

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 AUG -1 P1 :24

SENATE
S. No. 2377

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a framework that will employ a whole-of-nation approach and environmentally-sound and sustainable practices for the development, management, protection, and preservation of our marine and coastal resources. It seeks to rename and reconstitute the National Coast Watch Council as the National Maritime Council, expanding its function to include the formulation of an integrated strategy to promote blue economy and ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine resources.

Under the bill, the National Maritime Council is mandated to undertake environmental-economic accounting of maritime ecosystems and resources, contributing data on environmental-economic accounts and estimation on damage and sea level rise projections. The Council is also mandated to develop and implement the National Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM) Framework which will address human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity, as well as the conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity.

The bill sets a One hundred million peso (P100,000,000.00) initial funding for the Council which will be charged against the Contingency Fund of the Office of the President. The Coastal Watch Secretariat, created under Executive Order No. 57, Series of 2011, is renamed as the National Maritime Office and shall continue to provide technical and administrative support to the Council.

Our country is host to vast marine resources. The Philippines has a total territorial water area, inclusive of our Exclusive Economic Zone, of 2.2 million square kilometers. Latest available data from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources show that in 2020, total mariculture production amounted to some 150,507 metric tons¹. The share of the Ocean Economy to our Gross Domestic Product in 2021 was at 3.6%, which amounted to PhP 707.80 billion². Ocean-based industries also employed 1.99 million Filipinos in 2021, with a share of 4.5% to the total employment for the year.³

Drawing much from our marine resources, we need to transition into more sustainable maritime activities that will use, but not abuse our maritime wealth. It is imperative that we develop a policy framework and develop a system for ocean-economy environment accounting to assess the blue economy to properly record our ocean resources and its contribution to national wealth. There is also a need to ensure that the framework covers capacity development and protection for our coastal and marine environment ecosystems. The proposed bill will ensure that our marine resources will be developed and protected, helping address the pressing concern on food insecurity and employment for Filipinos.

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



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

¹ Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Philippine Fisheries Profile 2020

² Philippine Statistics Authority – 2021 Philippine Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts

³ Ibid.

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MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

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

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

- a. Adopt blue economy as a framework for sustainable and safe use and development of marine wealth within our Maritime Zones, as a pillar of our national economy and patrimony;
- b. Exercise stewardship of our seas and coasts, and protect and conserve the health and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations;
- c. Preserve our maritime heritage, recognize the social, cultural, and historical value of our seas and coasts, and foster public understanding and respect of the value of our seas and coasts to build a strong foundation for social responsibility;
- d. Enrich scientific understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems, the benefits we gain from these ecosystems (e.g. carbon sequestration), their

- 1 changing conditions and the causes thereof, and use the best available
2 scientific knowledge to inform decisions affecting our seas and coasts, and
3 to enhance our capacity to respond and adapt to changing maritime
4 environments;
- 5 e. Foster international cooperation and exercise rights and jurisdiction in
6 accordance with international laws, including on freedom of navigation;
- 7 f. Strategically address the factors that adversely affect the oceans and the
8 living and non-living resource that comprise our seas, turning threats into
9 opportunities and preventing further harm to all water bodies including land-
10 based pollution;
- 11 g. Ensure a whole-of-nation approach and a comprehensive, integrated
12 framework for the stewardship of our seas and coasts to facilitate cohesive
13 action of the National Government, local authorities, academe, non-
14 governmental organizations, the private sector, and the public.

15 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:*

- 16 a. *Aquaculture* refers to the farming of aquatic organisms including fish,
17 mollusks, crustaceans, and aquatic plants. Farming implies some sort of
18 intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular
19 stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc. Farming also implies
20 individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated, the
21 planning, development and operation of aquaculture systems, sites,
22 facilities and practices, and the production and transport;
- 23 b. *Aquasilviculture* refers to a multi-purpose production system that allows
24 production of fish in a mangrove reforestation project;
- 25 c. *Blue economy* refers to a practical ocean-based economic model using
26 green infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms,
27 and proactive institutional arrangements for meeting the goals of protecting
28 our oceans and coasts and enhancing its protentional contribution to
29 sustainable development, including improving human well-being, and
30 reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities;
- 31 d. *Commercial fishing* refers to the harvesting of fish, either in whole or in part,
32 for sale, barter, or trade;

- 1 e. *Ecosystem services* refer to the flow of benefits which humans gain from
2 ecosystems, through biological processes and climate, hydrological and
3 biochemical cycles, and experiences that contribute to intangible culture;
- 4 f. *Environmental-economic accounting* refers to a systematic way to measure
5 and report on stocks and flows of natural assets and resources—both biotic
6 and abiotic, renewable and non-renewable—and ecosystem services, to
7 determine the contribution of the environment to the economy and the
8 impact of the economy on the environment;
- 9 g. *Environmental-economic accounts* refer to statistical information, in physical
10 or monetary terms, about the extraction of natural resource, their use within
11 the economy, natural resource stock levels, the changes in those stocks
12 during a specific period, and such other economic activities related to the
13 environment;
- 14 h. *Integrated marine and coastal area management* refers to a participatory
15 process for decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts
16 from human activities in marine and coastal environment, and to contribute
17 to the restoration of degraded coastal areas;
- 18 i. *Investment promotion agencies* refer to government entities created by law,
19 executive order, decree or other issuance, in charge of promoting
20 investments, granting and administering tax and non-tax incentives, and
21 overseeing the operations of the different economic zones and freeports in
22 accordance with their respective special laws. These include the Board of
23 Investments (BOI), Regional Board of Investments – Autonomous Region
24 in Muslim Mindanao (RBOI-ARMM), Philippine Economic Zone Authority
25 (PEZA), Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), Subic Bay
26 Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), John
27 Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), Poro Point Management Corporation
28 (PPMC), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), Zamboanga City Special
29 Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA),
30 Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority (APECO), Authority of
31 the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise

- 1 Zone Authority (TIEZA), and all other similar existing authorities or that may
2 be created by law;
- 3 j. *Mariculture* refers to the farming of organisms, both plants and animals, in
4 an aquatic medium or environment which may be completely marine (sea),
5 or sea water mixed to various degrees with fresh water. This definition
6 would include both the sea and inland brackish water areas;
- 7 k. *Marine scientific research* refers to any research activity, which is conducted
8 for exclusively peaceful purposes, for the purpose of increasing scientific
9 knowledge about the marine environment, including all natural resources,
10 toward the benefit of mankind and according to the United Nations
11 Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- 12 l. *Maritime domain awareness* refers to the effective understanding of any
13 activity that could impact upon the security, safety, economy, or
14 environment;
- 15 m. *Maritime spatial planning* refers to a process by which human activities in
16 Maritime Zones are analyzed and organized, based on best available
17 scientific knowledge, and to achieve economic, ecological, and social
18 objectives;
- 19 n. *Ocean-based activities* refer to activities that are undertaken in the ocean,
20 e.g. fisheries and aquaculture, offshore oil and gas, mining, ocean energy,
21 desalination, shipping and marine transportation, marine tourism, marine
22 construction;
- 23 o. *Ocean-related activities* refer to activities that use products from the ocean
24 (e.g. seafood processing, marine biotechnology, chemicals, salt, etc.) and
25 produce products and services for the ocean and ocean-based activities
26 (e.g. shipbuilding and repair, ports, tourist resorts, communication,
27 maritime insurance and law, maritime technical services, etc.);
- 28 p. *Subsistence fishing* refers to fishing for personal consumption or
29 traditional/ceremonial purposes; and
- 30 q. *Ocean literacy* refers to an understanding of the ocean's influence on
31 humans and human influence on the ocean.

1 n. Secretary of Finance.

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

6 *Sec. 7. Secretariat.* – The Coastal Watch Council Secretariat, created under
7 Section 4 of Executive Order No. 57, Series of 2011, is hereby renamed as the National
8 Maritime Office and shall continue to provide technical and administrative support to
9 the Council.

10 *Sec. 8. Support Agencies.* – Section 6 of Executive Order No. 57, Series of 2011
11 is hereby amended to include the following agencies to provide material or technical
12 support to the Council, as may be deemed necessary:

- 13 a. Climate Change Commission;
- 14 b. *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*;
- 15 c. Board of Investments;
- 16 d. Securities and Exchange Commission;
- 17 e. Philippine Statistics Authority;
- 18 f. National Mapping and Resources Information Authority;
- 19 g. Environmental Management Bureau;
- 20 h. Biodiversity Management Bureau-Coastal and Marine Division;
- 21 i. Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards;
- 22 j. Philippine Fisheries Development Authority;
- 23 k. Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries;
- 24 l. Maritime Industry Authority;
- 25 m. Philippine Ports Authority;
- 26 n. Philippine Reclamation Authority;
- 27 o. Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research
28 and Development;
- 29 p. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
30 Administration (PAGASA);
- 31 q. Department of Foreign Affairs – Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office;
- 32 r. National Museum – Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Division;

1 s. University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute; and

2 t. Investment promotion agencies.

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

8 CHAPTER III

9 POLICY FRAMEWORK ON BLUE ECONOMY

10 *Sec. 9. Policy Framework on Blue Economy.* – The Council shall, within six (6)
11 months from the effectivity of this Act, formulate a Policy Framework on Blue
12 Economy, herein referred to as the Policy Framework. The Policy Framework shall
13 serve as the basis for marine spatial planning, determination of investments to
14 enhance maritime domain awareness, the preservation of value and sustainability of
15 ocean resources and their protection from threats such as land-based pollution and
16 overfishing and enforcement of economic and environmental regulations within our
17 Maritime Zones. The Policy Framework shall be subject to mandatory review and
18 modification every five (5) years.

19 *Sec. 10. Components of the Policy Framework on Blue Economy.* – The Policy
20 Framework shall include the following components:

21 a. Review of all existing policies, plans, programs, projects, rules and
22 regulations on ocean-based and ocean-related activities;

23 b. Adherence to international maritime laws;

24 c. Analysis of current and emerging trends and changes in demography,
25 consumption, trade, technology, environmental quality and climate that
26 show the interaction between the economy and the environment, present
27 threats and pressures on coastal and marine environments and damage
28 estimation;

29 d. Environmental-economic accounting of coastal and marine assets and
30 resources, and ecosystem services from coastal and marine environments,
31 including assessment of losses due to degradation or major pollution events
32 such as oil spills;

1 e. Priority strategic and sustainable ocean-based and ocean-related economic
2 activities, which may include:

3 1) Fisheries, including commercial fishing, but with preference to
4 subsistence fisheries, as mandated by Section 7, Art. XIII, of the
5 1987 Constitution;

6 2) Aquaculture, mariculture, and aquasilviculture;

7 3) Marine and coastal tourism;

8 4) Environmentally and hydrologically appropriate reclamation;

9 5) Shipping, logistics, and maritime transport;

10 6) Shipbuilding and ship repair;

11 7) Exploration, exploitation, and extraction of oil and natural gas;

12 8) Production of renewable energy from marine sources;

13 9) Submarine mining or extraction of minerals and aggregates;

14 10) Installation of submarine cables and pipelines;

15 11) Bioremediation, Marine biotechnology, and bioprospecting;

16 12) Desalination; and

17 13) Underwater cultural heritage and maritime archaeology.

18 f. Guiding framework for integrated marine and coastal area management;

19 g. Guiding framework for blue finance;

20 h. Priority research and development agenda;

21 i. Promotion of ocean literacy and social responsibility towards the protection
22 of coastal and marine environments;

23 j. Enhancement of capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and
24 civilian agencies to enforce laws, rules and regulations to protect our marine
25 wealth;

26 k. Goals, targets, and indicators for growth, resilience and sustainability of
27 priority strategic and sustainable ocean-based and ocean-related activities,
28 including its contribution to Gross Domestic Product and job creation;

29 CHAPTER IV

30 ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME INSTRUMENTS

31 Sec. 11. *International Maritime Instruments Implementation and Reporting.* –

32 The Council shall establish mechanisms for the full and effective implementation and

1 enforcement of the following maritime instruments and their subsequent amendments
2 and the reporting of compliance and adherence to the President and Congress:

- 3 a. Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and
4 Fauna;
- 5 b. UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- 6 c. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended,
7 and its Protocol of 1988 (SOLAS 74);
- 8 d. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its
9 Protocol of 1978 (MAPROL 73/78);
- 10 e. Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea,
11 1972, as amended (COLREG 72);
- 12 f. International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 and its Protocol of 1988, as
13 amended (LL 66);
- 14 g. International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969
15 (TONNAGE 69);
- 16 h. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of
17 Maritime Navigation, 1988 (SUA) and its Protocol'
- 18 i. International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and
19 Cooperation 1990 (OPRC 1990);
- 20 j. International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast
21 Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM 2004);
- 22 k. Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by dumping of Wastes and
23 Other Matter, 1972, as amended, and its 1996 Protocol (LCP);
- 24 l. Special Trade Passenger Ships Agreement, 1971 (STP 71)
- 25 m. Convention on the International Mobile Satellite Organization, as amended
26 (IMSO 1976) and its Operating Agreement (INMARSAT);
- 27 n. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and
28 Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, As Amended (STCW 78);
- 29 o. International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on
30 Ships, 2001 (AFS 2001);
- 31 p. Protocol of 1992 to Amend the International Convention on Civil Liability for
32 Oil Pollution Damage, 1969; and

1 q. Protocol of 1992 to amend the International Convention on the
2 Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution
3 Damage, 1971.

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

6 a. All ships, whether seagoing or coastwise, which are registered under the
7 Philippine flag;

8 b. All persons, partnerships, corporations, firms, and other entities duly
9 registered or licensed in the Philippines to engage in ocean-based or ocean-
10 related enterprise, or those acting on their behalf; and

11 c. All foreign ships that are within the waters, ports, harbors and offshore
12 terminals of the Philippines regardless of whether or not they are registered
13 in, or belong to, State Parties to the conventions sought to be implemented
14 by this Act.

15 CHAPTER V

16 ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING

17 Sec. 13. *Environmental-Economic Accounting.* – The Council shall undertake
18 environmental-economic accounting of maritime ecosystems and resources, based on
19 the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Members of the
20 Council and heads of support agencies shall contribute data on environmental-
21 economic accounts relating to their mandates including damage estimation and sea
22 level rise projections.

23 Sec. 14. *Framework.* – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall develop a
24 framework for the collection, compilation, processing, analysis, publication and
25 dissemination of environmental-economic accounts and its integration in the national
26 accounts: *Provided*, That PSA shall integrate the collection of environmental-economic
27 accounts into the Community-Based Monitoring System for local government units
28 (LGUs); *Provided, further*, That the PSA shall coordinate with and provide technical
29 assistance to Members of the Council, support agencies, investment promotion
30 agencies and LGUs to ensure compliance to standard environmental-economic
31 accounting techniques, methodologies, concepts, definitions and classifications to
32 prevent duplication in collection of statistical information.

1 CHAPTER VI

2 INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT

3 Sec. 15. *Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM)*. – The
4 Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM) shall be the framework to
5 address human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity, and for promoting
6 conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity.

7 Sec. 16. *Elements of the National IMCAM Framework*. – The Council shall
8 develop and implement the National IMCAM Framework within one (1) year from the
9 effectivity of this Act to provide direction, support, and guidance to relevant member
10 and support agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders, according to the Elaborated
11 Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity contained in the Annex
12 to Decision VII/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Environmental
13 Programme Convention on Biological Diversity.

14 Accordingly, the National IMCAM Framework shall consider the following
15 elements:

- 16 a. Building capacity of stakeholders, in both national and local levels, to apply
17 relevant policy instruments to address legal issues, institutionalize
18 participatory processes, and develop strategies to promote multidisciplinary
19 and multisectoral ecosystem-based management of coastal and marine
20 environments;
- 21 b. Direct action to protect coastal and marine environments from negative
22 impacts, such as:
- 23 1) Identification, protection, prevention of alteration and destruction,
24 and restoration of coastal and marine habitats, particularly areas
25 important for reproduction, *inter alia*, coral reef systems;
 - 26 2) Prevention, reduction, or control of marine pollution;
 - 27 3) Protection of coastal and marine environments from land-based
28 sources, including proper coastal land use and watershed
29 management;
 - 30 4) Establishment of closed fishing areas; and
 - 31 5) Reduction of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and by-
32 catch.

1 c. Establishment of mechanisms and guidelines for research, monitoring,
2 assessment, and valuation of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources,
3 including indicators to measure natural and human-induced impacts.

4 CHAPTER VII

5 PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES

6 *Sec. 17. Protection of Endangered Species.* – The Council shall spearhead the
7 conservation, protection, and rehabilitation of rare, threatened, and endangered
8 aquation species as it may determine, including their habitats and migratory routes
9 such as the East Asian Current. It shall recommend to the President and Congress the
10 designation of coastal and marine areas a protected areas under the Expanded
11 National Integrated Protected Areas System, or sanctuaries of local conservation areas
12 under the Fisheries Code and the Local Government Code, and in compliance with the
13 relevant provisions of international treaties and agreements such as, the Convention
14 on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flore and Fauna, the United
15 Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and Convention on Biological Diversity.

16 *Sec. 18. Policy Coordination.* – The Council shall harmonize rules and
17 regulations of all relevant agencies responsible for the implementation and
18 enforcement of laws to prevent and eliminate illegal fishing such as Republic Act No.
19 8550, also known as the “Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998,” as amended by RA 10654.

20 CHAPTER VIII

21 DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

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

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

31 *Sec. 21. Integration with Area and National Development Plans.* – The National
32 Economic and Development Authority shall integrate the maritime spatial plan and

1 industry development plans into the Philippine Development Plan, the National Priority
2 Plan, the National Physical Framework Plan, and Area Spatial Development
3 Framework.

4 *Sec. 22. Inclusion in Strategic Investment Priority Plan.* – The Council shall
5 recommend to the Board of Investments the inclusion of identified priority strategic
6 ocean-based or ocean-related activities in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan.

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

13 In addition, the incentives provided for under the following laws may be granted
14 to blue SEZs:

- 15 a. RA 9003, or the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”;
- 16 b. RA 9275, or the “Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004”;
- 17 c. RA 9513, or the “Renewable Energy Act of 2008”; and
- 18 d. RA 10771, or the “Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016”.

19 Blue SEZs may also qualify for financing provided for under RA 11293, or the
20 “Philippine Innovation Act”.

21 CHAPTER IX

22 BLUE FINANCE

23 *Sec. 24. Role of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).* – In the exercise of its
24 regulatory powers over financial institutions, the BSP shall mandate banks and quasi-
25 banks to adopt the United Nations Environment Programme’s Sustainable Blue
26 Economy Finance Principles as a foundation of corporate governance and risk
27 management.

28 *Sec. 25. Role of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).* – The SEC shall
29 encourage the issuance of blue bonds where proceeds will be exclusively applied to
30 finance or refinance, in part or in full, strategic and sustainable ocean-based or ocean-
31 related activities, in accordance with ASEAN Green Bonds Standards and Green Bonds

1 CHAPTER XI

2 FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION

3 Sec. 29. *Archipelagic Sea Lanes.* – The Council shall designate sea lanes and
4 air routes thereabove, suitable for the continuous and expeditious passage of foreign
5 ships and aircrafts through or over the archipelagic waters and the adjacent territorial
6 sea, and shall, where necessary as regards to the safety of navigation, require foreign
7 ships exercising the right of innocent passage to use such lanes and traffic separation
8 schemes in accordance with the UNCLOS.

9 CHAPTER XII

10 ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

11 Sec. 30. *Role of Local Government Units.* – Cities and municipalities shall
12 continue to exercise jurisdiction over municipal waters, pursuant to RA 7160, also
13 known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended, and RA 8550, as
14 amended. Consistent with this mandate, LGUs shall act as the frontline agencies in
15 the formulation, planning, and implementation of IMCAM in their respective
16 jurisdictions. LGUs shall integrate the National Maritime Spatial Plan and opportunities
17 such as the National Sewage and Septage Management Plan and the funds under the
18 Clean Water Act in their Comprehensive Development and Annual Investment Plans.

19 Sec. 31. *Inter-LGU Cooperation.* – Consistent with the provisions of RA 7160,
20 as amended, LGUs may group themselves, consolidate or coordinate their efforts,
21 services, and resources for the accomplishment of the objectives of this Act.

22 CHAPTER XIII

23 FINAL PROVISIONS

24 Sec. 32. *Congressional Oversight.* – For the effective implementation of this
25 Act, a Congressional Oversight Committee is created to be known as the Blue Economy
26 Oversight Committee. The Blue Economy Oversight Committee shall be composed of
27 five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President
28 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Minority shall be
29 entitled to pro rata representation. The Blue Economy Oversight Committee shall be
30 jointly chaired by the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs and
31 the Chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Affairs.

1 Sec. 33. *Appropriations.* – The amount of One hundred million pesos
2 (P100,000,000.00) as initial funding for the Council to be charged against the
3 unexpended Contingency Fund of the Office of the President is hereby appropriated.
4 Thereafter, such amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be included
5 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

6 Sec. 34. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
7 the approval of this Act, the Council shall promulgate and issue the rules and
8 regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act: *Provided,* That the
9 failure to issue rules and regulations shall not in any manner affect the executory
10 nature of the provisions of this Act.

11 Sec. 35. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared
12 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

13 Sec. 36. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
14 other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
15 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

16 Sec. 37. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
18 circulation.

Approved,