

DENR's SBPS, police arrest local for illegal fishing at marine protected area

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ALABEL, Sarangani, Apr. 27- The joint inspection team of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape-Protected Area Management Office (SBPS-PAMO) arrested a certain Noel, a local from here for illegal fishing in an established marine protected area (MPA).

Joy C. Ologuin, protected area superintendent (PASu) of the SBPS said that they received a report Tuesday from a group of Bantay Dagat in Barangay Kawas regarding the incident.

Ologuin said, the incident occurred at the Kawas Marine Sanctuary, an established MPA of the local government unit of Alabel and declared as a Strict Protection Zone by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of SBPS.

Isidro Oro, deputized fish warden (DFW) in the area, said he saw the suspect conducting the illegal activity in the marine sanctuary but the latter escaped.

Oro followed the direction of the suspect until the accused reached the shoreline and his residence in Barangay Kawas.

Oro together with other local DFWs guided the personnel of the joint inspection team and the Alabel Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) led by Engr. Allan V. Rivera to the suspect's location.

On the same day, personnel from Alabel Police, who accompanied the joint inspection team, arrested the violator for unlawful fishing.

Authorities also confiscated his motorized fishing boat along with the gears and fishing nets he used in the illegal activity.

Ologuin said the fishing nets used by the suspect has a size number of 1-1.5 centimeters, a clear violation of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 and the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

Meanwhile, Alabel Mayor Vic Paul Salarda pledged that they will file appropriate charges against the suspect.

The SBPS-PAMO, in coordination with the concerned partners, is currently processing the necessary legal documents to proceed with the immediate filing of the case against the violator. (SBPS-PAMO)

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