ISSUE ON POMFRET AND SALMON

Monday, 12 December 2022

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform invited PAGASA as a resource person on the morning of 12 December 2022 to the Senate for the issue on salmon & pompano sold in supermarkets/wet markets when in fact for the last 20 years, there's a law which prohibits the selling of these to households (supposedly to protect local fisherfolk from undue competition of imports & smuggled fresh fish). Actually, these two types of fish may be importted given regulated permits by BFAR for use by commercial/industrial establishments only & not to be sold to the public as fresh fish. Pompano aka pomfret or butterfish are locally grown too which complicates regulation.

Â Sen. Cynthia Villar chairs the Committee and Sen. Raffy Tulfo's privilege speech on 29 November 2022 opened up this senate inquiry that led to this Hearing.

Â Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (BFAR) OIC Dir. Atty. Demosthenes Escoto and BFAR's Ma. Abegael A. Albaladejo/Chief-Fisheries Planning & Eco. Div. defends for BFAR.

Â Representatives from the different regional members of the National Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC) attended the Hearing as well. Hearing to be continued after BFAR presents more detailed accounts of what happened to this ruling on ban on these two particular types of fish on supermarket & wet market shelves/stands.