



NATIONAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

annual report 2013

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

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vision

“An institution of excellence in sustainable fisheries management and services by 2016”

mission

“To improve fisheries productivity within ecological limits and empower stakeholders towards food security, inclusive growth global competitiveness and climate change adaptation”

We are glad to note that the remarkable contribution of the fisheries sector has been recognized by no less than His Excellency, President Benigno Aquino III. He acknowledged during his 2013 State of the Nation Address the fisheries sector's indispensable role in our economy.

As we highlight the accomplishments of the sector in this publication, our goal is not only to foster public awareness but we also aspire for the successful undertakings of the sector to serve as examples that can be emulated in the implementation of other development programs.

Among the notable achievements of the fisheries sector in 2013 are the following:

- The implementation of the Sardine Closed Season in Zamboanga Peninsula and the Visayan Seas which resulted in the increased and sustainable sardine production;
- The intensive campaign to register all of the country's fisherfolk under the National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration or FishR which has finally addressed a task that had been a backlog for so many years;
- The 4-year continuous access of Philippine-flagged fishing vessels to the tuna-rich high seas pocket 1 (HSP1) after the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) recognized the country's commitment to ensure the long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks; and
- The quick response and rehabilitation efforts for Typhoon Yolanda affected fisherfolk under the "Ahon" Rehabilitation Initiative.

Truly, the fisheries sector in 2013 has been very active and proactive in advancing programs that make the industry more progressive and geared towards sustainability. We express our sincerest gratitude to all who worked incessantly and cooperated actively to make our programs and projects pay off while giving you the assurance that our effort will continue to make a difference, most especially to the fisherfolk from whose daily toil the whole nation is benefitting from.

Maraming salamat po at mabuhayang sector ng pangisdaan!



ATTY. ASIS G. PEREZ
Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources



performance

Fisheries sector recovered from its negative growth last year and came up with 1.23 percent production gain in 2013 from 391,330.01 metric tons to 405,783.40 metric tons. The increase was attributed to the positive growths in the first to third quarters which offset the slide in production in the fourth quarter of the year. Gainers were milkfish and yellowfin tuna where both have an annual growth of 3.70 percent. Tilapia, tiger prawn and skipjack sustained their upward trends in production. Seaweed, on the other hand, continued to experience a drop in output setting at 11 percent lower than last year. The biggest decline of 18.46 percent in seaweed production was recorded during the fourth quarter of the year brought by Typhoon Yolanda. (Source: BAS)



the **NEWSMAKERS**

FishR Program: Effective Delivery of Government Services for the Fisherfolk

Pursuant to Fisheries Code or RA 8550 which mandates the establishment and maintenance of a registry of municipal fisherfolk by local government units to establish priorities and preferential use of the aquatic resources, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture in close partnership with the local government units established a National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration or FishR.

Through FishR, the government can efficiently deliver more appropriate programs for the fisherfolk sector and protect their preferential rights over the use of resources. The registry of fisherfolk is likewise essential in the implementation of coastal resource management programs and projects as this will provide reliable information on the number of resource users in a particular fishing ground.

BFAR successfully launched the said program nationwide and the support was overwhelming as shown by high number of attendees composed of national government officials, local chief executives and most importantly, the fisherfolk during the marathon of FishR regional launchings from July until November last year.

This milestone is very significant to the municipal fisherfolk as the registration gives them a face to be known, a voice to be heard and more importantly an identity which will guarantee them of immediate access to appropriate government assistance packages.





Closed Season for Sardines Fishing: Regenerating Fish Stocks

The sardine has grown steadily-fast as one of the most valued fish commodity in the Philippine market over the years. It has engraved itself a niche in the Filipino consciousness as a good source of fish protein at an affordable price. In the years that followed, however, their population has dwindled in such an alarming rate that the BFAR had to implement closed season for the fish species in the waters of Zamboanga Peninsula on December 1, 2011 to March 1, 2012 and the Visayan Sea and its surrounding waters on November 15, 2012 to March 15, 2013. **In the Zamboanga Peninsula, this resulted in the growth of the total sardine production volume in the municipal subsector by 20.3 percent from 25,630.78 MT in 2012 to 30,827.88 MT in 2013.**



During its initial implementation, the sardine closed season in the Zamboanga waters was understandably met with scepticism by the industry sector. On its second year, however, a hundred percent compliance has been observed from the stakeholders due to the positive results in the previous year. It can be attributed to the joint-efforts BFAR have exercised along with partners from the private and government sector.



Ahon! Sampung Libong Bangka para sa Dalawampung Libong Pamilya



Ahon! Sampung Libong Bangka para sa Dalawampung Libong Pamilya as a boat-building initiative of BFAR to help the fisherfolk victims of typhoon 'Yolanda' go back to sea and feed their families and communities.



Under the Phase 1 of the project, fisherfolk beneficiaries are provided with materials like marine plywood, copper nails, marine adhesives and paints to help them repair their fishing boats that were damaged by the strongest typhoon recorded on the planet. The counterpart of the fisherfolk is in the form of labor in the repair of his own boat. Once the boats are finished, they are given motor engines and a cash incentive of P1, 500 to help them start their operations.

Presently, BFAR is gearing up for the Phase 2 of the initiative which will involve the replacement of lost and totally damaged fishing boats. The boats would be made of fiberglass materials in order to protect our forests and the environment.

Typhoon 'Yolanda' may have totally wrecked properties and taken away thousands of lives but the Ahon! initiative is showing the world that a strong partnership and collaboration between the public and private sectors and the fisherfolk will enable us to rise from the rubble and face the future.



Continuous fishing access to Tuna High Seas Pocket One (HSP1)

The Philippines will continue its fishing access to tuna-rich high seas pocket 1 (HSP1) for four years following a decision made by the Tuna Commission during the 10th Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) held in Australia last December 2013. The high seas pocket 1 was opened two years ago following a two-year fishing ban in all four pockets due to the growing alarm over declining tuna catches. Not all fishing nations, however, was granted fishing access subject for compliance to tuna conservation measures.

For two years now, the Philippines is the only nation allowed to go fishing in the high seas pocket 1 after it was ruled that the country was adhering to responsible fishing practice. This continued fishing access is a result of the Philippines' commitment to ensuring long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks parallel with rights under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the WCPFC Convention and the country's adherence to progressive implementation of the Commission's management measures.



production support services

First harvest of fish cage livelihood project awarded under the Integrated Coastal Resource Management Project in Tayak, Siguiran, Abulug (Region 2)

The production generated by the three sub-sectors of fisheries namely, aquaculture, municipal and commercial measures its performance in a given period of time. It is vital therefore that production support services are provided to ensure that targets are met.



Region 8

1. Fish Seed Production and Distribution

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources operates eight commodity-specific national technology centers strategically located in different parts of the country. Aside from the national centers, the regional offices have their respective technology centers with their own specific function. What is common for these centers is their purpose of producing quality broodstock and fingerlings to ensure that stocks are available for LGUs, fisherfolk organizations and private individuals who would like to venture in fish production. The required supply for fingerling dispersal to communal bodies of water and seaweed seedlings distribution also comes from these government facilities.



Region 9

While BFAR maintains the technology centers, the long term plan of the agency is to capacitate the LGUs by giving technical assistance in the establishment of community-based hatcheries and thereby improving the availability of broodstocks and fingerlings at the community level. For this particular project component, the following are the 2013 accomplishments:

- Produced 3,738,761 pieces of broodstocks and distributed 3,534,025 pieces.
- Produced 304.47M of fingerlings and distributed 230.234M.
- Produced 8,954,959 pieces "Ulang" post larvae and distributed 4,421,961 pieces.
- Produced 1,430,876 kgs seaweed seedlings and distributed 983,317 kgs.
- Provided farm inputs and technical assistance to 157,990 beneficiaries comprised of fishfarmers, LGUs, among others.



Community Based Hatchery (CBH)-Region 9



2. Distribution of Fishing Gears and Paraphernalia

Aside from technical assistance on fishing technology, the national government in coordination with the local government units supports this sector through the distribution of passive and environment-friendly fishing gears/paraphernalia.

In 2013, there are 73,464 fishing gears distributed to 68,315 beneficiaries composed of marginal fisherfolk associations and cooperatives. The following is the breakdown of the distributed fishing gears:

- 16,404 gillnets; 9,449 hook and lines; 7 lambaklad; 3,659 fishpots; 1,828 payao; 1,005 squid jigger; 1,044 motorized bancas; 488 fish traps; 2,842 multiple handlines; 4,122 tuna handlines; 4,019 marine engines; 2,000 crab lift nets; 24,297 crab pots; 1,674 nonmotorized bancas; and 626 other fishing gears.

3. Input Assistance

The bulk of fisheries production in the Philippines is derived from the aquaculture sector which accounts for 42.46% of the output in 2013. This makes the country's fish supply highly dependent on aquaculture. It is important therefore for the government to provide this sector with interventions in the form of input assistance to propel its growth and ensure that both local and export demands are being addressed. Last year, the government provided 41.92 million fingerlings, 976,448 kgs of seaweeds seedlings, and 23,869 sets of seaweed farm implements to 36,739 beneficiaries.



Distribution of Input Assistance-Region 11



Distribution of Fishing Gears-Region 9



Distribution of Fishing Gears-Region 2



Distribution of Seaweed Farm Implements-Region 9



Distribution of Input Assistance-Region 11

4. Establishment/Maintenance of Seaweed Nurseries

The availability and accessibility of seaweeds seedlings are important factors in encouraging growers to expand their production areas. This will depend however on the establishment of seaweed nurseries located in strategic areas where the growers can easily avail of the supply. Hence, in 2013, the government through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources established 47 seaweed nurseries nationwide (five in Region 1; four in Region 2; six in Region 3; eight in Region 4A; four in Region 7; one in Region 10; two in Region 11; and seventeen in CARAGA).

Under the National Seaweeds Development Program, facilitated the formulation of the Philippine Seaweeds Industry Roadmap 2013-2016 in collaboration with the Seaweeds Industry Association of the Philippines (SIAP). The roadmap is now on the final stage of being reviewed and is almost completed. SDP also assisted in the hosting of the 5th meeting of the ASEAN Carrageenan and Seaweeds Industry Club Meeting held at Marco Polo Hotel, Cebu City on November 27-28, 2013 in partnership with DA-AMAS and SIAP.



Seaweed nurseries-Region 11



Seaweed nurseries-Region 9

5. Maintenance of Tilapia and Bangus Hatcheries

The source of quality and affordable source of fingerlings is important in the establishment of a more profitable fish growing enterprise. It encourages private sectors to venture in the said business particularly in growing staple fish like bangus and tilapia. To support both small-scale and large-scales bangus and tilapia growers, the government through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources maintains bangus and tilapia hatcheries.

In 2013, BFAR maintained 5 bangus and 17 satellite tilapia hatcheries nationwide.



Tilapia Hatchery-Region 5



Tilapia Hatchery-Oriental Mindoro



Bangus Central Hatchery, NIFTDC-Bonuan, Pangasinan



MPZ Harvest-Region 1

6. Maintenance of Mariculture Parks/Zones

Another government's well-defined sites for small scale, medium scale and large scale investments on fisheries are the mariculture parks. At present, the Bureau maintains a total of 67 mariculture parks serving as demonstration sites for prospective investors. While a number of these parks need rehabilitation, most of the sites continue to attract fisherfolk and private businessmen to engage into this venture. The following are the mariculture zones/parks maintained and located in:

- Sto. Tomas and Rosario, La Union; Narvacan, Ilocos Sur; Sual, Pangasinan; Badoc, Ilocos Norte (Region I)
- Casiguran, Aurora (Region III)
- Padre Burgos Mariculture Zone (Region IV-A)
- Tagkawayan Mariculture Zone (Region IV-A)
- San Vicente and Quezon MZ, Palawan (Region IV-B)
- Sta. Cruz, Marinduque MZ (Region IV-B)
- Looc, Romblon (Region IV-B)
- San Jose City, Occidental Mindoro (Region IV-B)
- Calapan City MP, Oriental Mindoro (Region IV-B)
- Puerto Princesa MP and Coron MP, Palawan (Region IV-B)
- Ragay Mariculture Zone, Barangay Lower Omon, Ragay, and Sangay MZ, Camarines Sur (Region V) – (for rehabilitation)
- Bacon MZ (*for rehabilitation*), Magallanes MZ (*for rehabilitation*) & Matnog MZ, Sorsogon City (Region V)
- Talibon MZ and Calape MZ, Bohol (Region VII)
- Calbayog (for rehabilitation) & Basey, Western Samar; San Jose, Northern Samar; Liloan, So. Leyte; Ormoc City (*for rehabilitation*), Babatngon & Merida, Leyte; Sta. Rita and Quinapondan, Eastern Samar; Biliran and Naval (*for rehabilitation*), Biliran, Tacloban City and Leyte, Leyte, Sta. Rita, Samar, Naval, Biliran and Laoang, Samar (Region VIII).
- Margosatubig Mariculture Park, Zamboanga del Sur (Region IX)
- Tungawan MZ, Zamboanga Sibugay (Region IX)
- Taluksangay MP, Zamboanga City (Region IX)
- Mursilagos, Rizal MP, Zamboanga del Norte (Region IX)
- Balingasag MZ, Misamis Oriental (Region X)
- Sultan Naga MP, Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte (Region X)
- Kaputian, Island Garden City of Samal (IGACoS), Davao del Norte, Panabo MP, Davao del Norte (Region XI)
- Mati MP, Davao Oriental (Region XI)
- Pantukan MP, Compostela Valley (Region XI)
- Dapa MP, Siargao Island, Surigao City MP, Surigao del Norte (Region XIII)
- Barubo MP, Surigao del Sur (Region XIII)
- San Jose MP, Dinagat Province (Region XIII)
- Sibuto-Sitangkai MP, Tawi-Tawi (ARMM)

BFAR conducted an assessment on 62 MP/MZs in order to identify sites for permanent deletion and intensive promotion. A Round Table Discussion (RTD) was conducted in October 2013 for the joint program of Land Bank and BFAR intended for promotion and development of MPs that aimed at expanding financial, technical and marketing assistance to the existing and prospect investor/locator to improve production efficiency and optimize utilization of MPs. Three mariculture parks have been identified as priority areas for intensive promotion: Balingasag MP, Panabo MP and Pantukan MP.

7. Conduct of Production-related Research Activities

The conduct of production-related research activities is another key activity in increasing production and export. Verification is needed before the dissemination of a particular fisheries technology. In 2013, there were **86 research and development projects** conducted.

8. Operation and Management of M/V DA-BFAR Marine Fisheries Management, Research, Training and Oceanographic Vessel

Research and development projects of the bureau are not limited to aquaculture and municipal fisheries. The facility which is responsible for conducting research and development activities in the high seas is the M/V DA-BFAR Marine Fisheries Management, Research, and Training and Oceanographic vessel. Exploratory fishing activities in the unexplored fishing grounds of the Exclusive Economic Zone are likewise being covered by the vessel and other tasks which include:

- Collaborative researches with various institutions such as UP-MSI, UPV and SEAFDEC-TD and the National Fisheries University, Japan in monitoring the status of fishery resources, water quality profiling and charting spawning and fishing grounds. Other activities also include: 1) sardines larval and oceanographic survey, Zamboanga-Sulu Peninsula and Sibugay; 2) demersal stock assessment survey in the Visayan and Samar Seas; 3) fisheries survey in Benham Rise and Polillo to determine their potentials as ideal and new fishing ground for the Filipino fishermen. The vessel has been in the forefront in implementing the National Payao Program (NPP).
- Served as platform in the implementation of various important occasions and undertakings i.e. conduct of Environmental Media Conferences for the general public to create awareness on the environmental issues and concerns and convey policies concerning environment; fishing boat operators and fisherfolk consultations; lifting of Year 2 Closed Season for Sardine Fishing (Zamboanga City); fisherfolk consultation and payao deployment demonstration to fisherfolk (Mulanay, Quezon), MOA signing between BFAR 8 and CASTSDM Alliance for Payao Operations and Management; and Media Forum with the BFAR Director (Samar Sea).
- Served as platform and command post in assisting the areas heavily ravaged by typhoon Yolanda in delivering materials for the construction of small boats, relief goods, clothing, etc. for the affected fishermen in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Eastern Leyte, Cebu and Iloilo.
- Active partner of the Bureau's Fisheries Observer Program in conducting shipboard trainings to practice the theories and fill the forms in actual operations. Shipboard trainings helped future Fisheries Observers to gain confidence and acclimatize themselves on what await onboard purse seine and ringnet vessels. M/V DA-BFAR has been also a platform in conducting onboard trainings for Fisheries Students (OJT) coming from various schools. Activities conducted include lectures on deck machineries, different oceanographic researches, hydro-acoustics and its role to research and oceanographic sampling, collection of fish eggs and larvae samples and deployment of Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) along the waters of Polillo Island.



Command post in assisting Yolanda victims



MOA signing on Payao Operations & Management



Lifting of Closed Season for Sardine Fishing



market
development
services

Production growth must be coupled with market development in order to include the products in the economic count. In line with this, the government must exert effort to link the producers to prospective markets through product promotion and market matching activities. The following are the 2013 accomplishments on market development services.

1. Distribution of Market Matching and Participation to Agri-Aqua Fairs and Exhibits

Extended **447** market matching activities and conducted **19** investment fora. Conducted **36** and participated in **132** agri-aqua fairs and exhibits. A total of **88** Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) were signed/ consummated.

2. Conduct of Market-related Research Activities

Four research projects were carried out.



Aqua Trade Fair "Fish is Life Festival" at SM Megamall (October 15-17, 2013)



International Food Exposition at the World Trade Center (May 16-19, 2013)



Market Assistance through Market Matching (FIDSD)



Chefs on Parade at the SMX Convention Center (February 28-March 3, 2013)

credit facilitation services



-Photo courtesy of PCIC

Director Asis G. Perez and Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation President Jovy C. Bernabe lead the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding of BFAR-PCIC partnership on Fisheries Insurance to accelerate the implementation of the government's Fisheries Insurance Program for the coverage of BFAR programs and/or projects held in Cebu City on May 30 to 31, 2013.

The required formalities and the voluminous paper works to accomplish are one of the hindering factors which make both individual fisherfolk and cooperatives hesitant to avail loans being offered by financing institutions. This is one of the gaps the government has to fill in through the provision of credit facilitation services. With this particular line of service, the target clientele are provided with the proper guidance they need in accomplishing the requirements for the credit facility they wish to avail of. Through this, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources was able to assist **713 individuals** and **189 cooperatives** in preparing feasibility studies and project proposals.

- The Sibunag Seaweed Growers and Traders Association, Inc. (SSGTA, Inc) which was renamed Sibunag Seaweeds and Sunflower Marketing Cooperative is the very first beneficiary of the Fisheries Financing Program with an approved credit fund of P5.2 M. The Fisheries Industry Development Support Division (FIDSD) - BFAR Central Office regularly assesses the utilization and repayment of the FFP Credit Fund by SSGTA, Inc. It also conducts continuous monitoring together with LBP, BFAR Region 6 and PFO in Guimaras and provides assistance on seaweeds production, marketing and social organization. A resolution has been approved for their application of membership with Pinoy Fishmart Multi-purpose Cooperative.



other infrastructure and post-harvest development services

The infrastructure that the government is initiating is geared towards increasing production and providing livelihood for the fisherfolk such as establishment of Mariculture Parks/Zones, cages for livelihood, among others. On the other hand, post-harvest development services are implemented to lessen production loss.

1. Establishment of Cages for Livelihood

A total of 131 cages for livelihood were established in the following areas: Region I – 6 cages; Region II– 12 cages; Region III – 25 cages; Region IVB – 66 cages; Region XIII – 17 cages; and ARMM – 5 cages.



Cages for Livelihood-Region 4B

2. Establishment/Maintenance of Seaweed Tissue Culture Laboratories

Twelve seaweed culture laboratories were established/maintained: Lucap, Alaminos, Pangasinan (Region I); Tuguegarao City (Region II; Baler, Aurora (Region III); Talipan, Pagbilao, Quezon (Region IVA); Sta. Lucia, Puerto Princesa, Palawan (Region IVB); Tiwi, Albay & Mercedes, Camarines Norte (Region V); Iloilo City (Region VI); Guiuan, Samar (Region VIII); Zamboanga City (Region IX) and Masao, Butuan, Agusan del Norte (Region XIII); and ORG Compound, Cotabato City (ARMM).



Seaweed Tissue Culture Laboratory-Region 13

Seaweed Tissue Culture Laboratory-Region 12

3. Distribution of Post Harvest Equipment/Machineries

Distributed a total of 660 post harvest equipment (smokehouse – 43; seaweed dryer – 301; fish solar dryer – 34; freezer – 69; vacuum packer – 22; and fish processing utensils – 281) to 1,364 fisherfolk/association beneficiaries.

4. Post-Harvest Related Research

Eleven post-harvest related researches are ongoing.

5. Value-Added Products Formulation

Forty-three value-added fishery products were formulated and improved.



Kiwet Nuggets-Region 2



Kabayan Noli de Castro tasting the Kiwet Longganisa-Region 2

A group of people, mostly men, are seated at long wooden tables in a classroom or training room. They are looking towards the front of the room, appearing attentive. In the background, there is a map of the Philippines on the wall and a green banner with a fish and the text 'Visayan Sea...'. A blue banner with 'AS-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL CO-REN' is also visible. The room has fluorescent lighting on the ceiling.

extension support, education & training services

Training on Responsible Fishing Technology and Practices conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Development Center (NMFDC)

The government invests on manpower in the fisheries sector through the provision of extension support, education and training services. Through this, fisherfolk and other private sector groups are able to benefit from trainings and technical assistance on various fishery technologies. Clienteles are educated and trained through the use of information, education and communication (IEC) materials and technology demonstration sites.

Furthermore, capacity building and strengthening activities are given to local Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMCs) in order to enhance the partnership with the fisherfolk sector, local government units (LGUs) and other stakeholders on fisheries management.

1. Provision of Training and Technical Assistance

- Conducted 2,227 training courses on aquaculture (tilapia, bangus, seaweeds), municipal, regulatory and post harvest technologies nationwide that benefited 60,802 participants (50,609 fisherfolk and 10,193 extension personnel).
- Provided 51,523 technical assistance and advisory services on aquaculture development and methods, marine fisheries management and conservation, fishing technologies, post-harvest technologies to 65,490 beneficiaries composed of fisherfolk, fishfarmers, LGUs, other NGAs and various stakeholders.



Training on Fish and Seaweed Processing—Region 9

2. Establishment of Techno-Demo Projects

- Established 985 techno-demo projects (748 BFAR and 237 cost-shared with the LGUs) that showcased various fishery technologies such as integrated farming, aquasilvi/mangrove aquaculture, marine and freshwater fish cage culture, seaweed farming, organic aquaculture, among others, that cater 20,936 beneficiaries.

3. Project Launching and Conduct of Field Days

- Seventy six projects were launched and 70 field days were conducted.

4. Dissemination/Provision of IEC Materials

- Reproduced, packaged and distributed 279,677 copies of fisheries information, education and communication (IEC) materials to create awareness and promote the Bureau's programs and projects; 1,240 billboards/tarpaulins were installed; 491 radio and TV plugs were aired to inform the public of the latest development/issues besetting the industry.



Fish Demo—Region 4A



Polyculture of Mudcrab & Tilapia in Mangrove Areas—Region 2

5. Organization and Strengthening of FARMCs

- A total of 1,118 municipal and city FARMCs were organized nationwide. The organization of barangays FARMCs is ongoing. A total of 63 Integrated FARMCs (IFARMCs) located in the management bodies of water such as bays, gulfs, dams and lakes are organized all over the country. With an almost 100% FARMC organizing in the coastal municipalities plus an ongoing organizing of FARMC in inland and upland areas, the program is focusing on strengthening the organized FARMCs and re-orienting/re-organizing those whose membership and organizations have weakened and are inactive due to changes in the LGU administration and or organizational problems that normally beset a council.
- Updated the National Database Systems for the FARMCs, a community-based database system that can be used by every M/CFARMC. Through the database, important information can be accessed and understood easily by the local coastal resources managers.
- Assisted in strengthening 331 FARMCs where the Regional FARMC Management Centers (RFMCs) through the conduct of orientation on FOO 342 or Levels of FARMC Development – a guide to self-assessment to determine the level of the development of their own FARMC and identifying gaps and weaknesses within the organization.
- Conducted workshop/orientation and oath taking of the 9th annual Fisherfolk Directors Program held at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), Tagaytay City.



6. Fisheries Scholarship Program

Baccalaureate Scholarship for Industry Leaders (IL) (formerly Regular Academic Scholarship):

- Early 2013, the Bureau has provided administrative and logistic support to 72 regular scholars composed of 37 scholars from the 19th batch and 35 scholars from the 20th batch. A total of 31 scholars from the 19th batch were able to graduate in March 2013 while 42 more students (21st batch) enrolled in the program last June 2013, making the IL scholars a total of 83 (19th batch – 6 scholars, 20th batch – 35 scholars and 21st batch – 42 scholars) during the first half of the year. However, this number was down to 79 as of December 2013 due to failure of 4 scholars from the 21st batch to pass the scholarship program. The 6 remaining 19th batch scholars will graduate in March 2014 while all 20th and 21st batches of scholars will finish the scholarship in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- Whereas, Industry Leader Scholars are high school graduates who belonged to the top ten of their graduating class pursuing a four-year BS Fisheries Course in college. These scholars are entitled of free matriculation and other fees, monthly stipend of P2,500.00, semestral book allowance of P2,000.00, thesis support of P5,000.00 and graduation support of P500.00.



Fisherfolk Children Educational Grant (FCEG):

- The year 2013 started with 194 scholars from the talented and deserving children of poor small-scale fisherfolk, composed of 38 scholars from the 5th batch and 156 scholars from the 6th batch. All the 5th batch scholars were able to graduate in March and May last year. During the first semester of the year, the number of FCEG scholars has increased to 321 where 165 students were included in the program (1 belonged to the 5th batch who graduated in May, 1 late enrollee from the 6th batch, and 163 new enrollees classified as 7th batch scholars). However, 6 scholars failed to continue the scholarship during the last quarter of 2013 where one of them went abroad while the others failed to pass the program.
- A scholar under the FCEG program who will pursue a four-year BS Fisheries course and is entitled of free tuition and other miscellaneous fees, monthly stipend of P2,500, semestral book allowance of P2,000, thesis support of P3,000 and graduation support of P500.

Conduct of the Annual FSP Coordinators' Conference :

- An FSP Coordinators' Conference was conducted in Bohol from May 30-31 to assess the progress and identify issues on FSP implementation in country. Some of the issues identified include: additional testing centers, low stipend of scholars, failure to avail scholarship slots due to distant location of accredited schools, delayed release of allowances/ stipend, etc. Aside from identifying issues on FSP, the conference was also able to come up with the proposed plans for 2014.

7. Gender and Development (GAD)

- The Bureau continuously supports Gender and Development (GAD) by conducting and participating in various activities focusing on economic empowerment, gender responsive governance and women's rights such as: 1) conduct of seminar/workshop on GAD Guidelines for Project Implementation, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (PIMME) at the Boy Scout of the Philippines, Mt. Makiling, Laguna and was participated by the Central and Regional GAD Focal members, Project Leaders and Planners; 2) participation on various GAD Legal Mandates which include Magna Carta of Women, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Actions, Millennium Development Goals among others hosted by Region VI, and search for outstanding Rural Women; 3) finalization of the revised BFAR-GAD checklist for Research, Training, Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management; 4) participation on Women's Month Celebration and resource persons during Gender Sensitivity Trainings; consultation with Sillion Women Cooperative regarding women friendly fishing gears as commitment to Magna Carta of Women and President Aquino social contract at Bantayan, Cebu City; and 5) conduct of various Gender Sensitivity Trainings, and GAD meetings.



Awarding of Materials during Mini Trade Fair under GAD-Region 1

regulatory services



The Bureau does not only seek to increase productivity but also ensures the sustainable use of the fishery resources. Appropriate policies and standards both at the national and local levels are being in place towards this end. Among the regulatory tools being used include coastal resource management, and intensified inspection and laboratory services for securing fishery products competitiveness and safety.

1. Coastal Resource Management

- BFAR assisted 405 Local Government Units in coastal resource management.
- Conducted 97 rapid resource assessments on fish sanctuaries while monitored 347 fish sanctuaries and deployed 1,588 artificial reefs.

Mangrove Rehabilitation

As part of the Bureau's resources enhancement program and in promoting mangrove-friendly farming system to fisherfolk communities, a total of 25,969,528 mangrove propagules were planted nationwide.



Mangrove Rehabilitation-Region 2

2. Red Tide Monitoring

- On BFAR's commitment to safeguard public health, regular monitoring of the red tide phenomenon in critical bays is being sustained. 1,394 monitoring activities were undertaken to protect public health and 11,045 samples were analyzed.



Mangrove Rehabilitation-Region 1

3. Fish Health Management

- Maintained 38 fish health laboratories nationwide to address the need for disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment.
- Conducted ocular inspection, residue and aquatic animal disease surveillance, fish kill monitoring and investigations. Analyzed 5,450 fish/shrimp samples for residue and 11,505 samples for aquatic animal disease surveillance.
- Conducted 234 fish kill monitoring and investigations with 5,953 samples analyzed.



Fish Health Laboratory Central Office



Fish Health Management-Region 4A

4. Inspection of Fish Processing Plants

- Inspected, verified and monitored processing plants, including the processing establishments accredited as exporters. Conducted regular monthly plant inspections/audit to ensure compliance with the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based quality assurance, Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures Program (SSOP), and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).
- Conducted 71,980 inspections on fishing/freezer vessels, fish processing plants, buying/picking stations, fish port and landing areas, auction markets, ice plants and cold storages. Issued 8,555 certificates and 43,946 commodity clearances.

5. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

- *Operation and Management of MCS Patrol Vessels* - The MCS 14 patrol vessels are in their respective deployment areas with 340 field operations conducted. The MCS seaborne patrol operations had covered 26,232.14 nautical miles.
- *Enforcement of fishery laws* - BFAR law enforcers conducted 362 field evaluations nationwide to curb illegal fishing in coordination with law enforcement authorities. For the period, 533 fish wardens were deputized.
- *Vessel Monitoring System* - 893 vessels were monitored (10 MCS patrol vessels, M/V DA-BFAR, 3 local fishing vessel, 86 HSP-1 Operating Vessels, 11 International Fishing Vessels, and 788 Commercial Fishing Vessels operating in WCPFC through remote access only)
- *Operation of Quick Response Team (QRT)* - 576 operations (seaborne, monitoring and surveillance, maritime air surveillance, land based, etc.) were conducted by the BFAR Quick Response Team in its campaign against illegal fishing activities in the enforcement of RA 8550. MCS patrol boats and MCS patrol vessels were utilized to cover the vast area of operations.

6. Operation/Maintenance of the Cyanide Detection Test (CDT) Laboratories

Maintained cyanide laboratories in Puerto Princesa, Cebu City, Zamboanga City, and Manila in order to detect the presence of cyanide in tissues of live food and aquarium fishes with a total of 1,940 samples analyzed and 237 certificates issued.



7. Operation of Quality Assurance Laboratories

- To address existing problems on quality assurance program on fish export, fisheries quality control laboratories were operated/maintained in Quezon City; Sto. Tomas, La Union; Puerto Princesa, Palawan; Bula, Camarines Sur; Iloilo City; Cebu City; Tacloban City; Zamboanga City; Davao City; and Lagao, General Santos City. Samples totaling to 9,984 were analyzed for chemical and microbiological examinations.
- The first surveillance audit at the BFAR's Chemistry Unit of Fisheries Product Testing Laboratory (FPTL) by the Philippine Accreditation Office (PAO) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) was conducted on March 15, 2013. The surveillance audit evaluated the laboratory sustainability of the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation in chemical testing for mercury, lead and cadmium. Results of the surveillance show that: 2 significant non-conformities; 3 minor non-conformities and 5 observations where one was positive quoting that *"there is a big improvement in the implementation of the principles of PNS/ISO/IEC 17025:20005 as compared to the initial assessment"*. For 2013, laboratory audits were undertaken in 5 Quality Control Laboratories. The audit was based on the implementation of Good Laboratory Practices. Audit parameters are in line with the principles of ISO 17025, the internationally accepted standard for laboratory competence.



Tilapia Fingerling Dispersal-Region 9



Fingerling Dispersal-Region 12

8. Inland Fisheries Management

Dispersed a total of 25.965 million tilapia and carp fingerlings to 800 communal waters to replenish the stock of depleted resources for the benefit of municipal fishermen nationwide.

9. National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP)

Conducted surveys in 196 landing centers or observation sites.

10. Issuance of Regulatory Documents

Issued 212,245 regulatory documents such as Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs), Commercial Fishing Vessel/Gear Licenses, Fishermen Licenses, Clearances, Permits, etc.

11. Conduct of Regulatory-Related Research

A total of 33 research projects were conducted.



policy formulation, planning & advocacy services



45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting—Cebu City, April 1-5, 2013

The Bureau formulates, integrates and packages fisheries plans and programs for the utilization, management, development and conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources.

1. Information Support Services

- Continuous operation and maintenance of the BFAR Fisheries Information Management Center (FIMC) and the Regional FIMCs.
- Among the activities undertaken by the BFAR FIMC are as follows: consolidation of fisheries data collection forms , geo-encoding, monitoring of activity hits, page visits and file downloads of the Bureau website, regional websites and Mariculture website; maintenance of the Bureau's firewall wherein 115 kinds of virus were caught; detected 12,291 intrusions; blocked 524,270 suspicious websites; and contained 2,684 spam messages.
- Downloaded 13,947,856 reports/data from BFAR website (i.e. website hits, downloaded files and public inquiries).

2. Policy Formulation

- The following Fisheries Administrative Orders were approved by the Secretary of Agriculture:
 - FAO No. 167-3 – Amending FAO No. 167, series of 1989 (March 26, 2013)
 - FAO No. 236-2 – Extension of FAO 236, series of 2010 on the Rules and Regulations on the Operation of Purse Seine and Ring Net Vessels Using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) locally known as *Payao* during the FAD Closure Period as Compatible Means to WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2012-01 (August 15, 2013)
 - FAO No. 245-1 – Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area (August 15, 2013)
 - FAO No. 246 – Banning the Operation of Danish Seine and Modified Danish Seine in Philippine Waters (September 12, 2013)

3. Conduct Meetings/Consultations and Workshops

- Conducted 1,364 meetings/consultations and workshops to address issues and concerns regarding project implementation. BFAR officials and employees also attended 4,213 meetings during the period.



Memorandum of Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Fisheries between the Philippines and Vietnam

4. Promotion of Regional and International Cooperation in Fisheries

- In connection with the promotion of Regional and International Cooperation in Fisheries, BFAR hosted the following workshops/meetings:
 - 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in Radisson Blue Hotel, Cebu City on April 2-5, 2013.
 - 1st BIMP-EAGA Agribusiness cluster meeting held in Hotel Centro, Puerto Princesa City on June 17-18, 2013.
 - FAO/RPOA Expert Workshop on the Development of Tools to Combat IUU Fishing- The Comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels held in Dusit Thani Manila Hotel on June 25-27, 2013.
 - Regional Workshop on Public Information Campaign held in Dusit Thani Manila Hotel on June 28, 2013.
 - The 4th Sub-Regional Meeting on Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas held in Dusit Thani Manila Hotel on June 29, 2013.
 - ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme (AADCP) Project in Heritage Hotel, Manila on September 2-3, 2013.
 - BIMP-EAGA Technical Working Group in Grand Hotel Regal, Davao City on October 22-25, 2013.
 - 3rd Meeting of the Fisheries Joint Committee under the Memorandum of Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Fisheries Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in East Asia Royale Hotel, General Santos City on November 5-7, 2013.
- The Bureau also attended four international workshops/meetings, as follows:
 - 2013 BIMP EAGA Strategic Planning Meeting in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia on January 6-9, 2013.
 - Special Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum in Solo, Indonesia on February 21-22, 2013
 - 5th ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) & the 21st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in Vientiane, Laos PDR on July 22-26, 2013.
 - 36th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee & 16th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership in Penang, Malaysia on November 25-29, 2013.



5. Monitoring and Evaluation of BFAR Projects

- Regular monitoring and evaluation of BFAR's Programs and Projects were conducted which includes field/site visits of the facilities and projects established in the regions. A total of 3,020 field visits were undertaken.

CAR



Fish Hatchery-Apayao



Hapa-based Fish Pond-Apayao



Fish Farm-Abra



RFTC 5



Lambaklad Fishing Project-San Miguel Island, Tabaco



Lambaklad Fishing Project-San Miguel Island, Tabaco



Freshwater Prawn Culture-Albay



Sea Cucumber & Abalone Culture-Matnog

RFTC 7



Integrated Techno-Demo Farm-Borbon, Cebu



Freshwater Tilapia Farm-Borbon, Cebu



Mudcrab Aquaculture-Sogod, Cebu



Fish Farm-Carmen, Cebu

success **STORIES**

Oplan Kiwet Project: An answer to the Rice Eel Menace in Cagayan Valley



The BFAR Regional Office in Region 2 has recently launched the Oplan Kiwet project in its bid to mitigate the destruction wrought by rice eels (*Monopterus albus*) various areas in Cagayan Valley.

In response to the complaints of rice farmers and fishers, BFAR developed improvised Eel traps that are environment-friendly and distributed in worst hit areas in the region. Another livelihood opportunity also emerged among women through the introduction of value-added products such as logganisa, chicharon, nuggets and smoked rice eel.

Despite its menacing impact among rice farmers, the proliferation of rice eels also brought good points in terms of increase in fisheries production and additional revenues for the region's coffers. **–BFAR RFO II**

From Zilch to Riches: A fish tale of Mr. Leonardo Primne, Jr.



Mr. Leonardo Primne, Jr. once experienced several failures while searching for his fortune. But just like the famous proverb expression, failure became Mr. Primne's stepping stone to success. He ventured into various agriculture and fishing activities from rice farming to producing tilapia brood stock in South Cotabato but to no avail.

It was when he ventured into tilapia fingerling production that he finally became triumphant. Having two ponds in his area, he started to observe how the business will go. His once just quarter of a hectare pond was then developed 7 times larger which can now produce an average of 600 kilos of fingerlings a month. This brought him to the prominence, a chance of his lifetime. He became a Gawad Saka Awardee in the Aquaculture Category, a tribute to his expertise.

It was when he became a fisherman that he got his stability. Some people think that fisherfolk are poor but Mr. Primne proved them wrong. He is now an active member of the Banga Fisherfolk Association and still continues to learn the ropes in fishing through BFAR's assistance. He is very much committed to share all his knowledge and success to his fellow fishermen. **–BFAR RFO XII**

Containment of Knifefish Infestation in Laguna de Bay

The Laguna de Bay was confronted with problems on the occurrence of knifefish that threatened fish production in the area in May 2012. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) responded promptly by conducting rapid assessment of the knifefish population, its biological characteristics and impacts both on the fisheries and socio-economic conditions of the fisherfolk.

The survey conducted which covered 2,519 fisherfolk along the coastal municipalities of Laguna de Bay showed knifefish comprised 40.34% of the catch of the eight major fishing gears operating in the Lake. Studies also revealed that economic valuation estimated that 1 fisherman is losing PhP1,030 for every kilo of knifefish.

Through the initiative of BFAR, an inter-agency Technical Working Group was formed and composed of DENR-LLDA, DOST-PCAARD, DSWD, DTI, DILG, TESDA where the Memorandum of Agreement was signed on June 14, 2013.

BFAR invested 3.5 Million Pesos and lead the massive retrieval of knifefish in the Lake in collaboration with the MFARMCs and LGUs of 13 coastal municipalities in Laguna. Simultaneous with these is the development of technologies for its economic utilization such as processing and value adding, conversion into fish meal and trash fish and fish leather. These are complimented by the development and dissemination of IEC materials and the conduct of exploratory researches to intervene in its life cycle.

Various agencies such as the DSWD, DTI, LGU and FARMCs have converged to provide assistance and support to affected fisherfolk. The DSWD has allocated 17 Million Pesos under the PantawidPamilya Program and the Egg for Cash with activities anchored on processing and value adding of knifefish technologies developed by BFAR. The DTI will provide the shared service facilities while the LGU shall provide the area for the processing plant. The fisherfolk shall be the principal implementor and direct beneficiaries of the Project. To sustain the knifefish retrieval, LLDA is allocating 100,000 Pesos per coastal municipality. To intensify the IEC, PCAARRD has funded an IEC Project under the R&D Component of the TWG together with research projects on Targeted Acoustic Resonance of Swim Bladder towards the Eradication of Knifefish and Reproductive Biology, Population Dynamics, Control and Management of the Invasive Knifefish in Laguna de Bay

With the concerted effort of all the agencies concerned, the recent survey conducted by BFAR and LLDA showed that the volume of knifefish in the catch composition has been reduced significantly from 40.34% to 12.63%. While the figures can be very encouraging, a lot of work remains to be done. A comprehensive stock assessment needs to be conducted to establish the actual fish population of the Lake. Provision of livelihood support to fisherfolk and dissemination of IEC materials shall be continuing activities until Knifefish is finally controlled. **–BFAR National Fisheries Inland Technology Center**



NATIONAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

annual report 2013



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*Photos and articles courtesy of BFAR Regional Offices, BFAR National Centers, RFTCs,
BFAR Central Office Divisions, Units and IPRG*