

MARINA FORMULATES RULES FOR PHILIPPINE FISHING VESSELS



(Participants in the discussions of the proposed Philippine Fishing Vessels Rules and Regulations held in Manila from 6-9 February 2018. Seated (L-R) are MARINA Directors **Engr. Marc Anthony P. Pascua** (Region 4); **Engr. Rizal J. Victoria**, (Region 6); **Engr. Jose Venancio A. Vero II**, (Region 7); **Mr. Roberto C. Arceo, CESO V**, (Planning and Policy Service); **Engr. Jaime B. Bea**, (Region 1 & 2); and **Mr. Jeffrey A. Bangsa**, (Enforcement Service). Not in photo are: **Engr. Emmanuel B Carpio**, (Region 8), **Mr. Arnulfo F. Atilano**, (Region 9) and **Atty. Manuel C Portus** (Region 13)

MANILA, Philippines. The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) convened a 4-day workshop that commenced on 06 February 2018 to formulate a separate regime for fishing vessels from the existing merchant marine rules and regulations. The workshop was attended by engineers, naval architects, lawyers, planners, policy and relevant technical staff from the different offices of the Agency nationwide.

“This effort is timely because fishing vessels have always been treated like merchant ships in terms of their safety, construction and to some extent their manning requirements. Our stakeholders in the fishing industry have been pushing for this initiative for so long a time now, especially those based in General Santos City and other parts of Southern Philippines”, quipped Director Roberto C Arceo of the Planning and Policy Service who organized and led the review.

“In balancing economic gains of our fishing operators, we also need to ensure the safety and security of our fishermen”, Arceo added.

As of press time, there are more or less 11,000 fishing boats that may be potentially covered by these Rules.

Accordingly, the output of the workshop will serve as MARINA’s counter proposal to the similar initiative of the Socsargen Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries, Incorporated which submitted its version to MARINA in 2017.

The proposed Rules will include, among others, the following major parts: Registration, Documentation and Licensing of Fishing Vessels, Surveys and Certificates, Construction, Repairs, Conversion and Rebuilding, Stability, Machinery Installations, Electrical Installations, Safe Manning, Certification, Training and Watchkeeping for Fishermen, Tonnage Measurement, Life Saving Appliances, Fire Protection, Fire Extinction and Fire Safety Measures, Communications, Safety of Navigation, Occupational Safety and

Health, Environment, Handline Fishing Boats, and Marine Investigation and Disciplinary Proceedings.

Arceo said that the MARINA will embark into series of nationwide public consultations with partner agencies and interested stakeholders in the coming months and hopes to submit this proposed measure to the MARINA Board for consideration before the Annual Tuna Congress in September this year.

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