

Philippines bans heavy-weighted fishing nets over coral reef concerns

October 9 2013



Local dive master Joel Pandino shows a coral reef formation in the Verde sea passage south of Manila on February 21, 2007

The Philippines said Wednesday it is banning the use of heavy-weighted fishing nets that drag along the ocean floor inflicting damage to seabed communities and coral reefs.

The ban on "Danish seine" [fishing nets](#) will take effect in mid-March, giving hundreds of fishing boats time to switch their equipment, said Asis Perez, head of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

"This is because of their adverse effect on the environment. They (the nets) have weights attached to them, it drags on the [ocean floor](#), it hits the corals and damages the marine life," he told AFP.

Perez said the bureau took action after small fishermen and coastal communities made numerous complaints about big fishing boats using the nets, which are weighted more heavily than other forms of net used to trawl the seabed.

The bureau's licensing division said that at least 795 [fishing boats](#) were using this type of net and would be affected by the ban.

A Danish seine is a contraption consisting of a conical net connected to herding devices and heavy sinkers that are hauled typically using mechanical winches.

© 2013 AFP

Citation: Philippines bans heavy-weighted fishing nets over coral reef concerns (2013, October 9) retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2013-10-philippines-heavy-weighted-fishing-nets-coral.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.