

# DA-BFAR Davao apprehends commercial fishing boat

December 9, 2016

DAVAO CITY, Dec. 9 – The Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) apprehended on Wednesday, a 76-gross ton commercial fishing boat operating inside the municipal waters of Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental.

At around 6:00 in morning, BFAR 11 law enforcers and the Philippine Coast Guard spotted F/B Zanrei 7.54 nautical miles off Barangay Surop in the said town which is part of Davao Gulf. The fishing boat was manned by 36 crew on-board.

“The heightened patrols and strengthened monitoring of our seas reflect the government’s strong commitment to curtail illegal fishing in our waters,” Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said.

The Secretary prioritizes relentless campaign for the enforcement of fisheries law against illegal and unsustainable fishing practices.

Republic Act (RA) 10654, otherwise known as the amended Philippine Fisheries Code, prohibits commercial fishing vessels to operate within the 15 kilometer area from the shoreline in municipal waters.

The fishing boat was brought to a port in Tibanban, also part of Governor Generoso, for temporary docking.

BFAR-11 has already issued a notice of violation to the boat’s owner while preparation of legal documents is ongoing for the filing of an administrative case.

Violators are penalized with a fine of 100,000 pesos for medium-scale commercial fishing and confiscation of catch and gears.

Meanwhile, in an effort to prevent and eliminate illegal fishing in the municipal waters, the DA through the BFAR is piloting the search for the most outstanding coastal municipality.

The program, *Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK)*, scores conservation and protection of marine environments through community participation.

MMK will culminate with the awarding of winners before the year ends. (BFAR-11)

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