



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6762

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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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in 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;

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

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

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

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

19 (g) Ensure a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive and
20 integrated framework for the stewardship of our coasts and oceans and
21 management of ecosystems from ridge to reef to facilitate cohesive action of the
22 National Government, local authorities, academe, civil society organizations,
23 indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector, to secure our
24 people's safe access to, enjoyment of, and opportunities to invest in sustaining
25 their benefits from our Blue Economy;

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

31 (i) Uphold the value of natural ecosystems and their irreplaceability, as
32 activities that advance a Blue Economy, thereby explicitly excluding illegal
33 reclamation, unregulated habitat conversion, and other activities that remove,
34 replace, or destroy ecosystems from highlands to ocean.

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

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

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

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

11 (d) *Blue Economy* refers to the practical ocean-based economic model
12 using green (i.e. environmentally sound, climate-smart, and biodiversity-
13 friendly) infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms,
14 and proactive institutional arrangements for meeting the twin goals of
15 protecting our oceans and coasts and enhancing its potential contribution to
16 sustainable development, including improving human well-being, reducing
17 environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and securing resources like food
18 and water, and building resilience to climate change, and other marine hazards
19 and risks;

20 (e) *Blue Economy skills* refer to competencies, technical expertise, and
21 practical skills required for or beneficial to economic activities that sustainably
22 use marine and coastal resources, ensure a family living wage, and enhance
23 livelihood and community resilience, while promoting a healthful and balanced
24 ecology, such as sustainable fishing, aquaculture, post-harvest processing,
25 marine conservation, eco-tourism, and sustainable harvesting and processing
26 of high-value marine resources, including commercially valuable marine
27 species. These skills shall include ancillary skills such as maritime
28 entrepreneurship, financing and financial stewardship, accounting, and
29 management;

30 (f) *Blue finance* refers to financial, investment, and insurance
31 mechanisms specifically directed towards programs, projects, and initiatives
32 that positively impact marine and coastal-related industries, and activities
33 including the protection, regeneration, and conservation of marine and coastal
34 ecosystems;

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

39 (h) *Blue public expenditure* refers to public expenditures that address
40 issues related to coastal and marine resources, environmental degradation,
41 and development aspirations that depend on marine resources and
42 environments;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(o) *Marine genetic resources (MGR)* refer to any material of marine plant, animal, microbial, or other origin containing functional units of heredity of actual or potential value;

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

4 (q) *Marine spatial planning* refers to the public process of analyzing and
5 allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine
6 areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. It is a practical way
7 to create and establish a more rational organization of marine space and its
8 uses to balance the demand for development with the need to protect marine
9 ecosystems, and to achieve social and economic objectives in an open and
10 planned way;

11 (r) *Maritime zones*, as defined under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 12064,
12 otherwise known as the "Philippine Maritime Zones Act," refer to (1) the
13 maritime zones of the Philippine archipelago comprising of internal waters,
14 archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone
15 (EEZ), and continental shelf, and extended continental shelf; and (2) the
16 respective maritime zones, as appropriate, of all other territories over which
17 the Philippines has sovereignty, sovereign rights, or jurisdiction, in accordance
18 with the 1987 Constitution and international law, particularly the 1982 United
19 Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

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

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

31 (u) *Ocean-related activities* refer to activities that use products from the
32 ocean such as seafood processing, marine biotechnology, chemicals,
33 pharmaceuticals, and marine-based natural products, and salt production, and
34 produce products and services for the ocean and for ocean-based activities, such
35 as shipbuilding and ship repair, and manufacturing of marine-related
36 equipment and machineries;

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

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

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

10 (y) *Subsistence fishing* refers to fishing and gleaning activities, for
11 personal consumption, or traditional or ceremonial purposes; and

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

17 **SEC. 4. *Scope of Application.*** – For purposes of this Act, the
18 Philippines shall, in accordance with national and international law,
19 particularly the UNCLOS, exercise sovereignty, sovereign rights, and
20 jurisdiction, as appropriate, in internal waters, archipelagic waters, the
21 territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ, and continental shelf, including extended
22 continental shelf, as defined under R.A. No. 12064, herein collectively referred
23 to as “coastal and marine zones,” and any and all maritime features within the
24 maritime zones now known or to be known in the future.

25 The Blue Economy Framework and this law shall cover the following:

26 (a) coastal and marine zones as defined above; and

27 (b) upstream and downstream sectors.

28 CHAPTER II 29 THE BLUE ECONOMY COUNCIL

30 **SEC. 5. *Blue Economy Council.*** – The Blue Economy Council, herein
31 referred to as the Council, is hereby established to formulate, oversee, and
32 coordinate an integrated strategy to strengthen, grow, and sustain the
33 Philippines’ Blue Economy, IMCAM, and ecosystem-based management of
34 coastal and marine resources.

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

SEC. 6. Composition. – The Council shall be composed of the following:

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

the following as Members:

- (a) The Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- (b) The Secretary of Agriculture;
- (c) The Secretary of Energy;
- (d) The Secretary of Finance;
- (e) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs;
- (f) The Secretary of Human Settlements and Urban Development;
- (g) The Secretary of Information and Communications Technology;
- (h) The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
- (i) The Secretary of Justice;
- (j) The Secretary of National Defense;
- (k) The Secretary of Public Works and Highways;
- (l) The Secretary of Science and Technology;
- (m) The Secretary of Tourism;
- (n) The Secretary of Trade and Industry;
- (o) The Secretary of Transportation; and
- (p) The Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission.

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

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

- (a) Holistic and integrated planning to undertake programming beyond traditional, siloed management of individual sectors including, but not limited to, fisheries, tourism, or shipping, to consider their cumulative impacts and potential synergies of the various sectors;
- (b) Balancing economic growth, social equity (including improved livelihoods and poverty reduction), and environmental sustainability (preserving ocean health);

- (c) Science-based and ecosystem-based management by using robust data, science, and integrated coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP), and monitoring and evaluation, to inform decision-making and ensure activities align with ecological boundaries;
- (d) Multi-level governance at the global, national, and local levels, requiring continuous negotiation and cooperation across different scales to address transboundary issues like illegal fishing and pollution, as well as disruption of Critical Infrastructure, as defined in R.A. No. 11659 or “An Act Amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, otherwise known as The Public Service Act, As Amended,” installed or built in coastal and marine zones; and
- (e) Stakeholder inclusion for effective implementation which requires inclusive participation from all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, indigenous groups, civil society organizations (CSOs), and businesses, to ensure equitable access and benefit sharing.

SEC. 8. Mandates, Powers, and Functions of the Council. – The Council shall be responsible for formulating and implementing, through the mandated government agencies, a clear, coherent, and comprehensive policy framework and strategic action plan on Blue Economy. It shall oversee and coordinate the implementation of Blue Economy initiatives across all coastal and marine zones. It shall:

- (a) Develop the country’s policy framework and strategic vision for the growth and sustainable, inclusive, and climate-smart development of the country’s Blue Economy;
- (b) Institutionalize an IMCAM;
- (c) Enhance the country’s ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources;
- (d) Align IMCAM plans, fisheries management plans, integrated coastal management plans, coastal resource management plans, climate action plans, tourism plans, national and local development plans, and CMSP to determine zones, and designate allowed, regulated, and restricted activities;
- (e) Strengthen economic and environmental regulations within the country’s coastal and marine areas and adjacent watersheds to preserve the value and sustainability of ocean resources and protect them from threats;
- (f) Identify climate-resilient and environmentally sound investments, infrastructure, and technologies, including nature-based solutions;
- (g) Ensure an enabling environment for the growth and development of sustainable investment and finance, including promoting innovative financing to finance sustainable projects;
- (h) Ensure the integration of “natural capital accounting” into national budgeting processes to help align economic decisions with the real value of marine resources;
- (i) Identify priority Blue Economy sectors, for potential for economic contribution, social equity, and environmental sustainability;

- (j) Coordinate with various agencies and stakeholders to fast-track investments in water, sanitation, wastewater and solid waste management, and habitat restoration, protection, and management to protect human, and ocean health;
- (k) Enhance data sharing and monitoring among concerned national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to gather and consolidate consistent, updated data on fish catch, habitat health, pollution levels, and economic activity, among others as basis for evidence-based policy;
- (l) Institutionalize regular coastal and ocean monitoring and accounting;
- (m) Coordinate the development of CMSPs and recommend its adoption through an executive issuance;
- (n) Coordinate with various sectors and agencies to promote policy and program coherence;
- (o) Coordinate and cooperate with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to ensure that the maritime industry development plan is consistent with the Blue Economy Framework, such as on energy security, trade and connectivity, navigational safety and security;
- (p) Coordinate with the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee to Facilitate the Ratification and Accession to and Implementation of Maritime Conventions and ensure that it will aid in the implementation thereof;
- (q) Coordinate with the National Maritime Council, created under Executive Order (EO) No. 57, series of 2024, to ensure that its National Maritime Security Policy and Strategy and the Blue Economy Framework complement with each other towards enforcement of maritime regulations, coordinated efforts, and a unified approach to marine and maritime governance. While the National Maritime Council focuses on maritime security including protecting country's maritime interest and sovereignty, it shall provide critical support to enable Blue Economy, through safeguarding navigation routes, providing important oceanographic data to marine industries and protecting rights over valuable marine resources and activities within maritime jurisdiction, among others;
- (r) Conduct, support, fund, engage, collaborate, and coordinate research and development in Blue Economy;
- (s) 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 plans of governments, the private sector, and CSOs;
- (t) Review, update, and disseminate the policy framework and strategic action plan on Blue Economy;
- (u) Endorse to the Committee on Optimizing the Executive Branch, created pursuant to R.A. No. 12231, otherwise known as the "Government Optimization Act," recommendations to address institutional gaps and harmonize overlapping and fragmented

- 1 functions among government agencies, for consideration in the
2 formulation of proposals to the President on the rationalization or
3 reorganization of agencies for a more coherent and effective
4 governance framework for sustainable Blue Economy development;
5 (v) Submit a proposed list of sustainable marine and coastal activities to
6 the Board of Investments (BOI), as the Secretariat, for inclusion in
7 the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP);
8 (w) Steer the development, research and sustainable resource
9 explorations in the maritime zones, especially in areas with high
10 economic potential such as the Philippine Rise and the West
11 Philippine Sea;
12 (x) Coordinate the maritime regulation or licensing and law enforcement
13 for strengthened preparedness and responsiveness to potential
14 security threats or concerns in the country's maritime areas and
15 zones;
16 (y) Build monitoring capacities, including the use of digital and
17 innovative technologies for security and surveillance activities;
18 (z) Review and ensure the ecological integrity compliance with the Blue
19 Economy Framework;
20 (aa) Develop and update marine scientific research, in accordance with
21 Section 27 of this Act;
22 (bb) Formulate guidelines on clear benefit-sharing for all Blue Economy
23 activities, in accordance with Section 28 of this Act; and
24 (cc) Perform other functions as may be necessary for the implementation
25 of this Act.

26 The Council is likewise authorized to convene committees and
27 subcommittees to oversee the abovementioned functions.

28 **SEC. 9. *Creation of Panel of Scientific and Technical Experts.*** –
29 To provide technical and scientific expertise to the Council, experts from the
30 different agencies, academe and other institutions shall be formed in the
31 following areas:

- 32 (a) Ocean accounting, particularly on the economic and scientific factors
33 affecting ocean health;
34 (b) Ocean finance and fiscal reforms to align financial flows with a
35 sustainable ocean economy; innovative and blended finance
36 mechanism;
37 (c) Ocean technology and innovations such as offshore wind and wave
38 energy technologies that are environmentally sustainable; blue
39 biotechnology which uses ocean-based production and new supply
40 chains for innovative products;
41 (d) Pollution control technologies such as those innovations to capture
42 plastic waste, to mitigate noise or oil pollution;

- 1 (e) Exploration and ocean research such as study of the ocean floor and
2 water column; and
- 3 (f) Other technical and scientific areas that may be agreed upon by the
4 Council.

5 **SEC. 10. Secretariat.** – The Presidential Office for Maritime Concerns
6 (POMC) under EO No. 57, series of 2024 shall serve as the Secretariat of the
7 Council and shall provide technical and administrative support to the Council
8 and perform its functions under the same EO.

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

- 10 (a) Provide secretariat support to the Council, including the preparation
11 of draft strategies, priorities, and other outputs to be adopted by the
12 Council;
- 13 (b) Consult with scientific and technical experts, as identified in Section
14 9 of this Act, who can offer insights on Blue Economy and ecosystem-
15 based management of coastal and marine resources policymaking
16 and priority setting;
- 17 (c) Coordinate with various agencies of the government, private sector,
18 academe, scientific community, CSOs, indigenous peoples, local
19 communities, and the public;
- 20 (d) Design and implement a Blue Economy development program and
21 promote its use and adoption in the government bureaucracy;
- 22 (e) Develop recommendations for consideration by the Council; and
- 23 (f) Perform other functions as may be directed by the Council.

24 **SEC. 11. Support Agencies.** – The following agencies shall provide
25 material or technical support to the Council, as may be necessary:

- 26 (a) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP);
27 (b) Biodiversity Management Bureau;
28 (c) Board of Investments (BOI);
29 (d) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
30 (e) Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
31 (f) Department of Agriculture-Biotechnology Program Office;
32 (g) Department of Education (DepEd);
33 (h) Department of Foreign Affairs-Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office;
34 (i) Environmental Management Bureau;
35 (j) Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils;
36 (k) Forest Management Bureau;
37 (l) IPAs;
38 (m) MARINA;

- (n) Mines and Geosciences Bureau;
- (o) National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council;
- (p) National Fisheries Research and Development Institute;
- (q) National Mapping and Resources Information Authority;
- (r) National Museum-Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Division;
- (s) National Telecommunications Commission;
- (t) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration;
- (u) Philippine Coast Guard;
- (v) Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development;
- (w) Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries;
- (x) Philippine Fisheries Development Authority;
- (y) Philippine National Police-Maritime Group;
- (z) Philippine Navy;
- (aa) Philippine Ports Authority;
- (bb) Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA);
- (cc) Philippine Space Agency;
- (dd) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- (ee) Relevant institutions and components of the University of the Philippines;
- (ff) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); and
- (gg) Other relevant government-owned and -controlled corporations, special economic zones (SEZs), and government financial institutions (GFIs).

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

CHAPTER III

THE BLUE ECONOMY FRAMEWORK

SEC. 12. *Policy Development Framework on Blue Economy.* – The Council shall, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, formulate a policy framework on Blue Economy, herein referred to as the Framework. The Framework 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. The Framework shall be subject to mandatory review and modification every five (5) years to ensure its alignment and responsiveness with the Long-term Development Framework developed by the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) as mandated by R.A. No. 12145, otherwise known as the “Economy, Planning, and Development Act.”

1 The Framework shall be formulated in consideration of and in coherence
2 with existing initiatives, strategies, and plans, as reviewed and determined by
3 the Council. The Council shall review existing initiatives, strategies, and plans,
4 to ensure its alignment with the Blue Economy Framework.

5 **SEC. 13. *Components of the Policy Framework on Blue Economy.***

6 – The Framework shall include the following components:

7 (a) Review of all existing laws, policies, plans, programs, projects, rules,
8 and regulations on the management and use of the resources, and activities in
9 the country's maritime zones;

10 (b) Compliance with local laws, and implementation and enforcement of
11 international laws, international maritime instruments, multi-lateral
12 environmental agreements, and other regional commitments;

13 (c) Analysis of current and emerging trends in demography,
14 consumption, production, trade, technology, ecosystems and biodiversity, and
15 climate that show the interaction between the economy and the environment,
16 present and future threats and pressures on coastal and marine environments,
17 impacts on ocean and human health;

18 (d) Mapping, assessment, and monitoring of coastal and marine
19 ecosystems to provide evidence necessary to effectively implement
20 management interventions;

21 (e) The IMCAM framework to harmonize the different plans and
22 activities in the coastal and marine areas, coordinate the various agencies,
23 sectors, and stakeholders, address human impact on marine and coastal
24 biological diversity, and promote the conservation and sustainable use of this
25 biodiversity. The national IMCAM framework shall consider the following
26 elements:

27 (1) Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing for stakeholders, at
28 both national and local levels, to apply relevant policy instruments to
29 address legal issues, institutionalize participatory, gender-responsive,
30 and inclusive processes, and develop strategies to promote
31 multidisciplinary and multisectoral ecosystem-based management of
32 coastal and marine environments, and adjacent watersheds;

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

35 (i) Alteration and destruction of coastal and marine
36 habitats, particularly areas important for
37 reproduction, coral reef systems, sea grass areas,
38 mangroves and coastal forests, mudflats, beach, and
39 the sea bed;

40 (ii) Marine and land-based pollution;

- 1 (iii) Improper coastal land use, and the mismanagement
2 of watersheds;
- 3 (iv) IUU fishing, and by-catch especially of endangered,
4 threatened, and protected species; and
- 5 (v) Introduction of invasive and alien species;
- 6 (3) Establishment of mechanisms and guidelines for research,
7 monitoring, assessment, and valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems
8 and resources, including indicators to measure natural and human-
9 induced impacts;
- 10 (4) Assessment and integration of local and traditional ecological
11 knowledge in marine and coastal governance, resource management,
12 and development of sustainable and inclusive livelihoods and nature-
13 based enterprises; and
- 14 (5) Development of CMSPs, and integration and mainstreaming
15 of CMSPs and IMCAM plans and programs into national and regional
16 development plans, investment plans, Comprehensive Land-Use Plans
17 (CLUPs), and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs);
- 18 (f) Priority strategic and sustainable, climate-smart, and inclusive
19 economic activities in the country's maritime zones, which may include:
- 20 (1) Fisheries, including municipal and commercial fishing,
21 seafood processing, and commercial research and
22 development, with preference to subsistence fisheries, as
23 mandated under Section 7, Article XIII of the
24 Constitution;
- 25 (2) Aquaculture and mariculture, and their Value Chains;
- 26 (3) Marine and coastal tourism;
- 27 (4) Shipping, logistics, and maritime transport;
- 28 (5) Shipbuilding and ship repair;
- 29 (6) Production of renewable energy from marine sources;
- 30 (7) Installation of submarine cables and pipelines, including
31 submarine communications cables and systems;
- 32 (8) Bioremediation, marine biotechnology, and
33 bioprospecting;
- 34 (9) Desalination;
- 35 (10) Underwater cultural heritage and maritime archaeology;
- 36 (11) Marine science education and research, and maritime
37 education;
- 38 (12) Marine Genetic Resources;
- 39 (13) Seafood processing;
- 40 (14) Exploration, exploitation and extraction of oil and natural
41 gas; and
- 42 (15) Submarine mining or extraction of minerals and
43 aggregates;
- 44 (g) Promotion of sustainable blue finance, including Blue Carbon;

1 (h) Priority research, development and innovation agenda, and
2 investments that maximize opportunities created for the climate transition,
3 pollution control, remediation, used water economics, circular economy, and
4 other industries that address threats;

5 (i) Promotion of ocean literacy and social responsibility towards the
6 protection of coastal and marine environments;

7 (j) Enhancement of the capability of the relevant agencies to enforce
8 laws, rules, and regulations to protect our marine wealth;

9 (k) Analysis of investment needs across the Blue Economy sectors to
10 develop and sustain ocean-based industries, as well as formulate strategies for
11 mobilizing financial resources to close the investment gap;

12 (l) Goals, targets, and indicators for growth, resilience, and
13 sustainability of priority strategic and sustainable coastal, ocean-based and
14 ocean-related activities, including their contribution to gross domestic product,
15 job creation, and livelihood;

16 (m) Scaling up the expansion and management of national and local
17 marine protected areas (MPAs), MPA networks, and marine corridors, through
18 the protection and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and
19 resources;

20 (n) Mainstreaming of circular and resource efficiency approaches on the
21 Blue Economy Framework to address the longstanding problem of marine
22 litter and microplastics;

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

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

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

34 (r) Promotion of enabling conditions for sustainable investment through
35 the development of modern and efficient infrastructure, well-organized
36 institutional arrangements, strong cooperation among stakeholders, and
37 capacity-building programs that equip sectors with the knowledge and
38 competencies needed for the Blue Economy;

1 (s) Enhancement of capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines
2 and civilian agencies to enforce laws, rules and regulations to protect our
3 marine wealth and capacity in performing activities on maritime security and
4 surveillance activities and in the protection of Critical Infrastructure, as
5 defined in R.A. No. 11659, installed or built in coastal and maritime zones; and

6 (t) Submission of list of sustainable marine and coastal activities to the
7 BOI, as the Secretariat, for inclusion in the SIPP, and facilitate inclusion of
8 such program, activities, and projects in the Public Investment Program, and
9 Consolidated List of Investment Programs (CLIPs) for Public-Private
10 Partnerships.

11 CHAPTER IV 12 OCEAN ACCOUNTING

13 **SEC. 14. *Ocean Accounting.*** – The PSA and DENR shall undertake
14 environmental-economic accounting of the ocean, coastal and marine
15 ecosystems, and resources, based on the United Nations System of
16 Environmental-Economic Accounting and in accordance with R.A. No. 11995,
17 otherwise known as the “Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital
18 Accounting System (PENCAS) Act.” Members of the Council and heads of
19 support agencies shall contribute data and submit reports on environmental-
20 economic accounts relating to their mandates including damage estimation
21 and sea level rise projections. The PSA shall likewise enhance the Philippine
22 Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts.

23 CHAPTER V 24 DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

25 **SEC. 15. *Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.*** – The Council shall
26 undertake a nationwide CMSP with the participation of key stakeholders to
27 identify the spatial and temporal distribution of priority activities, uses and
28 interactions thereof in maritime zones, to reduce conflict among uses; facilitate
29 complementary uses; mitigate environmental impacts; prevent marine dead
30 zones; protect the Critical Infrastructure, as defined in R.A. No. 11659,
31 installed or built in coastal and maritime zones; rehabilitate dead zones or non-
32 attainment areas, if any; reduce wastage and ensure efficiency in marine
33 supply chains; preserve ecosystem services with the national CMSP providing
34 the guiding principles and overarching delineations, consider the land-ocean
35 interface, and marine corridor and connectivities, and identifying the spatial
36 and temporal distribution of allowed, restricted, and regulated human
37 activities and priority uses and the interactions thereof in the coastal and
38 marine zones; integrating ocean accounting to quantify and value marine
39 ecosystem services, economic activities, and environmental impacts, thereby
40 supporting evidence-based planning, investment programming, and
41 sustainable resource management, and encourage and support the

1 development of regional and local CMSPs, which can provide a level of
2 granularity that can be linked to actionable investments, regulations and
3 enforcement, coastal and marine resource management and conservation
4 measures, and reduction of risks from climate change and natural disasters.

5 The Council shall ensure mainstreaming of climate change into CMSP
6 for improved preparedness and response, as well as reduced vulnerability
7 of marine systems. "Climate-smart CMSP" refers to planning initiatives in
8 the ocean space which integrate and may adapt to the effects of a changing
9 climate. For CMSP to become "climate-smart," data and knowledge on the
10 pathways through which climate change impacts marine ecosystems and
11 human uses are needed at appropriate spatial scales.

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

16 **SEC. 16. *Blue Economic Zones.*** – Investment promotion agencies, as
17 provided in the respective charters, shall encourage the establishment of blue
18 economic zones (BEZs) and the transformation of existing SEZs into BEZs.
19 Registered business enterprises (RBEs) engaged in ocean-based or ocean-
20 related activities as listed under the SIPP are eligible to receive the privileges,
21 benefits, advantages, or exemptions granted to economic zones and freeports
22 in accordance with their respective special laws, Title XIII of the National
23 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, and other applicable laws, rules,
24 and regulations. In addition, RBEs operating within BEZs may also qualify for
25 financing under R.A. No. 11293 or the "Philippine Innovation Act," as
26 applicable.

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

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

36 The DEPDev shall ensure the alignment and contribution of the
37 national and local MSPs and industry development plans with the country's
38 medium and long-term development agenda, laid out in the Philippine
39 Development Plan, Regional Development Plans, and Long-term Development
40 Framework.

SEC. 19. *Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment.* – The Council shall, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Employment, the BFAR, and other concerned agencies and stakeholders, develop a policy to ensure 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, and to strengthen investments in capacity building and skills enhancement programs, in accordance with R.A. No. 10771, otherwise known as the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016.”

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

CHAPTER VI

BLUE FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (b) Tax deductions and duty-free importation under R.A. No. 10771 for
13 projects that promote environmental sustainability and create green
14 employment;

15 (c) Access to credit guarantees and co-financing arrangements under
16 R.A. No. 8435, otherwise known as the “Agriculture and Fisheries
17 Modernization Act of 1997” and its implementing mechanisms,
18 including those managed by the Agricultural Credit Policy Council;

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

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

23 **SEC. 23. *Role of Government Agencies.*** – To fulfill the foregoing
24 objectives, the following agencies shall undertake the corresponding roles and
25 responsibilities:

26 (a) BSP – In the exercise of its regulatory powers over financial
27 institutions, the BSP shall provide an enabling regulatory environment
28 to promote the development of the country’s Blue Economy, in line with
29 its sustainable finance framework and considering international
30 standards and best practices;

31 (b) SEC – The SEC shall encourage the issuance of blue securities, the
32 proceeds of which will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance, in
33 part or in full, Eligible Blue Projects or Activities, in accordance with SEC
34 guidelines, and ASEAN Green Bonds Standards and Green Bonds
35 Principles, as developed and may be revised from time to time by the
36 SEC, the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum and the International Capital
37 Market Association. All designated Eligible Blue Projects or Activities
38 must provide clear benefits to ocean health and the Blue Economy and

1 must contribute substantially to United Nations Sustainable
2 Development Goals 6 and 14, which shall be assessed together with
3 compliance with environmental laws and standards, and, where
4 feasible, quantified by the corporation that will issue the blue securities.
5 The eligibility of these Eligible Blue Projects or Activities shall be
6 subject to the guidelines to be issued by the SEC;

7 (c) GFIs – The Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank
8 of the Philippines shall provide access to credit facilities and financial
9 services to strategic and sustainable ocean-based or ocean-related
10 enterprises, based on their respective credit policies;

11 (d) PGC – The PGC shall implement credit guarantee programs and
12 support lending arrangements to microfinance institutions, rural banks,
13 and cooperatives;

14 (e) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – The DTI, in coordination
15 with relevant agencies, shall enhance the value chain of Blue Economy
16 sectors through supporting small enterprises, including small-scale
17 fishers, in product development, market access, investment readiness,
18 technology adoption, and training;

19 (f) BFAR – The BFAR shall lead in identifying fisheries, aquaculture and
20 mariculture projects, organizing fisherfolk into eligible enterprises, and
21 providing technical support for business formalization;

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

23
24 (1) Design and set standards for specific programs on Blue
25 Economy skills training;

26
27 (2) Partner with the BSP, the DTI, and other relevant agencies
28 and stakeholders to design and prepare training modules and materials
29 on financial literacy, credit readiness, and business development;

30
31 (3) Allocate at least five per centum (5%) of scholarships for Blue
32 Economy skills training, with special attention to small-scale and small
33 commercial fishers;

34
35 (4) Partner with national government agencies and LGUs in
36 supporting and providing training programs and facilities for local
37 communities based on identified community needs; and

38
39 (5) Partner with non-government organizations, local schools,
40 faith-based groups, cooperatives, and community organizations in
41 establishing community-based training facilities for local communities,
42 especially remote coastal areas.

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

2 (1) Issue bonds, debentures, securities, collaterals, notes and other
3 obligations pursuant to Section 299 of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as
4 the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended, and other applicable
5 laws and regulations, for the development of enterprises related to the
6 Blue Economy;

7
8 (2) Assist small enterprises investing in the Blue Economy,
9 including municipal and small-scale fishers, and small-scale commercial
10 fishers as defined under R.A. No. 8550, as amended, in applying for
11 applicable credits and incentives;

12
13 (3) Provide education and capacity building for small enterprises
14 investing in the Blue Economy, including municipal and small-scale
15 fishers, and small-scale commercial fishers as defined under
16 R.A. No. 8550, as amended; and

17
18 (4) Provide exemptions and incentives for the benefit of small
19 enterprises investing in the Blue Economy, including municipal and
20 small-scale fishers, and small-scale commercial fishers.

21 **SEC. 24. *Blue Public Expenditures.*** – The agencies concerned shall,
22 in accordance with Section 15 of R.A. No. 9729, otherwise known as the
23 “Climate Change Act of 2009,” as amended, include in their respective annual
24 budget proposals the programs, activities, and projects for the implementation
25 of the Blue Economy, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing
26 laws, rules, and regulations.

27 **SEC. 25. *Blue Carbon.*** – The DENR shall lead the formulation and
28 implementation of the policy framework on Blue Carbon. The framework shall
29 identify the protection, restoration, and financing strategies to harness the
30 carbon sequestration potential of coastal ecosystems like mangroves,
31 seagrasses, and salt marshes. The DENR shall develop standardized protocols
32 for quantification and certification, establish clear policies and institutional
33 roles, and use innovative financing tools like carbon trading and payments for
34 ecosystem services to fund projects.

35 **CHAPTER VII**
36 **MARINE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION (STI)**
37 **AND OCEAN LITERACY**

38 **SEC. 26. *Marine Scientific Research.*** – The State recognizes
39 marine science as a foundation of maritime governance, insofar as rules
40 governing the use of coastal and marine resources must be based
41 on the sound scientific understanding of the marine environment. In
42 accordance with UNCLOS, the Philippines has the exclusive rights to regulate,
43 authorize and conduct marine scientific research in the country’s internal
44 waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea; whereas, the Philippines has

1 rights to regulate, authorize and conduct maritime research in the country's
2 exclusive economic zone and continental shelf: *Provided*, That the marine
3 scientific research activities shall not unjustifiably interfere with other
4 legitimate uses of the sea and shall not constitute the legal basis for any claim
5 to any part of the marine environment or its resources.

6 Marine scientific research by foreign states and competent international
7 organizations may only be conducted with the express consent of and under
8 the conditions set forth by the Council, in accordance with the UNCLOS.

9 The Council shall ensure a common and unified marine scientific
10 research agenda among the national government agencies and academe to
11 maximize available resources and achieve more impact and tangible and useful
12 research outputs.

13 **SEC. 27. *Marine Genetic Resources Access, Benefit Sharing, and***
14 ***Protection.*** – The State shall ensure national sovereignty, stewardship, and
15 equitable benefit-sharing over MGR within the Philippines' maritime
16 jurisdictions by meticulously regulating all research, collection, bioprospecting,
17 and commercial utilization activities to ensure traceability, biosafety, capacity-
18 building, and fair Access and Benefit-Sharing, in alignment with the UNCLOS,
19 the Convention on Biological Diversity and its supplementary Nagoya Protocol,
20 the emerging Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction regime, and the
21 long-term conservation and sustainable use principles advocated by the
22 International Union for Conservation of Nature.

23 **SEC. 28. *Regulated Bioprospecting and Protection Against***
24 ***Biopiracy.*** – Any commercial, research, and technological utilization of marine
25 genetic and biological resources shall comply with national bioprospecting
26 regulations, ensuring transparent permitting, fair benefit-sharing, and
27 prevention of unauthorized extraction and exploitation (biopiracy).

28 **SEC. 29. *Marine Technology and Innovation.*** – The State recognizes
29 that science, technology, and innovation have a critical role in harnessing
30 ocean resources for the Blue Economy while ensuring sustainability. Marine
31 technology and innovations are needed to address technical and logistical
32 constraints that impede the development of Philippine blue industries. Among
33 these technologies are advanced materials, subsea engineering and technology,
34 sensors and imaging, big data analytics, autonomous systems, biotechnology,
35 nanotechnology, coastal and marine spatial planning, and circular Blue
36 Economy. The government shall also support the development and adoption of
37 locally developed marine-related technologies.

38 **SEC. 30. *Ocean Literacy Framework.*** – The DepEd, CHED, TESDA,
39 and other government agencies implementing sector-specific literacy
40 programs, in consultation with relevant members of the Council or support
41 agencies, shall integrate into the curricula of K-12, the Alternative Learning
42 System, general education programs of higher education institutions, technical
43 and vocational education and training, and other community-
44 based training programs, the essential principles and fundamental concepts

of ocean sciences to develop the following competencies:

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER VIII ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SEC. 31. *Role of LGUs.* – Subject to the jurisdiction and authority of national government agencies as stated in the provisions of special laws as the case may be, cities and municipalities shall continue to exercise jurisdiction over municipal waters, pursuant to R.A. No. 7160, as amended, and R.A. 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 the IMCAM framework in their respective jurisdictions. The LGUs shall develop their local CMSP in accordance with the National Maritime Spatial Plan, and integrate them in their CLUP, CDP, and Annual Investment Plan. The LGUs shall also integrate coastal and marine resources conservation principles and measures in their CLUPs and zoning ordinances.

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

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

CHAPTER IX
FINAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 36. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60)
2 days from the approval of this Act, the Council shall issue the implementing
3 rules and regulations: *Provided*, That failure to issue rules and regulations
4 shall not in any manner affect the executory nature of the provisions of this
5 Act.

6 **SEC. 37. *Construction.*** – In the implementation of this Act, any conflict
7 with R.A. No. 8550, as amended, shall be resolved in favor of the latter, to
8 ensure the ecological and environmental safeguards therein and with a
9 presumption in favor of subsistence fisherfolk.

10 **SEC. 38. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
11 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
12 full force and effect.

13 **SEC. 39. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, presidential decrees,
14 executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations, and rules and
15 regulations that are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
16 are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,