rules,
7 and regulations. In addition, RBEs operating within BEZs may also qualify for
8 financing under RA No. 11293 or the “Philippine Innovation Act”, as
9 applicable.

10 **SEC. 17. *Inclusion in Investment Programming Plans.*** The Council
11 shall: (a) recommend to the BOI the inclusion of identified priority strategic
12 ocean-based and ocean-based activities in the SIPP, (b) ensure the inclusion of
13 such programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) in the public investment
14 program and CLIPS for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

15 **SEC. 18. *Constituting Green Lanes for Blue Economy***
16 ***Investments.*** All relevant agencies whose mandate and functions cover the
17 promotion of Blue Economy investment shall constitute green lanes consistent
18 with the provisions of EO No. 18, Series of 2023, or as may be amended.

19 The DEPDev shall ensure the alignment and contribution of the
20 national and local MSPs and industry development plans with the country's
21 medium and long-term development agenda, laid out in the Philippine
22 Development Plan, Regional Development Plans, and Long-term Development
23 Framework.

24 **SEC. 19. *Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment.***
25 - The Council shall, in consultation with the Department of Labor and
26 Employment, the BFAR, and other concerned agencies and stakeholders,
27 develop a policy to ensure the enhancement and sustainability of municipal
28 fisheries as well as the promotion and generation of sustainable livelihood in
29 the Blue Economy towards the creation of more employment and equal
30 opportunities for all, and to strengthen investments in capacity building and
31 skills enhancement programs, in accordance with RA No. 10771, otherwise
32 known as the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016”.

33 **SEC. 20. *Industry Development Plans.*** - The Blue Economy Council
34 shall, through working groups created for the purpose, prepare five-year and
35 ten-year development plans for each priority strategic and sustainable ocean-
36 based or ocean-related industry, in accordance with the Framework.

37 **CHAPTER VI**
38 **BLUE FINANCE**

39 **SEC. 21. *Establishment of the Blue Finance Program.*** – The Blue
40 Finance Program shall be designed and implemented to:

1 (a) Identify and develop pipelines of Blue Economy projects with
2 strong potential for private investment and scalable impact;

3 (b) Develop and offer standardized blue financial instruments (e.g.,
4 blue securities, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-linked
5 loans, revenue-backed financing facilities) in coordination with financial
6 institutions and capital market actors;

7 (c) Facilitate the use of a government-backed first-loss facility and
8 credit guarantee fund to de-risk private lenders and investors from
9 defaults by small enterprises investing in the Blue Economy, including
10 municipal and small-scale fishers, and small-scale commercial fishers as
11 defined under RA No. 8550, otherwise known as “The Philippine
12 Fisheries Code of 1998,” as amended, with clear claims processes and
13 payout triggers;

14 (d) Facilitate on-lending and subsidiary loan arrangements to
15 microfinance institutions, rural banks, and accredited cooperatives
16 through official development assistance and proceeds from blue
17 financial instruments, with concessional terms calibrated to match the
18 seasonal cash flows and risk profiles of small enterprises investing in
19 the Blue Economy, including municipal and small scale fishers, and
20 small scale commercial fishers as defined under RA No. 8550, as
21 amended, and subject to performance-based lending and transparent
22 fund administration mechanisms.

23 (e) Support fisheries industry and value chain integration; and

24 (f) Develop sustainability linked criteria ensuring funded activities
25 promote marine conservation and climate resilience.

26 **SEC. 22. Incentives to Issuers of Blue Financial Instruments, or**
27 **Blue Enterprises and Projects.** –The issuance of Blue Financial
28 Instruments may entitle the issuing entities, enterprises, and projects financed
29 through such instruments to appropriate incentives under relevant laws and
30 regulations, including the following, as may be applicable:

31 (a) Fiscal and non-fiscal incentives granted under the National
32 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, including income tax
33 holidays, enhanced deductions, and special corporate income tax rates
34 for qualified activities in sustainable fisheries or marine conservation;

35 (b) Tax deductions and duty-free importation under RA No. 10771 for
36 projects that promote environmental sustainability and create green
37 employment;

38 (c) Access to credit guarantees and co-financing arrangements under
39 RA No. 8435, otherwise known as the “Agricultural and Fisheries

1 Modernization Act” and its implementing mechanisms, including those
2 managed by the Agricultural Credit Policy Council;

3 (d) Non-fiscal incentives granted by the BOI and other IPAs; and

4 (e) Other incentive programs and facilities as may be authorized by
5 the BSP, the Department of Finance, and relevant GFIs, including
6 support from the Philippine Guarantee Corporation (PGC).

7 **SEC. 23. Role of Government Agencies.** - To fulfill the foregoing
8 objectives, the following agencies shall undertake the corresponding roles and
9 responsibilities:

10 (a) BSP - In the exercise of its regulatory powers over financial
11 institutions, the BSP shall provide an enabling regulatory environment
12 to promote the development of the country's Blue Economy, in line with
13 its sustainable finance framework and considering international
14 standards and best practices;

15 (b) SEC - The SEC shall encourage the issuance of blue securities,
16 the proceeds of which will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance,
17 in part or in full, Eligible Blue Projects or Activities, in accordance with
18 SEC guidelines, and ASEAN Green Bonds Standards and Green Bonds
19 Principles, as developed and may be revised from time to time by the
20 SEC, the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum and the International Capital
21 Market Association. All designated Eligible Blue Projects or Activities
22 must provide clear benefits to ocean health and the blue economy and
23 must contribute substantially to United Nations Sustainable
24 Development Goals 6 and 14, which shall be assessed together with
25 compliance with environmental laws and standards, and, where
26 feasible, quantified by the corporation that will issue the blue securities.
27 The eligibility of these Eligible Blue Projects or Activities shall be
28 subject to the guidelines to be issued by the SEC;

29 (c) GFIs - The Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development
30 Bank of the Philippines shall provide credit to enterprises engaged in
31 strategic and sustainable ocean-based or ocean related activities;

32 (d) PGC - The PGC shall implement credit guarantee programs and
33 support lending arrangements to microfinance institutions, rural banks,
34 and cooperatives;

35 (e) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) - The DTI, in
36 coordination with relevant agencies, shall enhance the value chain of
37 Blue Economy sectors through supporting small enterprises, including
38 small-scale fishers, in product development, market access, investment
39 readiness, technology adoption, and training;

1 (f) BFAR - The BFAR shall lead in identifying fisheries, aquaculture
2 and mariculture projects, organizing fisherfolk into eligible enterprises,
3 and providing technical support for business formalization;

4 (g) TESDA – The TESDA shall be mandated to do the following:
5

6 1) Design and set standards for specific programs on Blue
7 Economy skills training;

8 2) Partner with the BSP, the DTI, and other relevant agencies
9 and stakeholders to design and prepare training modules and materials
10 on financial literacy, credit readiness, and business development;

11
12 3) Allocate at least five per centum (5%) of scholarships for Blue
13 Economy skills training, with special attention to small-scale and small
14 commercial fishers;

15
16 4) Partner with national government agencies and LGUs in
17 supporting and providing training programs and facilities for local
18 communities based on identified community needs; and
19

20 5) Partner with non-government organizations, local schools,
21 faith-based groups, cooperatives, and community organizations in
22 establishing community-based training facilities for local communities,
23 especially remote coastal areas.

24 (h) LGUs – The LGUs shall be responsible for the following:
25

26 1) Issue bonds, debentures, securities, collaterals, notes and other
27 obligations pursuant to Section 299 of the RA No. 7160, otherwise known
28 as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended, and other
29 applicable laws and regulations, for the development of enterprises
30 related to the Blue Economy;

31
32 2) Assist small enterprises investing in the Blue Economy,
33 including municipal and small-scale fishers, and small-scale commercial
34 fishers as defined under RA No. 8550, as amended, in applying for
35 applicable credits and incentives;

36
37 3) Provide education and capacity building for small enterprises
38 investing in the Blue Economy, including municipal and small-scale
39 fishers, and small-scale commercial fishers as defined under RA No.
40 8550, as amended; and
41

42 4) Provide exemptions and incentives for the benefit of small
43 enterprises investing in the Blue Economy, including municipal and
44 small-scale fishers, and small-scale commercial fishers.

45 **SEC. 24. Blue Public Expenditures.** – The agencies concerned shall,

1 term conservation and sustainable use principles advocated by the
2 International Union for Conservation of Nature.

3 **SEC 28. Regulated Bioprospecting and Protection Against**
4 **Biopiracy.** - Any commercial, research, and technological utilization of marine
5 genetic and biological resources shall comply with national bioprospecting
6 regulations, ensuring transparent permitting, fair benefit-sharing, and
7 prevention of unauthorized extraction and exploitation (biopiracy).

8 **SEC. 29. Marine Technology and Innovation.** – The State recognizes
9 that science, technology, and innovation have a critical role in harnessing
10 ocean resources for the Blue Economy while ensuring sustainability. Marine
11 technology and innovations are needed to address technical and logistical
12 constraints that impede the development of Philippine blue industries. Among
13 these technologies are advanced materials, subsea engineering and technology,
14 sensors and imaging, big data analytics, autonomous systems, biotechnology,
15 nanotechnology, coastal and marine spatial planning, and circular blue
16 economy. The government shall also support the development and adoption of
17 locally developed marine-related technologies.

18 **SEC. 30. Ocean Literacy Framework.** – The DepEd, CHED, TESDA,
19 and other government agencies implementing sector-specific literacy
20 programs, in consultation with relevant members of the Council or support
21 agencies, shall integrate into the curricula of K-12, the Alternative Learning
22 System, general education programs of higher education institutions, technical
23 and vocational education and training, and other community-
24 based training programs, the essential principles and fundamental concepts
25 of ocean sciences to develop the following competencies:

26
27 (a) Understanding the economic, socio-cultural, spiritual,
28 scientific and political importance or significance of the ocean to
29 humankind in general and the Filipinos in particular;

30
31 (b) Communicating about the ocean in a meaningful way;

32
33 (c) Making informed and responsible decisions regarding the
34 ocean and its resources; and

35
36 (d) Identifying and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge
37 as an important component of archipelagic ocean science and Philippine
38 national heritage.

39 **CHAPTER VIII**
40 **ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

41 **SEC. 31. Role of LGUs.** – Subject to the jurisdiction and authority of
42 national government agencies as stated in the provisions of special laws as the
43 case may be, cities and municipalities shall continue to exercise jurisdiction

1 over municipal waters, pursuant to RA No. 7160, as amended, and RA No.
2 8550, as amended. Consistent with this mandate, LGUs in coastal and marine
3 areas shall act as the frontline agencies in the formulation, planning, and
4 implementation of the IMCAM framework in their respective jurisdictions. The
5 LGUs shall develop their local CMSP in accordance with the National
6 Maritime Spatial Plan, and integrate them in their CLUP, CDP, and Annual
7 Investment Plan. The LGUs shall also integrate coastal and marine resources
8 conservation principles and measures in their CLUPs and zoning ordinances.

9 **SEC. 32. *Inter-LGU Cooperation.*** - Consistent with the provisions of
10 RA No. 7160, as amended, LGUs may group themselves and consolidate or
11 coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for the accomplishment of the
12 objectives of this Act. To promote greater cooperation among LGUs, the POMC,
13 as the Council Secretariat, shall undertake the creation of a coordination
14 platform, such as inter-LGU forums, to facilitate knowledge sharing and
15 exchange of best practices for potential replication in other localities.

16 **SEC. 33. *Harmonization of Reclamation Master Plan with the***
17 ***Blue Economy Framework and Strategy.*** – A programmatic or cumulative
18 impact assessment shall be required for reclamation projects. The PRA shall
19 harmonize its Reclamation Master Plan with the Blue Economy Framework
20 and Strategy.

21 **CHAPTER IX**
22 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

23 **SEC. 34. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** - There shall
24 be a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Blue Economy (JCOC-BE).
25 The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
26 shall designate five (5) Senators and five (5) Members of the House of
27 Representatives, respectively, as members of the JCOC-BE: *Provided*, That the
28 minority in the Senate and the House of Representatives shall each have at
29 least one (1) seat in the JCOC-BE. The JCOC-BE shall be jointly chaired by
30 the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs and the House
31 Committee on Economic Affairs.

32 The JCOC-BE shall, in aid of legislation, perform the following
33 functions, among others:

34
35 (a) Set the guidelines and overall framework to monitor and
36 ensure the proper implementation of this Act;

37
38 (b) Conduct a semi-annual hearing to oversee, monitor, and
39 evaluate the implementation of this Act;

40
41 (c) Review and evaluate the performance of the industry
42 participants in relation to the objectives and timelines set forth in this
43 Act;

1
2 (f) Submit periodic reports to the President of the Philippines and
3 Congress;

4
5 (g) Determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend
6 other necessary legislation or executive measures; and

7
8 (h) Perform such other duties and functions as may be necessary
9 to attain its objectives.

10
11 In furtherance hereof, the JCOC-BE is hereby empowered to perform
12 duties pertaining to the harmonization of existing and proposed legislation
13 with the implementation of this Act.

14 **SEC. 35. Appropriations.** - The amounts necessary for the
15 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the appropriations of the
16 relevant government agencies and instrumentalities concerned. Thereafter,
17 such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be
18 included in the respective budgets of the government agencies concerned.

19 Local government units may allocate, out of their respective local funds,
20 such amounts as may be necessary to implement this Act within their
21 jurisdictions, subject to the availability of funds and to existing budgeting,
22 accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

23 **SEC. 36. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60)
24 days from the approval of this Act, the Council shall issue the implementing
25 rules and regulations: *Provided*, That failure to issue rules and regulations
26 shall not in any manner affect the executory nature of the provisions of this
27 Act.

28 **SEC. 37. Construction.** - In the implementation of this Act, any conflict
29 with the RA No. 8550, as amended, shall be resolved in favor of the latter, to
30 ensure the ecological and environmental safeguards therein and with a
31 presumption in favor of subsistence fisherfolk.

32 **SEC. 38. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared
33 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
34 full force and effect.

35 **SEC. 39. Repealing Clause.** - All other laws, presidential decrees,
36 executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations, and rules and
37 regulations that are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
38 are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

39 **SEC. 40. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
40 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
41 circulation.

Approved,

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 6762

(in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1158, 1553, 2101, 2250, 2284, 2324, 2480, 2683, 2807, 3254, 3819, 4139, 4653, 4671, 4791, 4855, 4934, 5116, 5747, 6086, 6175, and 6297)

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

Introduced by: Representatives Antonio B. Legarda, Jr., Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Antonino B. Roman, III, Ryan S. Recto, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Bella Vanessa B. Suansing, Irene G. Labadlabad, Robert Nazal, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Vincenzo Renato Luigi R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, Terry L. Ridon, Marie Bernadette G. Escudero, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, Ferdinand Alexander A. Marcos, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Bryan B. Revilla, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Lordan G. Suan, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Franz Vincent F. Legazpi, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Audrey Kay T. Zubiri, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Raymond Adrian E. Salceda, Eric L. Olivarez, Ronaldo L. Macasaet, Salvador A. Pleyto, Jose Manuel F. Alba, Jesus "Jess" R. Marquez, Gerald Cloyd Alexis V. Galang, Brian Poe, Manuel "Manman" O. Ko, Atty. Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo, Antolin A. Oreta, III, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr., Presley C. De Jesus, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Elijah R. San Fernando, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., MD, FPSO-HNS, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Joel R. Chua, Walfredo "Arman" R. Dimaguila, Jr., Loreto S. Amante, JC Rahman A. Nava, MD., Steve Chiongbian Solon, Jan "Atty. JP" Padiernos, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Arthur C. Yap, Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda, Ronald V. Singson, Dale B. Corvera, Roger Gaviola Mercado, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Laarni Lavin Roque, Leonel "Jhong" D. Ceniza, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Leody "Odie" F. Tarriela, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Bernadette S. Barbers, Emerson D. Pascual, Marlo C. Bancoro, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Esmael G. Mangudadatu, Angelo Marcos Barba, Wilton "Tonton" T. Kho, King Collantes, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Gil "Kabarangay Jr" Acosta, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Maria Kristina Jihan B. Glepa, Joseph Kim C. Yu, Jeyzel Victoria C. Yu, Bai Dimple I. Mastura, Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, Eduardo R. Rama, Maria Vanessa "Vanvan" C. Aumentado, RN, Anna York P. Bondoc, MD, Atty. Jennifer "Karen" A. Lagbas, Ronaldo V. Puno, and Cielo Krisel Lagman

Committee Referral (Primary): **COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**
Committee Chairperson: **REPRESENTATIVE ANTONIO B. LEGARDA, JR.**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**
Committee Chairperson: **REPRESENTATIVE ATTY. ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**

*Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS***
*Committee Chairperson: **REPRESENTATIVE MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING***

OBJECTIVES:

- To adopt a framework for the sustainable and safe use and development of marine wealth within the coastal and maritime domain
- To exercise stewardship of the coasts and oceans, protect and conserve the health and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats
- To preserve the maritime heritage, recognize the economic, social, cultural, and historical value of the coasts and oceans, and foster public understanding and respect for the value of the coasts and oceans
- To address the factors that adversely affect the oceans and the living and non-living resources that comprise the seas, turning threats into opportunities and preventing further harm to all water bodies
- To ensure a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive and integrated framework for the stewardship of our coasts and oceans and management of ecosystems from ridge to reef

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Formulates a policy framework on Blue Economy, which is a development model that aims to help the country define a roadmap for a diversified, sustainable, climate-smart, gender-responsive, and inclusive ocean economy in a manner that provides long-term economic and social benefits while building resilience to climate change and without compromising the safety and functional integrity of our marine ecosystems;
- Establishes the Blue Economy Council to formulate, oversee, and coordinate an integrated strategy to strengthen, grow, and sustain the Philippines' Blue Economy, integrated marine and coastal area management, and ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources;
- Sources the funding for the initial implementation of this Act from the appropriations of the relevant government agencies and instrumentalities concerned, and from their respective budgets in the annual General Appropriations Act and the respective local funds of the local government units, for its continued implementation;
- Forms a panel of technical and scientific experts from the different agencies, academe and other institutions in the field of ocean accounting, ocean finance and fiscal reforms, ocean technology and innovations, pollution control technologies, exploration and ocean research, and other technical and scientific areas to provide technical and scientific expertise to the Council;
- Mandates the Philippine Statistics Authority and Department of Environment and Natural Resources to undertake environmental-economic accounting of the ocean, coastal and marine ecosystems, and resources, based on the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and in accordance with Republic Act (RA) No. 11995, otherwise known as the "Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act";
- Undertakes a nationwide Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning with the participation of key stakeholders to identify the spatial and temporal distribution of priority activities, uses and interactions thereof in maritime zones;
- Ensures the alignment and contribution of the national and local marine spatial plans and industry development plans with the country's medium and long-term development agenda, laid out in the Philippine Development

Plan (PDP), Regional Development Plans (RDP), and Long-term Development Framework;

- Encourages the establishment of blue economic zones (BEZs) and the transformation of existing special economic zones into BEZs, wherein registered business enterprises engaged in ocean-based or ocean-related activities as listed under the Strategic Investment Priority Plan are eligible to receive the privileges, benefits, advantages, or exemptions granted to economic zones and freeports in accordance with their respective special laws, Title XIII of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, and other applicable laws;
- Ensures the enhancement and sustainability of municipal fisheries as well as the promotion and generation of sustainable livelihood in the Blue Economy towards the creation of more employment and equal opportunities for all;
- Establishes the blue finance program, entailing the standardization of blue financial instruments for development and offer, facilitation of on-lending and subsidiary loan arrangements to small-scale fishers microfinance institutions, rural banks, and accredited cooperatives engaged in Blue Economy activities, and provision of support for the fisheries industry and its value chain integration;
- Provides incentives to issuing entities and enterprises of Blue Financial Instruments, and to projects financed through such instruments, such as fiscal and non-fiscal incentives under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, tax deductions and duty-free importation under RA 10771, otherwise known as the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016”, access to credit guarantees and co-financing arrangements under RA 8435, otherwise known as the “Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act”, and non-fiscal incentives granted by the Board of Investments and other Investment Promotion Agencies;
- Recognizes marine science as a foundation of maritime governance, insofar as rules governing the use of coastal and marine resources be based on the sound scientific understanding of the marine environment;
- Ensures national sovereignty, stewardship, and equitable benefit-sharing over Marine Genetic Resources within the Philippines' maritime jurisdictions by meticulously regulating all research, collection, bioprospecting, and commercial utilization activities; and
- Acknowledges the role of local government units, wherein cities and municipalities shall continue to exercise jurisdiction over municipal waters, pursuant to RA 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended, and RA 8550, “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, as amended, subject to the jurisdiction and authority of national government agencies.

RELATED LAWS:

- Section 7, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution;
- RA 12064, otherwise known as the “Philippine Maritime Zones Act”
- RA 11659, entitled “An Act Amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, Otherwise Known as the Public Service Act, as Amended”
- RA 12231, otherwise known as the “Government Optimization Act”
- RA 12145, otherwise known as the “Economy, Planning, and Development Act”
- RA 11995, otherwise known as the “Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act”
- National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as Amended;
- RA 11293 otherwise known as the “Philippine Innovation Act”
- RA 10771, otherwise known as the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016”

- RA 11534, otherwise known as the “Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act” or “CREATE”
- RA 8550, otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, as amended;
- RA 8435, otherwise known as the “Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997”
- RA 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended;
- RA 9729, otherwise known as the “Climate Change Act of 2009”
- Executive Order (EO) No. 57, Series of 2024, entitled: Strengthening the Philippines’ Maritime Security and Maritime Domain Awareness
- EO No. 18, Series of 2023, entitled: Constituting Green Lanes for Strategic Investments

INTERNATIONAL LAWS:

- 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- The Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing Benefits
- United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction