

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ON

Fisheries Management Areas (FMA) for Resource Managers



THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

What is a Fisheries Management Area (FMA)?

It refers to delineated bodies of water in the Philippines based on approximation of fishstocks and their boundary, range and distribution and other considerations for the purpose of fisheries management or governance that is science-based, participatory and transparent, applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM).



Notes:

The EAFM approach emphasizes the balance of ecological well-being with human well-being founded on good governance for future generations.

7 Principles of EAFM



Good Governance



Appropriate Scale



Increased Participation



Multiple Objectives



Cooperation & Coordination



Adaptive Management



Precautionary Approach

Notes:



FAQ#2

Who and how were FMA established? How were they delineated?



Notes:



Fisheries Administrative Order No. 263, s. 2019, establishes the 12 FMAs of the Philippines.



The 12 FMAs were established based on considerations of stocks boundary/range/distribution, structure of fisheries as well as administrative divisions.



They were delineated mostly considering the information from the National Stock Assessment Program and other scientific information as well as inputs from the public consultations.

See the next part for a descriptive figure of the 12 FMAs of the Philippines.



Notes:

FAQ#2 Who and how were FMA established? How were they delineated?

FMA 6

Ilocos Norte - Ilocos Sur
Pangasinan
Zambales - Bataan - Pampanga
Bulacan - NCR - Cavite - Batangas
Occidental Mindoro

FMA 1

Cagayan - Isabela - Aurora
Quezon - Camarines Norte
Camarines Sur - Catanduanes
Albay - Sorsogon - Batanes

FMA 12

Aklan - Romblon
Oriental Mindoro - Marinduque
Occidental Mindoro
Batangas - Quezon

FMA 7

Quezon - Camarines Sur
Albay - Sorsogon
Masbate - Samar
Northern Samar - Biliran - Leyte

FMA 5

Antique
Occidental Mindoro
Palawan

FMA 10

Bohol - Leyte - Cebu
Siquijor
Negros Occidental

FMA 11

Cebu - Negros Oriental
Negros Occidental
Iloilo - Capiz - Masbate
Guimaras

FMA 8

Samar - Eastern Samar
Dinagat
Surigao del Norte
Southern Leyte - Leyte

FMA 4

Zamboanga Sibugay
Basilan - Sulu - Tawi-Tawi
Zamboanga del Norte
Negros Occidental
Iloilo
Negros Oriental

FMA 2

Northern Samar
Eastern Samar - Surigao del Sur
Davao Oriental
Davao del Norte - Davao del Sur
Davao Occidental
Compostela Valley

FMA 3

Sarangani - South Cotabato
Sultan Kudarat
Maguindanao
Lanao del Sur
Lanao del Norte
Zamboanga del Sur

FMA 9

Southern Leyte
Surigao del Norte
Misamis Oriental
Lanao del Norte
Agusan del Norte

Notes:

FAQ#2 Who and how were FMA established? How were they delineated?

FMA	Regional Composition	Provincial Composition	BFAR RFO Lead Designated by BFAR
1	2, 3, 4A, 5	Albay, Aurora, Batanes, Cagayan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Isabela, Northern Samar, Quezon, Sorsogon	Region 2
2	2, 8, 13, 11	Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur	Region 11
3	12, BARMM, 9	Basilan, Davao del Sur, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur	Region 12
4	9, BARMM, 6, 7	Antique, Basilan, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay	Region 9
5	4B, 6	Aklan, Antique, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan	Region 4B
6	1, 3, 4A, 4B, NCR	Bataan, Batangas, Bulacan, Cagayan, Cavite, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Metro Manila, Pampanga, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Pangasinan, Zambales	Region 3

Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

FAQ#2 Who and how were FMA established? How were they delineated?

FMA	Regional Composition	Provincial Composition	BFAR RFO Lead Designated by BFAR
7	4A, 5, 8	Albay, Biliran, Camarine Sur, Leyte, Masbate, Northern Samar, Quezon, Samar, Sorsogon	Region 5
8	8, 13	Dinagat Islands, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Samar, Southern Leyte, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur	Region 8
9	7, 8, 9, 10, 13	Albay, Biliran, Camarines Norte, Leyte, Masbate, Northern Samar, Quezon, Samar, Sorsogon	Region 10
10	7, 8	Biliran, Bohol, Cebu, Masbate, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Leyte	Region 7
11	5, 6, 7, 8	Capiz, Cebu, Guimaras, Iloilo, Masbate, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental	Region 6
12	4A, 4B, 5, 6	Aklan, Antique, Batangas, Capiz, Marinduque, Masbate, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Quezon, Romblon	Region 4A

Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



FAQ#3

**Why manage fisheries
at the FMA level?
Why create FMAs?
Why do we need them?**



Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



FMA FAQs Group Chat

5 unread messages

With FMA, fisheries management now considers the range and distribution of fish stocks, rather than based on political or legal jurisdictions only.

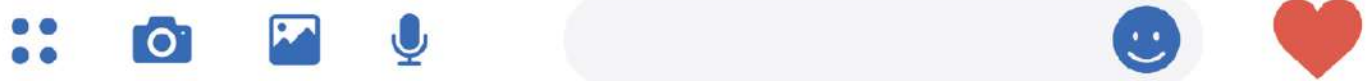


😱 2



Hence, managing fisheries at the FMA level allows for a more ecosystem based approach to fisheries management, which considers both ecological well-being and human well-being, to ensure sustainable fisheries.

❤️ 3



Notes:



FAQ#4

What's new with FMA?

How different is it from the previous management?



Notes:



FAQ#5

What are the advantages and importance of FMA?



Notes:

- Allow for more effective management in managing stocks holistically through science-management interface.
- Ensures sustainable harvesting by promoting management based on the status and capacity of the stocks.
- Promotes cooperation and co-management among BFAR and LGUs sharing the same stocks.



Who knew FMA have a lot of advantages and importance?

See the next part for the continuation of this list.

Notes:

Because fish stocks are shared between municipal and national waters,



regulations in these areas should be consistent and complementary.

It allows for a more participatory and transparent management of fisheries among stakeholders.



Notes:

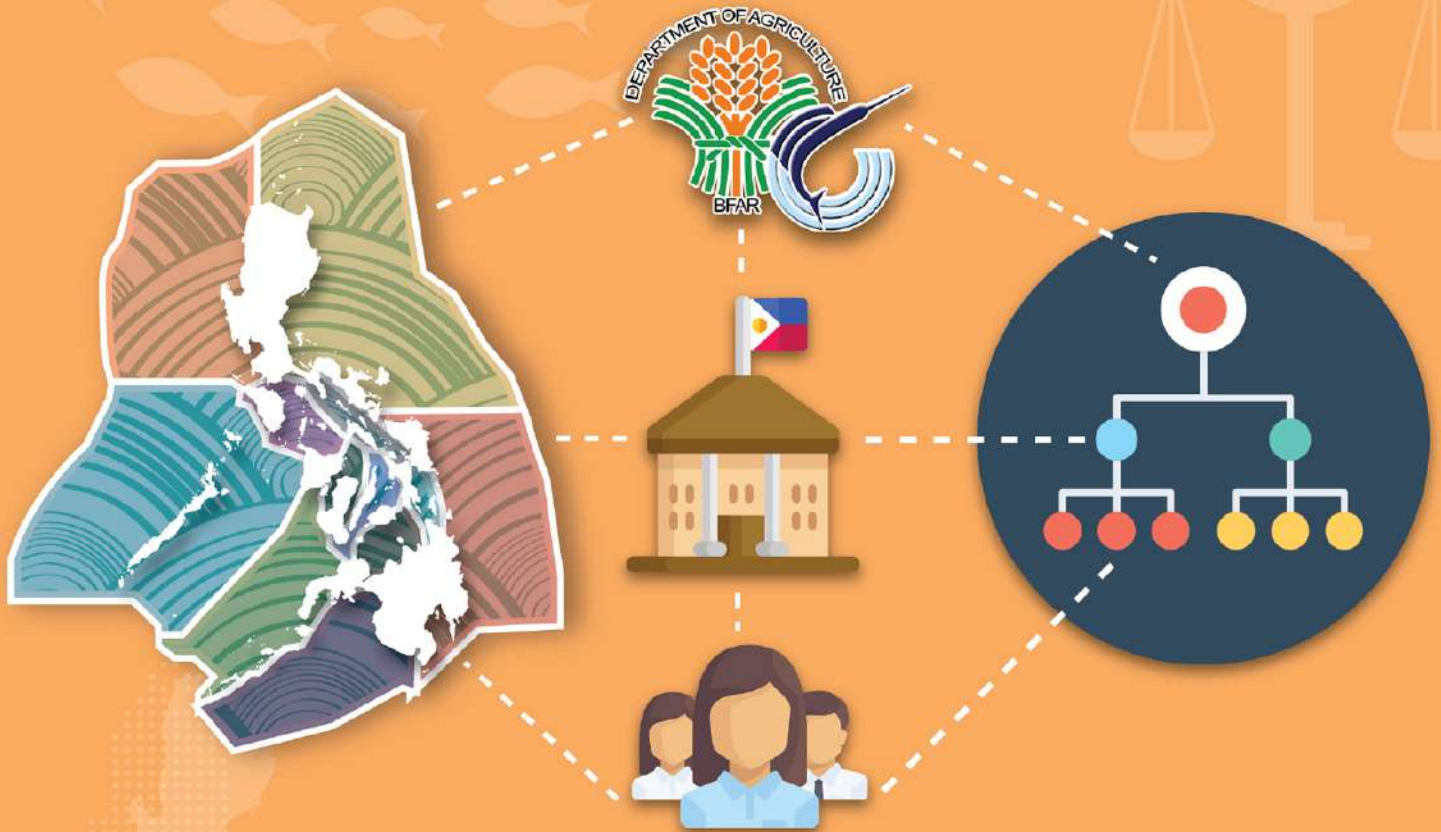


FAQ#6

**Who will manage the FMA?
How will this affect jurisdiction
and mandates of BFAR, the LGUs,
DENR and other stakeholders?**



Notes:



Each FMA will have its own management body to be led by BFAR and co-led by a representative of the LGU and composed of representatives from the key stakeholders within the FMA.

Notes:



- & -



For a science-based management, the FMA management body will establish the RP and HCR and recommend or endorse the appropriate management measures and lay down broad policies for the entire FMA to be implemented accordingly by BFAR, LGUs and DENR according to their mandates and jurisdictions.

Notes:



BFAR, LGUs, as well as other stakeholders such as DENR, FARMCs will continue to exercise their jurisdiction and be responsible for their mandates, while adhering to the reference points (RP) established and harvest control rules (HCR) adopted for the FMA and implementing the corresponding harvest control measures, as may be applicable.



- & -



Notes:



FAQ#7

**What are Harvest Reference Points (RP) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)?
What about Harvest Control Measures or Management Measures?**



Notes:



RP are biological indicators that are used to compare and show where the stocks should be in terms of harvest, sizes, yield, catch rates, size at maturity, etc. for it to be considered at the sustainable level.

RP serve as benchmarks or standards for managers to impose adjustments in the harvest and use of the stocks. They provide a basis for determining what are to be (a) avoided, (b) maintained and (c) achieved



Since they are biological indicators, RP are developed through a scientific process for each targeted stocks primarily by the National Fisheries Research Development Institute (NFRDI), through the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) at the national and regional levels.

Notes:



“Scientific Indicators”

HCR are pre-agreed decisions based on the RP to guide development of measures to achieve management objectives.

HCR are pre-agreed guidelines that determine how much fishing can take place, based on indicators of the targeted stock’s status. (PEW)

HCR are agreed guidelines to determine how much, what size and where fish should be caught, or fishing gears that should be allowed or regulated.



Notes:

Harvest Control Measures or Conservation and Management Measures



"The Policy"



Harvest control measures or conservation and management measures are the specific management decisions or actions to be implemented, after consultation with the stakeholders, based on the RP and HCR.



These measures will be supported by the corresponding FAO or local ordinance, as may be appropriate and implemented by BFAR and/or LGU.

Notes:



FAQ#8

How do RP, HCR and Management Measures relate to FMA?



Notes:

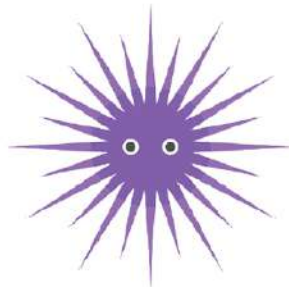
←  FMA FAQs Group Chat

5 unread messages

Each FMA is required to establish its RP, adopt its HCR and implement management measures based on the RP and HCR.



By basing management actions on these RP and HCR developed through a scientific process, FMA allows for a science-based management of the fisheries in the country.



Notes:



FAQ#9

Who is responsible for coming up with RPs, HCRs and Management Measures?



Notes:

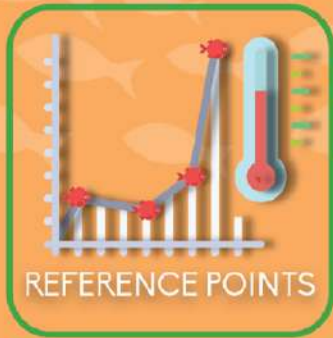


The RP for the key species within the FMA will be developed by the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) Teams of the National Fisheries Research Development Institute (NFRDI) primarily based on NSAP through a scientific process.

Based on the RP, the HCR will then be adopted by each FMA through a MB resolutions.



Notes:



Based on the RP and HCR, harvest control measures or management measures shall be recommended by the MB to be adopted via Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) or local ordinances, as may be appropriate, as respectively endorsed by the NFARMC and local FARMCs.

These measures will then be implemented by the BFAR and LGUs, as may be appropriate, in accordance with their mandates and within their jurisdictions.

Notes:



FAQ#10

Who composes the FMA Management Board?



Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

FAQ#10 Who composes the FMA Management Board?



Notes:



FAQ#11

**Who composes the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)?
What is their function?**



Notes:

The Scientific Advisory Group is composed of scientists, researches, or technical representative from the following:



BFAR
Regional Offices



Aquaculture



LGUs



Municipal
Fishing



Commercial
Fishing



NGO

Their function is to provide the technical advice to the Management Board based available data such as from the National Stock Assessment program results and catch documentation at the municipal level.

Notes:



FAQ#12

What is the role of the BFAR?



Notes:



BFAR is the lead agency in organizing and operationalizing the FMA across the country.

It will monitor the effectiveness of the various FMA, as each FMA reports annually to the BFAR National Office.

At the regional level, a BFAR Regional Fisheries Office (RFO) has been designated as the lead for a particular FMA. The lead RFO, in the coordination with the other RFOs, will convene the stakeholders and will be responsible for organizing the FMA Management Board and the Scientific Advisory Group.

Notes:



FAQ#13

What is the role of the NFRDI?

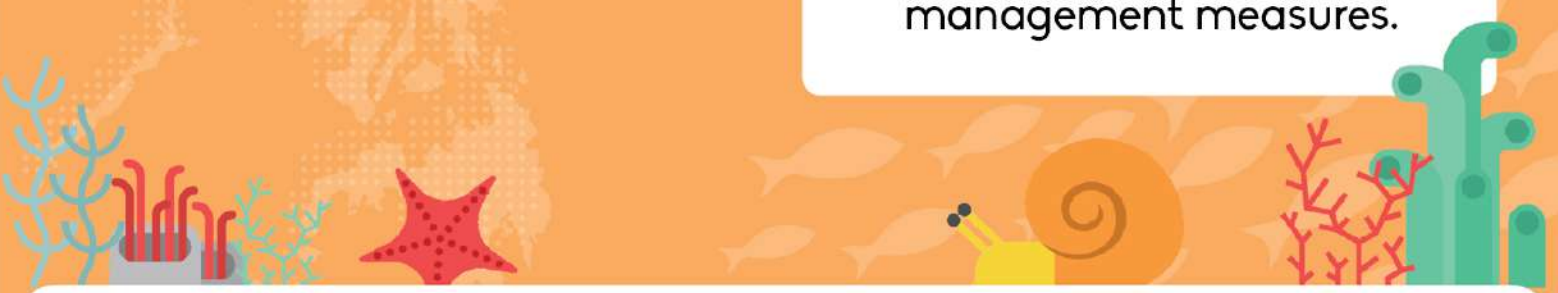


Notes:



The National Fisheries and Development Institute (NFRDI) plays a critical role in providing the science information needed for each Fisheries Management Area (FMA).

Through the NFRDI's National Stock Assessment Program, it will assist each FMA in identifying the key species found within the FMA and establish the Reference Points. Based on this reference points, the NFRDI and the NSAP teams at the regional levels may recommend the HCR as well recommend the NCR as well as HCM or conservation and management measures.



Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



FAQ#14

What is the role of the LGUs in the FMA?



Notes:



LGUs will ensure that local regulations and management measures are consistent with the FMA resolutions, including the FMA EAFM Framework Plan, the established reference Points, the adopted harvest control rules & the recommended harvest control measures.

LGUs retains their power to manage and implement regulations of fisheries in municipal waters, as provided by law.



At the end of each year, LGUs will submit a summary report to the FMA Management Board on their compliance with the FMA EAFM Framework Plan and the conservation and management measures based on the RP and HCR.

Notes:



FAQ#15

What is the role of the FARMCs?



Notes:



FMA FAQs Group Chat

5 unread messages

The FARMCs continues to exercise their power and perform their functions under the law. As is its functions, FARMCs will continue to to have recommendatory and advisory powers to the LGU.



😱 4

When the LGU develops or updates its EAFM action plan or enacts ordinances to adhere to the FMA resolutions, this should be done in consultation with the FARMCs.



❤️ 2



Message input field



Notes:

Dotted lines for note-taking



FAQ#16

What is the role of Inter-LGU Alliances?



Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Inter-LGU Alliances continue to carry out its work. Additionally, adjacent areas cooperatively managed by the Inter-LGU Alliances may be considered and treated as sub-FMA, as may be appropriate, and agreed with the FMA Management Board.

Inter-LGU Alliances may adjust their policies and plans to adhere to the FMA resolutions.



Representatives from Inter-LGU Alliances may also participate actively in the FMA Management Board, as a representative of the LGUs, as may be agreed.

Notes:



FAQ#17

**What is the role of DENR?
PAMB? When the FMA covers
NIPAS MPAs, how will
the management be like?**



Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continues to exercise their power and perform their functions under the law.



Similarly, the PAMB shall continue to discharge its role over the marine protected areas (MPA) under the E-NIPAS Act (NIPAS)



The PAMB Chairperson will be part of the FMA Management Board to ensure coordination and cooperation.



The PAMB may also consider and adopt the FMA EAFM Framework as the fisheries component of the Protected Area Management Plan of the NIPAS MPAs, especially with respect to its multiple use zone. The FMA EAFM Framework, insofar as relevant to the NIPAS MPA, can be annexed to the Protected Area Management Plan.



Notes:



The NIPAS MPA will continue to function and be governed by the PAMB in accordance with the NIPAS Act.



Such NIPAS MPA may be considered and treated as a sub-FMA. BFAR and DENR and/or the FMA Management Board, in consultation with the stakeholders, may agree and decide on this.



The NIPAS MPA can continue to operate as usual, taking now into account the FMA EAFM Framework, the Reference Points and Harvest Control Points and Harvest Control Measures insofar as the fisheries component of the protected area is concerned.

Notes:

A series of horizontal dashed lines for taking notes.



FAQ#18

What happens if the FMA decides to declare a closed season or other harvest control measures that also covers/extends to the NIPAS MPA ?

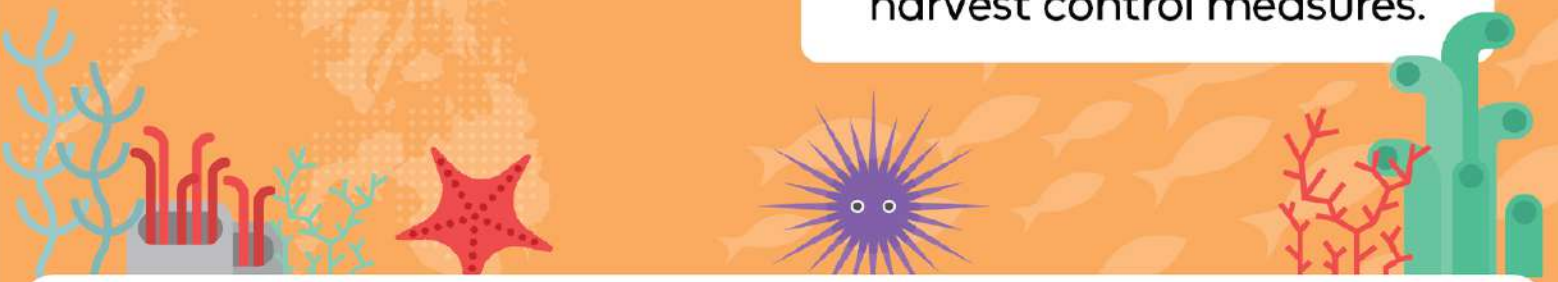


Notes:



Consistent with an ecosystem approach, the closed season or the harvest control measure should also be in place within the NIPAS MPA with respect to its multiple use zone.

DA by itself with the concurrence of DILG and DENR/PAMB or all together issue the Administrative Order declaring the closed season or implementing other harvest control measures. As required by the law, the public should be consulted and NFARMC should endorse any FAO for such declaration or implementation of any harvest control measures.



Notes:



FAQ#19

What is the role of other NGAs like the PNP, PCG, Marina?



Notes:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



National government agencies such as the Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Maritime Industry Authority continues to exercise the same powers and functions.

With fisheries managed at the FMA level, they may consider in their policies, programs and plans and provide complementary actions to the policies and measures adopted by the FMA Management Board.

Additionally, when requested by the FMA Management Board, they may consider providing the needed assistance to the FMA, in accordance with their mandates.

Notes:



FAQ#20

What are the challenges in implementing FAO 263?



Notes:



Initially, organizing and operationalizing the FMA will require more resources of time, efforts and money, especially in bringing together all stakeholders and making the FMA functional.

In the long term, managing our fisheries through FMA will be beneficial to the fishery sector as well as the rest of the country.

Thus, it is important for all to cooperate and support the roll-out of FMA.

Notes:



FAQ#21

Will managing fisheries at the FMA address IUUF?



Notes:



FMA FAQs Group Chat

5 unread messages

Yes. With a more collaborative approach at the FMA level, this can facilitate harmonized enforcement functions of all enforcement bodies. The level of capacity and awareness will be enhanced especially in terms of targeted stocks



As more and more is known about key species of fishes in the FMA through scientific information, enforcement can be more purposive and targeted.



Notes:



FAQ#22

How will managing fisheries at the FMA level impact fishers?



Notes:



Using scientific information, managing fisheries at the FMA level will create management measures that will lead to sustainable fisheries towards food security.

It will secure the livelihood and well-being of fishers and their families.

Fishers will continue to enjoy fishing rights, based on RP, HCR and corresponding measures.

Notes:



BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

PCA Building, Diliman,
Quezon City, Philippines



@BFAR.Central



@bfarph



@bfarph



@BFAR.Central