



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Agriculture

**BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES**

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5 **FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE**

6 **ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

7 **Series of 2019**

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10 **SUBJECT: REGULATION ON THE CATCHING, TRANSPORTING, SELLING AND**  
11 **TRADING OF MANGROVE CRABS FRY (*Scylla spp.*)**

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13 **WHEREAS**, gathering of mangrove crabs fry from the wild for aquaculture have gone  
14 rampant over the years, resulted to uncontrolled collection that may led to stock  
15 reduction and growth overfishing;

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17 **WHEREAS**, the three most common species of mangrove crabs in the Philippines are  
18 *Scylla serrata*, *Scylla tranquebarica* and *Scylla olivacea*. The *Scylla serrata* is the most  
19 prominent in aquaculture industry and the seeds and fry are mainly collected from the  
20 wild;

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22 **WHEREAS**, some provinces such as Eastern Visayas and Northern Luzon have already  
23 imposed a regulation on gathering and trading of Mangrove Crab fry, particularly the  
24 prohibition on the collection and transport of “*langaw-langaw*” or fly size (size 5mm)  
25 larvae;

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27 **WHEREAS**, experts suggest that collection and transport of fly-size fry is considered as  
28 the most wasteful practice having high mortalities during catching and transport.  
29 Further the methods employed in the collection likewise affects juveniles of the other  
30 species;

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32 **WHEREAS**, the BFAR, NFRDI, LGUs and concerned stakeholders should collectively  
33 address the needs of the aquaculture industry through development of technologies and  
34 hatcheries that will suffice the demand on Mangrove crab fry/seeds which will  
35 ultimately withdraw the need for wild sourced seeds/fry;

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37 **NOW THEREFORE**, the following provisions of this Order are hereby adopted and  
38 implemented:

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40 **SECTION 1. Definition of Terms**

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42 1) **Mangrove Crab** - locally known as *alimango*, species of crab that thrive  
43 in/within mangal environment, belonging to various families in subphylum  
44 crustacea of Phylum Arthropoda;
- 45  
46 2) **Larvae Sizes** - the following are the sizes reference of the commonly known as:

Category	Size Reference	Carapace Width
Fly size ( <i>Langaw-langaw</i> )	Matchhead	< 5 mm

TX	5 cent coin	≤ 15 mm
Triple	25 cent coin	≤ 20 mm
Double	1 Peso coin	< 25 mm
Single	5 Peso coin	≤ 30 mm
Big	Matchbox	= 75 mm

- 3) **Growth overfishing** - is a form of biological overfishing where fish are caught when they immature or are harvested before their growth potential is fully reached that prevents the fishery to produce its maximum yield.
- 4) **Length at first maturity ( $L_m/L_{50}$ )** - length at maturity, defined as minimal size attained at maturity or the size at which 50% of the fish at that size are mature
- 5) **Juvenile mangrove crab** – size of the species that is less than the Length at first maturity ( $L_m/L_{50}$ ).
- 6) **Carapace Width** – the measurement of the width of the carapace or the “shell” on the back of the **crab** from side-to-side at the tip of the longest spine (see figure below).

**SECTION 2. Registration of Mangrove crab seed/fry gatherers, consolidators, traders and growers.**

- a. The LGU through the MAO/CAO in consultation with the Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (FARMCs), shall maintain a Registry of Mangrove Crabs gatherers, consolidators, traders and growers.
- b. Such Registry shall be updated annually or as may be necessary, and shall be posted in Barangay Hall or other strategic locations where it shall be open to public inspection, and for the purpose of validating the correctness and completeness of the list.
- c. Registered consolidators, traders and growers shall only buy/collect Mangrove crabs from gatherers Registered under Fish-R and with license/permit from the LGU.

**SECTION 3. Prohibition.** It shall be unlawful for any person, association, cooperative, partnership or corporation to catch, transport, trade and sell juvenile mangrove crabs from the wild less than the Length at first maturity ( $L_m$ ) as prescribed in Table 1 of this Order;

Further, it shall also be unlawful to catch, transport, trade and sell gravid mangrove crabs caught from the wild.

Furthermore, the Exportation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry as prohibited as per provisions of Section 104 of the Amended Fisheries Law.

**SECTION 4. Exemptions.** The collection, transporting, selling and trading of match-box size mangrove crab fry or equivalent to 75mm Carapace Width (CW) from wild are allowed under following conditions, pending the development of hatcheries to suffice the need for aquaculture:

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- a. The catching, transporting, selling and trading of live matchbox size fry (75mm CW) of mangrove crabs for local aquaculture purposes are allowed provided that growers and collectors should be registered/licensed/permitted and certified by the Local Government Unit. Further, the transport and trading of mangrove crab fry for aquaculture purposes should be accompanied by Local Transport Permit. Furthermore, the LGU through MAO/CAO in consultation with the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council shall maintain a Registry of consolidators, gatherers, buyers and traders pursuant to Rule 19.1 and 19.3 of Amended Fisheries Code. The fishing gears and methods of collection are allowed and in compliance with the guidelines provided by the appropriate Fisheries Administrative Order as per Rule 86.2 of the Amended Fisheries Law.
- b. Collection of mangrove fry for research and academic purposes is allowed provided Permits to Conduct Research are secured in compliance with the Fisheries Administrative Order No. 233 Series of 2010. The Secretary of Agriculture through the BFAR Director may grant an exemption or special permit to collect mangrove fry to support the development of its hatchery technology.
- c. Transporting, selling and trading of hatchery-bred or captive-bred mangrove crab fry are allowed.

**SECTION 5. Penal Clause.** Violation of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00), depending on the socioeconomic impact and seriousness of the violation, volume and value of the fisheries product, damage to the environment due to the violation, and the habituality of the offender, in accordance with Sec 128 of the amended Fisheries Law.

In case of exportation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry, the offender shall be punished, upon conviction by a court of law, of eight (8) to ten (10) years imprisonment, in accordance with Section 104 of the Amended Fisheries Law.

**SECTION 6. Repealing clause.** All Orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Order shall be deemed revoked.

**SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** If any portion or provision of this Order is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 8. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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Issued this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2019 at Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Recommending Approval:




**EDUARDO B. GONGONA**  
Undersecretary of Fisheries, DA  
Director, Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources

Approved:

**EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL**  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

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**Table 1.** List of Mangrove Crabs species and their corresponding Length at first maturity (Lm)

		Species	Common Name	Lm (cm) (CW)	Length max (cm) (CW)	Reference
1		<i>Scylla serrata</i>	Indo-Pacific swamp crab	Male: 9-11 Female: 7.7	28 cm (CW)	Sealifebase  I. Knuckey, 1996
2		<i>Scylla olivacea</i>	orange mud crab	Female : 9.4	18 cm (CW)	Sealifebase S . Koolkalya, T . Thapanand, S . Tunkijjanujij
3		<i>Scylla tranquebarica</i>	Purple mud crab	Male: 11  Female: 10	20 cm (CW)	Sealifebase  Naik, S. D., Sonawane, S. S., Pawar, A. S., & Hotekar, S. P. (2015)

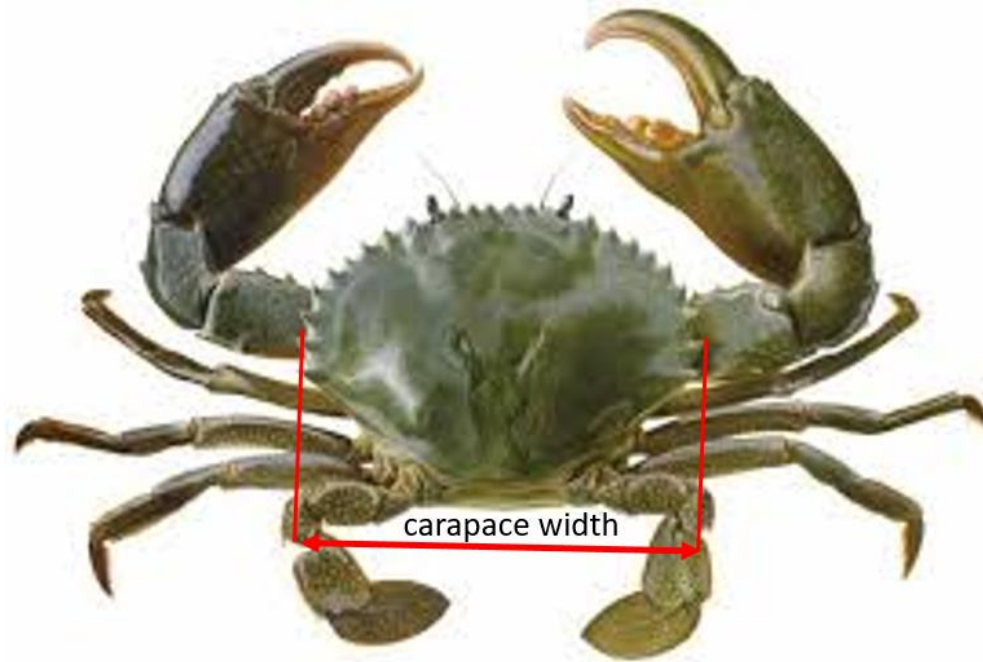


Figure. Diagram for the measurement of carapace width of mangrove crabs