



## Public Opinion on the West Philippine Sea (WPS) Conflict, as of June 2019

**Dr. Mahar Mangahas**  
Social Weather Stations

Presented at the forum, "Three Years After Our Nation's Arbitral Victory:  
An Environmental Crisis," 12 July 2019, University of the Philippines BGC,  
Taguig City



**SOCIAL  
WEATHER  
STATIONS** Founded 1985  
Statistics for Advocacy

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Social Weather Survey

	Fieldwork Dates	Sample Sizes	Coverage	Error Margins
PH	Jun 22-26	1,200	Adults	± 3%
NCR	Jun 22-25	300	Adults	± 6
BAL LUZ	Jun 22-25	300	Adults	± 6
VIS	Jun 22-25	300	Adults	± 6
MIN	Jun 22-26	300	Adults	± 6

**SOCIAL  
WEATHER  
STATIONS** Founded 1985  
Statistics for Advocacy



Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC

2

### West Philippine Sea (WPS) Module (1/2)

- Q96\*** Right/Not Right: "Refer the issue to international organizations, like the United Nations or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, for a diplomatic and peaceful negotiation with China about the claimed territories"
- Q97\*** Right/Not Right: "Strengthen the military capability of the Philippines, especially the Navy"
- Q98\*** Right/Not Right: "Leave China alone with its infrastructures and military presence in the claimed territories"
- Q99\*** Right/Not Right: "Form alliances with other countries that are ready to help us in defending our security in the West Philippine Sea"

\*Shuffle Q96-Q99

**SOCIAL  
WEATHER  
STATIONS** Founded 1985  
Statistics for Advocacy

Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC

3

### WPS Module (2/2)

- Q100** How important: Getting back control of the islands occupied by China in the WPS
- Q101\*** Agree/Disagree: The PH Gov't should assert its right to the islands in the WPS
- Q102\*** Agree/Disagree: The PH Gov't should arrest and prosecute Chinese fishermen causing the destruction of marine resources in the WPS
- Q103** How serious: The PH Gov't in protecting Filipino fishermen in the WPS against foreign vessels that threaten their safety or security

\*Commissioned by Stratbase ADR Institute

**SOCIAL  
WEATHER  
STATIONS** Founded 1985  
Statistics for Advocacy

Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC

4

### WPS Survey: Q96

"Refer the issue to international organizations, like the United Nations or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, for a diplomatic and peaceful negotiation with China about the claimed territories"

"Dalhin ang isyu sa mga internasyunal na organisasyon, katulad ng United Nations o Association of Southeast Asian Nations para sa diplomatiko at mapayapang pakikipag-negosasyon sa Tsina tungkol sa mga inaangking teritoryo"

**SOCIAL  
WEATHER  
STATIONS** Founded 1985  
Statistics for Advocacy

Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC

5

### WPS Survey: Q97

"Strengthen the military capability of the Philippines, especially the Navy"

"Palakasin ang kakayahang militar ng Pilipinas, lalo na ang Navy"

**SOCIAL  
WEATHER  
STATIONS** Founded 1985  
Statistics for Advocacy

Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC

6



### WPS Survey: Q98

"Leave China alone with its infrastructures and military presence in the claimed territories"

Right Not right

"Pabayaang na lang ang Tsina na panatilihin ang mga imprastraktura at militar nito sa mga inaangking mga teritoryo"

Tama Hindi tama



Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC 7

### WPS Survey: Q99

"Form alliances with other countries that are ready to help us in defending our security in the West Philippine Sea"

Right Not right

"Makipag-alyansa sa ibang mga bansa na handang tumulong sa atin sa pagdedepensa ng ating seguridad sa West Philippine Sea"

Tama Hindi tama



Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC 8

### WPS Survey: Q100

"Is it important for you that the control of the islands that China currently occupies in the West Philippine Sea be returned to the Philippines?"

Very important  
Somewhat important  
Undecided  
Somewhat not important  
Not at all important

"Importante po ba para sa inyo na maibalik ang kontrol sa Pilipinas ng mga islang kasalukuyang inookupahan ng Tsina sa West Philippine Sea?"

Talagang importante  
Medyo importante  
Hindi tiyak  
Medyo hindi importante  
Talagang hindi importante



Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC 9

### WPS Survey: Q101\*

"The Philippine government should assert its right to the islands in the West Philippine Sea as stipulated in the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration."

Strongly agree  
Somewhat agree  
Undecided  
Somewhat disagree  
Strongly disagree

"Dapat igit ng pamahalaan ng Pilipinas ang karapatan nito sa mga isla ng West Philippine Sea ayon sa isinasaad sa 2016 na desisyon ng Permanent Court of Arbitration."

Talagang sumasang-ayon  
Medyo sumasang-ayon  
Hindi tiyak  
Medyo hindi sumasang-ayon  
Talagang hindi sumasang-ayon

\*Commissioned by Stratbase ADR Institute



Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC 10

### WPS Survey: Q102\*

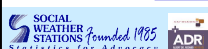
"The government should arrest and prosecute Chinese fishermen causing the destruction of marine resources in the West Philippine Sea."

Strongly agree  
Somewhat agree  
Undecided  
Somewhat disagree  
Strongly disagree

"Dapat arestuhin at usigin ng pamahalaan ang mga mangingisdang Tsino na sumisira sa yamang dagat sa West Philippine Sea."

Talagang sumasang-ayon  
Medyo sumasang-ayon  
Hindi tiyak  
Medyo hindi sumasang-ayon  
Talagang hindi sumasang-ayon

\*Commissioned by Stratbase ADR Institute



Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC 11

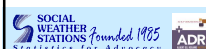
### WPS Survey: Q103

"How serious is the government in protecting the safety of Filipino fishermen in the West Philippine Sea against foreign vessels that threaten their security?"

Very serious  
Somewhat serious  
Undecided  
Somewhat not serious  
Not serious at all

"Gaano po ka-seryoso ang pamahalaan sa pagpo-protekta sa kaligtasan ng mga Pilipinong mangingisda sa West Philippine Sea laban sa mga barko ng mga dayuhan na nagbabanta sa kanilang seguridad?"

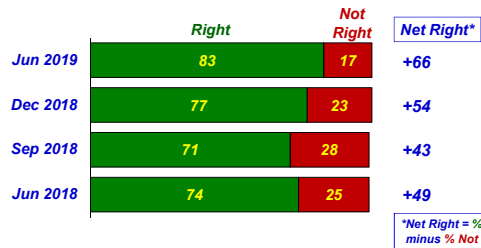
Talagang seryoso  
Medyo seryoso  
Hindi tiyak  
Medyo hindi seryoso  
Talagang hindi seryoso



Public Opinion on the WPS Conflict  
12 July 2019, UP BGC 12



**Q96. Right/Not right: “Refer the issue to international organizations, like the United Nations or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, for a diplomatic and peaceful negotiation with China about the claimed territories.”**



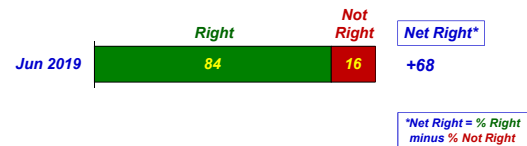
**Q97. Right/Not Right: “Strengthen the military capability of the Philippines, especially the Navy.”**



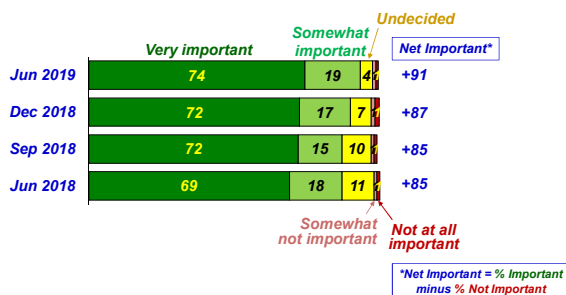
**Q98. Right/Not Right: “Leave China alone with its infrastructures and military presence in the claimed territories.”**



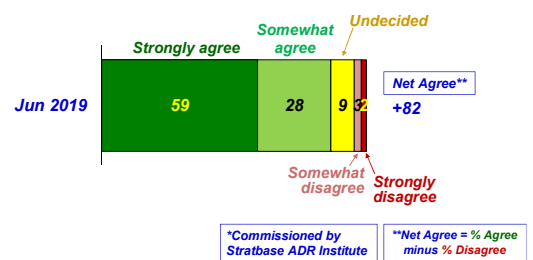
**Q99. Right/Not Right: “Form alliances with other countries that are ready to help us in defending our security in the West Philippine Sea.”**



**Q100. “Is it important for you that the control of the islands that China currently occupies in the West Philippine Sea be returned to the Philippines?”**

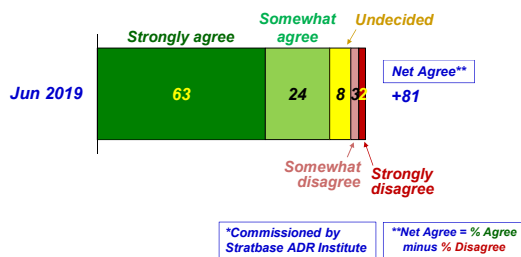


**Q101. A/D: “The Philippine Government should assert its right to the islands in the West Philippine Sea as stipulated in the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.” \***

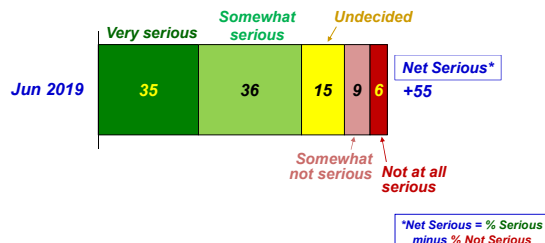




Q102. A/D: "The Government should arrest and prosecute Chinese fishermen causing the destruction of marine resources in the WPS." \*



Q103. "How serious is the Government in protecting the safety of Filipino fishermen in the WPS against foreign vessels that threaten their security?"



**Filipinos are intensely opposed to China's incursion in the WPS.**

- 93% say it is important to regain control of the islands in the WPS.
- 89% feel it is wrong to do nothing about the Chinese infrastructures and military presence on the islands.
- 92% want to strengthen our country's military capability, especially the Navy.

- 83% want the government to bring the issue to international organizations like the UN or ASEAN for a diplomatic and peaceful negotiation with China.
- 84% say it is right for the government to form alliances with other countries that are ready to help in defending our security in the WPS.
- 87% say that the government should assert its right to the islands in the WPS.

- 87% say that the government should arrest and prosecute Chinese fishermen who destroy marine resources in the WPS.
- 71% say that the government is serious in protecting the safety of Filipino fishermen in the WPS.

## The SWS Knowledge Center



#52 Malingap Street, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

[www.sws.org.ph](http://www.sws.org.ph)