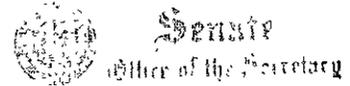


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



11 AUG 15 10:30

SENATE

RECEIVED BY 

P. S. Res. No. 561

---

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

---

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRACTICE OF A FATALLY DANGEROUS OCCUPATION KNOWN AS 'PAALING' FISHING WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ASSESSING THE EXTENT OF USAGE OF SAID METHOD AMONG FISHERFOLK AND IMPOSING STRINGENT RESTRICTIONS CITING THE PHYSICAL AND HEALTH RISKS INVOLVED**

*Whereas*, 'paaling' is a traditional method of fishing that has apparently replaced 'muro-ami';

*Whereas*, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz describes 'paaling' as a deep-sea compressor fishing similar to 'muro-ami' which makes use of crude apparatus, usually of junk iron and steel materials being pounded on coral reefs by fishermen to scare and drive the fish into a net laid out on the ocean floor;

*Whereas*, the crude apparatus, weighing from four to eight kilograms, are fastened to the waists of workers who dive into the ocean only with the aid of breathing tubes attached to a compressor;

*Whereas*, 'paaling' fishermen do not use any other safety gear such as body swimsuits, gloves or flippers, when diving underwater, making it a really risky and life-threatening occupation;

*Whereas*, accompanying dangers for doing 'paaling' include: dropping the tubes while diving in the depths which makes divers vulnerable to oxygen, and decompression which could bring instant death;

*Whereas*, a number of deaths were already reported in Central Visayas as a result of this kind of fishing;

*Whereas*, four workers employed by a fishing company based in Malabon died due to decompression resulting from 'paaling' fishing;

*Whereas*, the Labor department is currently investigating Pesca Maharlika Marine Resources, Inc. for recruiting and exposing 250 fishermen to the risks of 'paaling';

**Whereas**, there is a need to intensify the campaign and education on the hazards of 'paaling' fishing in order that people will be sufficiently warned: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the practice of a *fatally dangerous occupation* known as 'paaling' fishing with the end in view of assessing the extent of usage of said method among fisherfolk and imposing stringent restrictions citing the physical and health risks involved.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator