



**BUREAU OF FISHERIES & AQUATIC RESOURCES**  
**Annual Accomplishment Report**  
**FY 2015**

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The year 2015 is the year that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, BFAR, launched the **Targeted Actions to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation** or **TARGET** program. This program is the government's concrete step to ensure a direct and efficient streaming of development interventions to the coastal fishing communities. It is an umbrella program of the Bureau providing a comprehensive framework to address poverty through the provision of appropriate livelihoods, and the promotion of ecologically sound, economically viable and socially equitable interventions.

Ten percent (10%) of the poor fisherfolk population was identified as beneficiaries of the program based on the Municipal Fisherfolk Registry System (FishR). These beneficiaries were provided with appropriate livelihood development and support programs such as motor engines, fishing boats, fishing gears or other fisheries inputs depending on their needs. Together with its Regional Offices, national Technology Centers and other fishery related agencies, the Bureau was able to accomplish its programmed activities with the help of the Local Government Units (LGUs). The following activities were undertaken:

### **I. FISHERIES POLICY SERVICES**

#### **FORMULATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS**

##### **1. Policy Formulation/Recommendation**

Policies have always been helpful in ensuring the sustainability of the fisheries sector, thus the Bureau made it a point to make developing policies one of the Bureau's main objectives. For 2015, BFAR was developed the following policies:

- a. Joint DA-DILG Administrative Order No. 01 series of 2015 – "Establishment of a Closed Season for the Management of Galunggong (round scad, *Decapterus* spp.) in Northern Palawan"
- b. Fisheries Administrative Order No. 250-1 series of 2015 – "Granting a Grace Period of Eight (8) Calendar Months to Seaweed Traders/Exporters to Transport and Export their Remaining Raw Dried Sargassum Stocks Inspected and Audited by BFAR"
- c. Fisheries Administrative Order No. 236-4 series of 2015 – "Extension of FAO 236-3 series of 2015 on the Rules and Regulations on the Operations of Purse Seine and Ring Net Vessels using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) locally known as *Payaos* during the FAD Closure Period as Compatible Measures to WCPFC CMM 2014-1"
- d. Fisheries Administrative Order No. 245-3 series of 2015 – "Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area"

- e. BFAR Administrative Circular No. 256 series of 2015 – ‘Declaring Malachite Green and Gentian Violet as Health Hazards and Prohibiting their use in Food Fish Production and Trade”
- f. Republic Act 10654 – “An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550 otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998” and for Other Purposes”
- g. Internal Rules and Regulations for the RA 10654, also known as “An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550 otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998” and for Other Purposes”

## **II. TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES**

### **MARKET DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

The Bureau’s Market Development Services aim to provide linkages between prospective markets and producers through various activities, such as, product promotion and market matching. Through this, BFAR is contributing to the competitiveness and at the same time aid in enhancing the value of fisheries products.

#### **Marketing Assistance, Market Matching and Participation to Agri-Aqua Fairs and Exhibits**

For 2015, BFAR has participated in 139 agri-aqua fairs and exhibits as well as 30 investment fora. It has also extended market matching activities totaling to 167. Aside from this, monitoring of the wholesale and retail prices of fish and fishery products were also continuously undertaken in compliance with the R.A. 7394 (Consumer Act of the Philippines) and the Consumer Price Act. During the year, the Bureau was able to provide market development services to 2,861 individuals.

### **EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES**

Extension support, education and training service is one of the major services provided by BFAR. The Bureau covers various fishery technologies on the aquaculture, marine fisheries and post-harvest technology sectors. The activities are aimed to help educate fisherfolks and develop manpower for the fisheries industry as well as strengthen partnership both with the LGUs and other stakeholders.

#### **1. Provision of Training and Technical Assistance**

The Bureau has continuously conducted various trainings year after year. For this year a total of 1,608 training courses on aquaculture (tilapia, bangus and seaweeds), municipal, regulatory and post-harvest technologies for the first semester of the year were conducted by BFAR for 46,798 participants.

Aside from trainings, BFAR have also provided technical assistance and advisory services, which totaled to 63,939 for the period. The technical assistance provided to 86,612 fisherfolk, fish farmers, NGAs, LGUs and other stakeholders covered aquaculture development and methods, marine fisheries management and conservation, fishing technologies and post-harvest technologies.

#### **2. Establishment of Techno-Demo Projects**

Technology demonstrations showcasing different fishery technologies such as seaweed farming, integrated farming, aquasilvi/mangrove culture and shellfish culture among

others, are considered a major activity of the Bureau. For 2015, BFAR have established 1,239 techno-demo projects, of which 837 are fully funded by BFAR while 402 are cost-shared. A total of 7,273 fisherfolk and other stakeholders have benefitted from the projects.

### **3. Conduct of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Activities**

Apart from the usual IEC activities, the Bureau also conducted other notable activities. One activity is the “**Bayani ko sa Pangisdaan: The Search for Heroes of the Youth on Fish Conservation**”, a contest engaging the youth and other private sectors in activities that hone their talents and skills at the same time. Another is the “**#Legends Talk on Philippine Fisheries**” which is a rare one-day event where respected veterans of Philippine fisheries meet as resource speakers. They were gathered to share their knowledge and insights from research and invaluable experiences in the fields of marine science, resource management, fisheries and aquaculture enterprise development and other related subjects. Another significant activity undertaken by the Bureau for 2015 was the airing of **Fish Options**, a 5-minute cooking/talk show segment in the **Good Morning Boss** program aired in PTV4.

- **Dissemination/Provision of IEC Materials**

Distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials is considered vital in the promotion of the Bureau’s programs and projects. With that in mind, the Bureau was able to distribute 218,489 copies of information and install 787 billboards/tarpaulins, as well as radio television plugs.

### **4. Strengthening Partnership with Stakeholders**

The National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council is a Bureau program aiming to aid in the strengthening of the partnership of BFAR with stakeholders. A total of 558 FARMCs have been assisted for 2015. The Regional FARMC Management Centers (RFMCs) were also provided with orientation on FOO 342 or the “**Levels of FARMC Development – A Guide to Self-Assessment**” to help determine the development of their own FARMC and identify gaps and weaknesses within the organization. Aside from this, the Bureau has also provided assistance to 1,433 LGU technicians nationwide.

### **5. Fisheries Scholarship Program**

BFAR has 2 ongoing scholarship programs for fisheries education namely the **Fisherfolk Children Educational Grant (FCEG)** Scholarship and the **Industry Leaders (IL)**, formerly known as the Ferdinand E. Marcos (FEM) Scholarship Program. FCEG is aimed to benefit the talented and deserving children of poor registered municipal fisherfolk. On the other hand, the IL is meant for high school graduates belonging to the top ten of their graduating class. The fisheries scholars will pursue a four-year BS Fisheries course and are entitled to almost the same benefits, free matriculation and other fees, monthly stipend of P2,500.00, semestral book allowance of P2,000.00 and graduation support of P500.00, with the exception of thesis support to which IL scholars are entitled to P5,000.00 while FCEG scholars are entitled to P3,000.00. As of the first semester of 2015 the Bureau sponsored a total of 916 scholars in 60 State Colleges and Universities (SCUs). Of these, 110 are under the IL Scholarship while 806 are funded under the FCEG. However, the total number of scholars was reduced to 908 by December 2015.

## **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Conduct of Research and Development Activities**

The Bureau was able to implement a total of 83 research and development projects for the year 2015 through the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI). These R and D activities are continuously conducted to help increase the fisheries sector's economic potential by catering to the developmental research requirements of the national fisheries conservation and development programs.

The Bureau also implements the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) which conducts surveys of landing sites nationwide. During the period 774 was surveyed. Aside from these, the M/V DA BFAR Marine Fisheries Management Research, Training and Oceanographic Vessel have conducted 11 research explorations for the year.

### **FORMULATION OF COASTAL AND INLAND FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

BFAR has also implemented a number of activities in close coordination with the country's LGUs as a part of its commitment to ensure sustainable use of the fishery resources. During the period, the Bureau assisted 417 LGUs in coastal resource management by different activities such as underwater monitoring and documentation and provision of markers/flaglets for demarcation. All of this was conducted together with the Bureau's effort in facilitating and participating in mangrove planting activities.

## **III. SUPPLY SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTIVITY**

### **FISH SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION**

The Bureau also offers services focusing on the development of freshwater, brackishwater as well as marine water aquaculture. The said service helps in increasing and enhancing productivity and aids in producing quality broodstock and fingerlings for LGUs, fisherfolk organizations and private individuals interested in venturing into fish production.

#### **1. Broodstock Development and Maintenance**

Continuous production of fingerlings is one of the priority interventions of the Bureau and thus broodstock development is considered as a vital activity in ensuring this. For the year, BFAR maintained 442,224 and distributed 4,439,974 pieces of broodstock.

#### **2. Fingerlings/Seed Production and Distribution**

Another priority intervention of BFAR is the production and distribution of fingerlings to aid fisherfolk associations, fish farmers and local government units. Aside from these, the academe is also known to benefit from the program for research, ornamental, production and resource enhancement purposes. For 2015 alone the Bureau was able to produce 240.0 M and distribute 300.35 M pieces of fingerlings.

### **SEAWEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION**

Seaweeds, having numerous applications particularly as raw material in industries like fertilizers, pet feeds, pharma and nutraceuticals, have been proven to be of big economic importance. As the world's demand for carrageenan grows continuously, the Philippine

processors are finding a shortage on their seaweed supply. With this, BFAR has established the Seaweeds Development Program and made the promotion of the Philippine Seaweed Industry their top priority.

### **1. Distribution of Seaweed Propagules and Seaweed Farm Implements**

Through the National Seaweed Development Program, the Bureau aims to increase production via different interventions such as the provision of quality seedlings or planting materials to seaweed farmers. From January to December of 2015 the Bureau distributed 1,286,461 kg of seaweed propagules to 6,898 beneficiaries.

Apart from the seaweed propagules, BFAR also distributes seaweed farm implements. Basic farm implements include start-up seedlings, 250 pieces of plastic floaters, 2 rolls of soft-tie straw and 7 rolls of PE ropes enough for starting a 1/8 hectare seaweed farm. For the year a total of 6,867 sets of seaweed farm implements were also distributed to 14,206 fisherfolk/family beneficiaries.

### **2. Establishment/Maintenance of Seaweed Nurseries and Seaweed Tissue Culture Laboratories**

Establishment of seaweed nurseries is considered a regular activity of the Bureau. This must be done to ensure adequate supply of quality seaweed seedlings in strategic areas in the country. For 2015, 36 seaweed nurseries were established. BFAR also established and maintained seaweed tissue culture laboratories to help protect the seaweed industry and for the year, a total of 14 were established and maintained throughout the country.

## **FISHING GEAR/PARAPHERNALIA DISTRIBUTION**

Consistent with its commitment to assist in providing livelihood for marginal fisherfolk, BFAR distributes various fishing gears. For the said year, the Bureau have distributed 24,459 gillnets, 14,821 hook and lines, 6,250 fish pots, 776 payao, 4406 squid jigger, 850 motorized banca, 2,095 non-motorized banca, 1,535 marine engine, 6,687 fish trap, 5,048 tuna hand line, 3,302 crab lift net, 64 fish corral, 3,720 life vest and 1,757 other fishing gears to a total of 61,554 fisherfolk associations and marginal fisherfolks in close coordination with the local government units.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MARICULTURE PARKS**

### **1. Maintenance of Mariculture Parks/Zones**

BFAR, in partnership with stakeholders and LGUs has promoted the establishment of Mariculture Parks to aid in addressing in major issues such as food security, employment, and livelihood and poverty reduction in coastal areas. A total of 37 mariculture parks have been established by the Bureau for 2015 alone.

### **2. Establishment of Cages for Livelihood**

Apart from the mariculture parks, BFAR also established a total of 96 cages for livelihood to benefit fisherfolk families and fisherfolk associations.

## **IV. SUPPLY OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR FISHERY INDUSTRY**

Livelihood and increasing production as well as reducing production loss are considered a priority for the government. To help achieve these goals, the Bureau provided various fishery on-farm equipment and post-harvest facilities.

### **PROVISION OF FISHERY ON-FARM EQUIPMENT AND POST-HARVEST FACILITIES**

#### **Establishment of Fishery On-Farm Equipment and Post-Harvest Facilities**

For 2015 a total of 34 fishmarts were established by BFAR located in different areas throughout the country. The Bureau was also able to distribute 3,080 post-harvest equipment composed of 187 smokehouses, 187 seaweed dryers, 142 freezers, 87 vacuum packers and 1,827 processing utensils.

The year 2015 is also the year the **Community Fish Landing Centers (CFLC)** was established. The said project is under the “**Targeted Actions to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation in the Fisheries Sector (TARGET) Program**” of BFAR. With the main goal of improving the socio-economic welfare of the fisherfolk sector and promote the sustainability of aquatic resources, this project will serve as a hub for landing and fish trading of artisanal fisherfolk, as well as serve as a training center for fish processing, value adding and conservation and protection of the fisheries resources. A total 50 is currently under construction, 73 have already reached the bidding process, while 31 have yet to complete their documentary requirements and 18 is still undergoing site selection.

### **COASTAL AND INLAND FISHERIES RESOURCE REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Marine sanctuaries are continuously monitored by BFAR and for the year 280 were monitored. Artificial reefs are also being deployed on a yearly basis and as of 2015, 2,698 were deployed. Under BFAR’s Resource Enhancement Program and to promote mangrove-friendly farming system a total of 12,402,000 pieces mangrove propagules were planted nationwide. Aside from this, to replenish the stock of depleted resources, a total of 254 communal waters were stocked with fingerlings. All of these activities were conducted to benefit municipal fishermen nationwide.

## **V. FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES REGULATION SERVICES**

### **QUALITY CONTROL AND INSPECTION**

#### **1. Monitoring and Inspection of Fishery Facilities**

Monitoring and inspection of fishery facilities is one of the many regulatory functions of BFAR. It involves inspection of all fishery facilities involved in the production chain to ensure consumer welfare, product safety and public health. For this, the Bureau maintains 38 laboratories to address the need for disease diagnosis prevention and treatment. BFAR have also monitored and inspected 3,085 aquaculture farms and fishery facilities and performed 41,420 analyses. Apart from these, conduct of ocular inspection, residue and aquatic disease surveillance as well as monitoring of fish kill were also done by the Bureau regularly.

#### **2. Monitoring and Inspection of Fishery Products Operation of Quality Assurance Laboratories**

Monitoring, inspection and verification of processing plants as well as export accredited processing establishments are also being undertaken regularly by the Bureau. Compliance to the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) based, quality assurance, Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures Program (SSOP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) are also being ensured through regular monthly plant audit/inspections.

Consistent with the RA 10611, also known as “Food Safety Act of 2013”, the Bureau has established and maintained quality assurance laboratories mandated to provide laboratory service to verify primary and post-harvest supply chain in terms of physical, chemical and microbiological examinations of fish and fishery product for export, import and local consumption. For 2015, a total of 8,888 fishery products were monitored/inspected by the Bureau coupled with 39,684 analyses.

### **QUARANTINE REGISTRATION AND LICENSING**

#### **Permit Issuance**

The Bureau issues permits, licenses and accreditations regularly. During the first semester a total of 8,499 were issued for commercial fishing vessels, 536 for FLA covered areas, while the another 69,245 were issued for other fisheries entities. In line with this, BFAR also conducts regular inspections. During the period 10,779 inspections were conducted on commercial fishing vessels and gears, 1,187 for FLA covered areas, 124,859 for other fisheries entities and 196,360 for fisheries products.

### **MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE**

#### **1. Regulations and Enforcement Activities**

With the approval of RA 10654, otherwise known as “An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550 otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998” and for Other Purposes”, BFAR’s regulatory function of monitoring, control and surveillance has been intensified. The Bureau is regularly gathering relevant information regarding IUU fishing activities, conduct seaborne operations, market landing and denials emergency response and relief operations as well as search and rescue operations. For the year, 114 MCS vessels were deployed in their respective areas and were able to conduct a total of 1,819 field operations..

#### **2. Biotxin/HAB Monitoring**

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) have to be prevented and controlled to protect ecosystem health and most importantly public health. The HAB Monitoring program of BFAR supports the regulatory function of the Bureau. Surveillance of HABs is done regularly in 74 coastal areas. Sampling stations are established as sampling is conducted. Also, the Fisheries Resource Management Division maintains a data updated regularly for easy access of data.

#### **Operation of Cyanide Detection Test (CDT) Laboratories**

Aside from red tide, cyanide is another substance being routinely monitored especially in the tissues of live food and aquarium fishes by the Bureau. For this purpose, the

Bureau maintained a number of cyanide detection test (CDT) laboratories in like Puerto Princesa, Cebu City, Zamboanga City and Manila.

### **LEGAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES**

Most of the activities related to the Legal and Advisory Services of the Bureau involve preparation of various legal documents such as pleadings, contracts, legal opinions, drafting of orders in relation to fishpond conflicts covered by Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA), notices to administrative hearings and investigations. It also involves attendance to court hearings, inquest proceedings, preliminary investigations, conference with the prosecutors in charge and other meetings in relation to fishery laws violations filed in court. To summarize, a total of 1,049 legal and advisory services were provided by BFAR. Aside from this, 189 fishery cases were filed nationwide from January to December 2015.

### **VI. SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS**

As a support to the operations of the Bureau, meetings, consultations and workshops are being frequently undertaken. For the year 1,437 meetings/consultations have already been conducted to address the issues and concerns regarding project implementation. Apart from this, BFAR officials and employees have also attended a total of 4,055 meetings. Project monitoring is also systematically conducted, totaling to 3,549 field visits nationwide. Continuous operation and maintenance of the BFAR Fisheries Information Management Center (FIMC) and the Regional FIMCs are also being consistently carried out.

### **PROMOTION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FISHERIES**

In connection with the Bureau's commitment to promote the Regional and International Cooperation in Fisheries, BFAR has attended/participated in several very important meetings/conferences including the following:

1. APEC SOM1 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group held at Clarkfield, Angeles City, Pampanga on January 26-30, 2015;
2. P-EAGA Preparatory Meeting for the 2015 BIMP-EAGA Strategic Planning Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia held at Davao City on February 11, 2015;
3. Participated in the 2-15 BIMP-EAGA Strategic Planning Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on February 16-17, 2015;
4. Information and Product Scanning Sessions for Active P-EAGA MSMEs held in Cagayan de Oro City on March 23-27, 2015;
5. APEC SOM2 Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) held in Boracay, Aklan on May 9-15, 2015 consisting of the following:
  - a. APEC Climate Change Workshop – May 9, 2015
  - b. APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting – May 10-12, 2015
  - c. APEC Public Policy on Food Security SOM2 – May 13-14, 2015
  - d. APEC Public Policy on Food Security Management Council Meeting – May 15, 2015
6. MSMEs Monitoring-Strengthening Capacities of SME's for Export Promotion Training, Documentation of Success Stories and Updating of SME's Profile held in Cagayan de Oro City on May 27-31, 2015



7. BIMP-EAGA Training of Trainers on the ASEAN Shrimp Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) held in SEAFDEC, Iloilo on May 24- June 6, 2015;
8. ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (7<sup>th</sup> AFCE) held in Myanmar on June 8-9, 2015
9. Bilateral Meeting on the Joint Cooperation in Fisheries between the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, on June 15-18, 2015
10. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (23<sup>rd</sup> ASWGF) held in Myanmar, on June 10-12, 2015
11. RP-VIETNAM Bilateral Cooperation on Fisheries held in General Santos City on June 16-17, 2015.
12. SOM-AMAF held in Metro Manila, on September 6-13, 2015
13. APEC Meeting, Iloilo City, on September 29-October 8, 2015
14. Clarificatory Workshop for the Roll-out ASEAN Shrimp GAP to Philippine Shrimp Farmers, Davao, October 29-30, 2015
15. Brainstorming Meeting for the Formulation of Philippine Good Aquaculture Practice for Shrimp, held in General Santos City, November 17-18, 2015
16. Vietnamese Meeting in General Santos City, November 4-7, 2015

## **VII. OTHER SUPPORT INITIATIVES**

### **Gender and Development (GAD)**

Mainstreaming of Gender and Development (GAD) has been practiced by the Bureau in order to form a foundation where the organization understands, appreciates and imbibes the need to change. To sustain this, continuous integration of gender issues and concerns with the existing programs, projects and activities of BFAR must be undertaken. Evaluation and assessment is constantly embedded in the planning, programming, budgeting and monitoring of the Bureau to help attain gender institutionalization. For the whole year, the Bureau GAD Focal Person and Secretariat have participated in various activities to obtain their goal. Some of their activities are:

1. Organizing BFAR activities in celebration of the National Women's month
2. Gender and Development Summit
3. National Technical Committee (NTC) meeting on the search for Outstanding Rural Women (ORW)
4. Consultations/meetings regarding "Women-managed Marine Areas" project held in Naga City
5. Launching of "Great Women2" project with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) held at the Crowne Plaza, Ortigas
6. Attendance to "Impacts of Climate Change on Rural Women in Haiyan Affected Areas" and "The Muted Voices of the Dulangan Manobo Women in Attendance Maguindanao"
7. Participation to "Greening the Gender Responsive Value Chain (GGRVCA) Analysis Training for Partners"
8. Provided technical assistance on the implementation of "Enterprise Development Training (in support to the National Women Marine Managed Areas)" project conducted by clusters.