PHILIPPINES

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Key Statistics:

Land Mass	298,170 square kilometres
EEZ/land ratio	7.4
Coastline	36,000 kilometres
Population in 2001 (approximately)	82,841,518
Population density (approximately)	240 persons per square kilometre
Gross national income per capita (2000)	US$1040

Other facts: The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,100 islands in the South China Sea.

2 ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION

The Philippines signed the Law of the Sea Convention on 10 December 1982 and ratified the Convention on 8 May 1984. The Philippines claim the following marine zones of jurisdiction:

- territorial sea: irregular polygon extending up to 100 nm from coastline as defined by 1898 Treaty of Paris;
- exclusive economic zone: 200 nm from the baseline.
- continental shelf: to depth of exploitation.
- in the late 1970s, the country claimed a polygonal-shaped area in South China Sea, establishing sovereignty of up to 285 nm in breadth known in the Philippines as the Kalayaan Island Group.

The Philippines has marine jurisdictional boundaries with China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Palau (USA) and Vietnam.

3 MARINE INDUSTRIES INFORMATION

In 2001 the primary fisheries sector employed one million people and approximately 35,000 people were employed in the secondary fisheries sector. This is about 5 per cent of the national labour force. The Gross value of fisheries output in 2001 was US$1.8 billion, the value of exports was US$458.8 million and the value of imports was US$76.6 million, creating a trade surplus of US$383.1 million. [1]

4 OCEAN RELATED LEGISLATION

Key Ocean Management Related Legislation [2]

Legislation	Description
Philippines Fisheries Code (Republic Act No. 8550, 1998)	This Code provides for the development, management, conservation and utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources. The Code integrates all laws that are relevant to these issues.
Agriculture and Fisheries Modernisation Act (Republic Act No. 8435, 1997)	This Act outlines the measures to be taken to modernise the agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country in order to enhance their profitability.
Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (Republic Act No. 9147, 2001)	The primary purpose of this Act is to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity.
National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (Republic Act No. 7586, 1992)	This Act provides a framework for environmental protection in accordance with the Convention on Biodiversity.

[1] www.fao.org/fi/fcp/en/PHL/profile.htm also at Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippine Fisheries Profile 2001

[2] Some legislation available at sunsite.nus.edu.sg/apcel/dbase/filipino.html

Biological and Genetic Resources, Order on Prospecting (Executive Order No. 247, 1995)	This Order regulates the prospecting of biological and genetic resources so that these resources are protected, conserved, developed and put to the sustainable use and benefit of the national interest.
Petroleum Act (Republic Act No. 387, 1949)	This Act was developed to promote the exploration, development, exploitation and utilisation of the petroleum resources of the Philippines.
Philippine Environment Code (Presidential Decree No.1152, 1977)	This Code provides the foundation for all measures dealing with the Philippine's natural environment. The Code encompasses the management of air quality, water, land use, natural resources and waste.
Marine Pollution Decree (Presidential Decree 600, 1974) As amended by DD979	This Decree declares a national policy to prevent and control the pollution of seas by the dumping of wastes and other matter which create: hazards to human health, harm marine living resources, damage amenities, or interfere with the legitimate uses of the sea within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines.
Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990 (RA 6969 of 1990)	This Act regulates the importation, storage, or transport of toxic or nuclear wastes into or through the Philippines.
Act Regulating the Practice of the Merchant Marine Profession (Republic Act, No. 8544)	This Act promotes and ensures the safety of life and property at sea and protects and serves the marine environment. The Act also prevents marine pollution and accidents at sea by complying with the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978.

5 LEAD AGENCIES FOR OCEANS GOVERNANCE

(1) Departments/Ministries

Agency	Ocean Related Function
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) **www.denr.gov.ph**	This Department is the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources. The natural resources of specific interest to DENR are forest and grazing lands, mineral resources, including those in reservation and watershed areas, and lands of the public domain. The DENR engages in the licensing and regulation of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits derived there from for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos.
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) **www.dfa.gov.ph**	This Department is the lead agency that advises and assists the President in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and evaluating the total national effort in the field of foreign relations. The Department plays a lead role in the formulation of policies on maritime and oceans affairs. The DFA has the mandate to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the National Marine Policy and periodically evaluate and update it as necessary.
Department of Transportation and Communication **www.dotcmain.gov.ph**	This Department is responsible for the administration, management and development of the transport and communication networks of the Philippines. To carry out its mandate, the Department has five sectoral/line offices, which include the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). It also has eight attached corporations. The Corporations of relevance to oceans governance are: the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), the Cebu Port Authority (CPA) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).
Department of Defence-Navy www.dnd.gov.ph **or** **www.navy.mil.ph**	The Navy enforces laws and regulations pertaining to navigation safety of life at sea, immigration, customs revenues, narcotics, quarantine, fishing and neutrality of the territory contiguous waters of the Philippines.
Department of Agriculture (DA)- Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	The Bureau prepares and implements the Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan and establishes and maintains a Comprehensive Fishery Information System under the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau also issues

www.da.gov.ph	licences for the operation of commercial fishing vessels.
DA- Philippine Fisheries Development Authority **www.da.gov.ph**	This Authority is vested with powers and responsibilities for promoting the growth of the fisheries sector and improving efficiency in the handling, preservation, marketing and distribution of fish and fishery products through the establishment and administration of fish ports and other critical infrastructure.

(2) **Statutory Bodies**

Agency	Ocean Related Function
Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) **www.marina.gov.ph**	MARINA sits under the Department of Transportation and Communication and is the primary policy-making agency on maritime safety.
Philippine Coast Guard **www.pcg.gov.ph**	The Coast Guard is the implementing and enforcement agency for maritime safety rules and regulations governing the safe operation of Philippine-Flag vessels engaged in the domestic trade. The Coast Guard is part of the Department of Transportation and Communication.
National Economic and Development Authority **www.neda.gov.ph**	This Authority was created to serve as an independent planning agency of the government. The Authority is primarily responsible for formulating coordinated and fully integrated social and economic policies, plans and programs for national application.

(3) Coordinating Bodies

Agency	Ocean Related Function
Maritime and Ocean Affairs Centre	The Maritime and Oceans Affairs Centre is a government instrumentality acting as Secretariat to the Department of Foreign Affairs on maritime and ocean affairs. The Centre promotes the development of national capabilities and institutions including human resources, for maritime and ocean affairs.
National Agriculture and Fisheries Council **www.nafc.com.ph**	This Council is an advisory body to the Department of Agriculture (DA). It is responsible for coordinating consultative discussions with the agricultural and fishery sectors and also assists in the modernization of these sectors by acting as an inter-agency vehicle.
National Security Council **www.nsc.gov.ph**	The National Security Council is the lead agency of the government for coordinating the formulation of policies, relating to or with implications for national security. It is composed of the President as Chairman, the Vice-President, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Justice, the Secretary of Labor and Employment, the Secretary of Local Governments, the National Security Director, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and such other government officials and private individuals as the President may appoint.

6 OCEANS GOVERNANCE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Policy	Description
Philippine Environment Policy (Presidential Decree No.1151, 1977)	This policy is the overarching general policy instrument for the conservation of the environment. It is a continuing policy of the State to create, develop, maintain, and improve conditions under which people and nature can thrive in productive and enjoyable harmony with each other.
Philippine Strategy for Biological Diversity	This policy addresses the problems and issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity.
Philippine Agenda 21	This Agenda is part of the Philippines response to fulfill its commitments in the Earth Summit 1992, where Governments and key sectors of the society agreed to implement an action agenda for sustainable development.
National Marine Policy (Executive Order No. 186, 1994)	This policy is a framework instrument for addressing all ocean-related concerns. It identifies four key priority national concerns, including the extent of the national territory, protection of the marine ecology, management of the marine economy and technology, and maritime security.
Fisheries Resource Management Program	The over-all long-term objective of the Fisheries Resource Management Program is to achieve sustainable development for the fisheries sector in the selected project sites by reducing the incidence of poverty in Filipino fishing communities.
Coastal Environment Program	This Program integrates programs, projects and initiatives related to or concerning coastal environments. The program aims to promote community-based sustainable use of resources in coastal areas in the country.
Regional Program for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in East Asian Seas	This Program is an on-going project of the United Nations Development Program - Global Environment Facility whose major objective is to strengthen the capacity of the participating governments to mitigate marine pollution from land and sea-based sources.
National Maritime Safety Plan	This is a draft policy that attempts to consolidate all relevant aspects on the promotion of maritime safety.
National Action Plan in Preventing and Suppressing Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships	This is a draft policy that attempts to prevent piracy and armed robbery at sea.