SUBJECT: Prohibition on the gathering, taking, collecting, selling, transporting, or possessing for sale of mollusks belonging to the genus Triton or Charonia and Cassis.

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 4 and 7 of PD No. 704, as amended, otherwise known as the Fisheries Decree of 1975, the following rules are hereby promulgated for the conservation and protection of certain mollusks in Philippine waters:

Section 1. Definition of terms. - For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall mean:

a) Triton or Charonia or trumpet shells (tambuli) - are long and cone-shaped mollusks which grow to about 40 cms. in length, with spiral bands, polished and possessing varied color patterns.

b) Cassis or helmet shells (budyong) - are large and heavy mollusks having narrow aperture with the inner and outer lips toothed, has an operculum shaped like an open fan.

Section 2. Prohibition. - It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to gather, take, collect, trade, transport, and possess for sale mollusks of the genus Triton and Cassis: Provided, That the Minister of Agriculture and Food, upon recommendation of the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, may issue a special permit to any research and educational institution, subject to such terms and conditions that may be imposed.

Section 3. Penal clause. - Violation of any provision of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine of not less than P500, but not more than P5,000 or imprisonment form 6 months to 4 years, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court: Provided, That the Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is hereby empowered to impose upon the offender an administrative fine of not more than P5,000 including the confiscation of the mollusks for proper disposition.

Section 4. Repealing clause. - All existing administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity. - This administrative order shall take effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in 2 newspapers of general circulation.

(SGD.)
RAMON V. MITRA
Minister

RECOMMENDED BY:
(SGD.)
JUANITO B. MALIG
Director
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

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