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Manila Bay is a semi-enclosed sea that is identified as one of the major fishing grounds in the country and a vital ecological and economic resource. Unfortunately, the once robust marine resources of the Bay have been degraded and diminished in the past eight (8) decades. By nature, marine ecosystems such as mangrove forests, coral communities, and soft bottom communities in the Bay can recover from disturbances depending on their health and/or given respite to improve on its own. That said, Manila Bay continues to thrive despite human induced damage, i.e., overexploitation of fisheries resources and pollution. However, the desired recovery of the Bay resources will depend on its capacity to overcome such damage more so now with increasing unsustainable development activities like dumping and seabed quarrying that contributes to the extinction of marine habitats for marine flora and fauna.

I wish Manila Bay continues to recover from human induced damage. Nonetheless this will only happen with the concerted as well as committed efforts of all stakeholders such as the local and national governments, coastal communities, and businesses to reduce land-based pollution, promote sustainable fishing practices, and more importantly implement sustainable marine development. It is essential to avoid overwhelming the capacity of the Bay to restore itself and prevent extinction of the marine life that will impact on the ecology and the economy of the coastal communities bordering the Bay specifically and the country in general.