



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
1100 Quezon City

**SPECIAL ORDER**

No. 489

Series of 2024

**SUBJECT: CREATION OF A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SEAWEED INDUSTRY**

In the exigency of service and in order to address the emerging concerns of the seaweed industry in the Province of Tawi-Tawi, a Technical Working Group (TWG) for the assessment and sustainability of the seaweed industry in the Province of Tawi-Tawi is hereby created and shall be composed of the following:

Chairman	: <b>Isidro M. Velayo, Jr., MDM</b>	- Assistant Director for Technical Services, BFAR
Vice-chairman	: <b>Ida T. Capacio</b>	- BFAR-EPSPD/NSTDC
Members	: <b>Alzath K. Kunting</b>	- Regional Director, BFAR-RFO IX
	: <b>Elymi Ar-J S. Tuñacao</b>	- BFAR-IFAD
	: <b>Dr. Sonia Somga</b>	- BFAR-NFLD
	: <b>Roy C. Ortega</b>	- BFAR-FRMD
	: <b>Demosthenes F. Togonon</b>	- BFAR-EPSPD
	: <b>Ulysses M. Montojo, PhD</b>	- DA-NFRDI
	: <b>Karl Bryan S. Perelonia</b>	- DA-NFRDI
	: <b>Carl Jefferson M. Madrid</b>	- DA-NFRDI
	: <b>Muhaimin S. Maharail</b>	- BFAR-RFO IX
Secretariat	: <b>Rene A. Regaspi</b>	- BFAR-NSTDC
	: <b>Paul John C. Paguergan</b>	- BFAR-NSTDC
	: <b>Ryan V. Idica</b>	- BFAR-EPSPD
	: <b>Madelyn L. Aguilar</b>	- BFAR-EPSPD

**The TWG shall have the following duties and responsibilities:**

1. Conduct on-site ocular field inspections and documentation of seaweed farming areas in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;
2. Conduct consultative meetings/dialogue with the local government officials and seaweed stakeholders of the Province of Tawi-Tawi for a robust information – gathering.
3. Prepare an assessment report on the status and emerging concerns of the seaweed industry;
4. Provide technical support for the seaweed industry in the Province of Tawi-Tawi;
5. Develop and implement a sustainable seaweed development program for the Province of Tawi-Tawi;
6. Develop and implement an integrated seaweed research program for a sustainable seaweed industry;
7. Formulate recommended fisheries policies to address the problems and emerging concerns of the seaweed industry;



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8. The BFAR and the NFRDI to collaborate with the Local Government Unit of Tawi-Tawi, relevant State University/College, and the seaweed stakeholders on addressing the concerns of the seaweed industry; and
9. The secretariat shall facilitate or assist in the overall coordination, implementation of projects/activities, and in the preparation and submission of relevant documents.

The TWG is entitled to honoraria during the actual performance of duties and responsibilities chargeable to the EPSDP Funds and subject to the usual accounting rules and regulations.

This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked in writing. All orders, memoranda and issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed revoked.

Done this 5th day of April 2024.

  
**FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**  
Secretary



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