

BFAR Launches “BFAR Support for LGU Capacity for Fisheries Management and Protection”

On May 10, 2012, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) through its head, Director Asis G. Perez launched “*BFAR Support for LGU Capacity for Fisheries Management and Protection*” to intensify competence in fisheries management and protection.

Studies show that despite its mandate to enforce fishery laws, rules and regulations, and fisheries ordinances in municipal waters, some local government units (LGUs) never regulated fisheries in coastal waters because they did not have the capability for such an endeavor. As primary national government agency responsible for the country’s fishery resources, BFAR embarked on this project in cooperation with the LGUs with coastal and marine areas, particularly in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th class municipalities. The ultimate goal is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and ensure environmental sustainability.

The project involves a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BFAR and the concerned LGUs defining the responsibilities and obligations of the said entities, setting criteria for fisheries graduates beneficiaries, and LGU Resolution creating plantilla positions for fisheries graduates and related courses.

BFAR support shall be for two (2) years only with LGUs shouldering the full costs thereafter.

Expected outcomes of the project includes an increase in enrollees of BS Fisheries and other related courses, appreciation of science in fisheries development, positive changes in the LGU’s fisheries management of the aforesaid marine areas, and permanent capacity of LGUs to manage their respective fishery resources.