



## Fishermen charged for alleged possession of illegally-caught fish

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources R02 has filed administrative and criminal complaints against fishermen who were apprehended in Claveria, Cagayan for alleged possession of illegally-caught fish, an act prohibited under Section 92 of the newly-amended Philippine Fisheries Code.

Based on the affidavit submitted by a member of the BFAR R02 Fishery Law Enforcement Quick Response Team (FLEQRT) who conducted on-site scientific examination on the fish samples, the fish under the possession of the accused were caught illegally thru the use of explosives.

⇒ 8



Photo shows sample of fish found in possession of alleged illegal fishers in Claveria, Cagayan. Internal manifestations such as broken vertebrae, ruptured air bladder and crushed internal organs that are filled with blood, confirm that the fish have been caught thru the use of explosives.

## Abalone – a promising species for aquaculture



**Abalone – those beautifully shelled mollusks that command high price in the market, can soon be cultured artificially in Region 02.**

This development came about after the successful research work on the species undertaken by staff of the Multi High-Value Species Hatchery, a BFAR R02 facility in Taggat Sur, Claveria.

Headed by Felicitas Paraggua, the facility has not only successfully bred abalone in captivity, but more critically, was able to raise the hatchlings into a size fit for aquaculture.

Under their study entitled "Verification Trial on Growth and Survival of Abalone Early Juveniles (*Haliotis asinina*) Reared in Hapa Suspended in

⇒ 14

### What's inside:

Intro for RD Milagros C. Morales .....	2
BFAR R02 turns over fishery projects .....	3
EDITORIAL: El Niño .....	4
Reviving Bangalao Lake .....	5
BFAR R02 to extend assistance .....	5
BFAR R02 releases 2M FishR Award .....	6
New Innovations to reduce fishing cost .....	7
Gov't officials mull action vs janitor fish .....	7
Fisherfolk in Isabela receive livelihood .....	8
IPs in Maconacon receive livelihood .....	9
Stock enhancement sustains eel .....	10
Over 3M milkfish fry allocated to fisherfolk ..	11
BFAR 2 make sure everyone is informed ....	12
BFAR 2 completes BoatR Training .....	13
Fishers nabbed for unauthorized fishing .....	13
BFAR 2 joins People's Caravan .....	14
Cleaning our Oceans, Saving our Future .....	15
Caravan by the sea .....	16
52nd Linggo ng Pangisdaan Snapshots .....	18
Fish Recipes .....	20
Philippine Fisheries Code - RA 10654 .....	24

# MILAGROS C. MORALES, DrFT, CESE

Regional Director

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – 02



BFAR RO2 RD Milagros C. Morales receives her appointment papers from DA Secretary Hon. Proceso J. Alcala.

**Our new Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, is a career official and an exemplar public servant, to say the least. Her successful career spans 38 years of unblemished public service.**

RD Myles, as friends would call her, started as secondary school teacher at Sabtang National School of Fisheries. After a couple of years, she was absorbed under BFAR as Fishery Product Examiner. From here, she steadily rose the ranks, not only in BFAR but most notably in the Regional Fisheries Training Center based in Aparri, Cagayan. The RFTC was the training arm of BFAR. Due to the reorganizations over the years, the RFTC served various mother units. First was the Department of Agriculture, then the Agricultural Training Institute and finally the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

It was in the RFTC that RD Morales truly honed her technical as well as managerial skills. As early as 1989, RD Morales headed the RFTC in Aparri as Training Center Superintendent II. The RFTC served the training needs not only of Region 02 but also parts of Cordillera Administrative Region and Region 01.

Back in 2000, she garnered the Most Outstanding Employee for Training and Extension under the Gawad Saka Search for Outstanding Agricultural Achievers.

Her long stint as Training Center Director paved the way for her appointment as BFAR RO2 Regional Director – taking the place of retired RD Dr. Jovita Ayson and in time with the merger between the BFAR and RFTC.

RD Myles is married to Mr. Nelson Morales, also an employee of the agency. They have four kids, all are professionals except for the youngest who is still pursuing his undergraduate studies. The couple cherishes quality time with their five lovely *apos*.

RD Morales graduated from the Cagayan State University in Aparri with a Certificate in Fisheries. She later on pursued her baccalaureate at St. Anthony's College in Sta. Ana, Cagayan with a degree in Education. She later on earned her masters in Public Administration at the Cagayan State University in Aparri, Cagayan and a doctorate in Fisheries Technology in

Iloilo State College of Fisheries. These are on top of numerous local and foreign in-service trainings, seminars and studies. Back in 1984, she was among the chosen few to visit the USA under a training on preservation and packaging of fishery products.

As a Gender and Development trainer and advocate, one can see the sincerity of RD Myles in helping less fortunate fishers and women groups, notably the Rural Improvement Clubs. Her current position mandates membership to various regional bodies namely the Regional Committee on Illegal Entrants (RCIE), Regional Development Council, Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, and Regional Peace and Order Council. She is also the current chair of the Regional Nutrition Committee.

Her methodical mindset and expertise as trainer would surely come in handy as she steers the agency thru its different programs and projects – be it extension services, fishery law enforcement, researches, policy formulation and trainings. ☒ Maximino Prudencio.

# BFAR R02 turns over fishery livelihood projects to fisherfolk



Fisherfolk from the coastal towns of Maconacon and Divilacan in Isabela Province receive livelihood assistance such as boats, marine engines, fishing gears, freezers and life vests. The Turnover Ceremony is graced by Usec. for Special Concerns Bernadette Puyat-Romulo (wearing cap), BFAR R02 RD Dr. Milagros C. Morales, Maconacon Mayor Hon. Lycelle Kate Domingo-Vicente (1st from left), Liga ng mga Barangay President of Isabela Hon. Kiko Dy (2nd from left), and Divilacan Mayor Hon. Florita C. Bulan.

**BFAR R02 continues to strengthen the livelihood of fisherfolk in the towns of Divilacan and Maconacon, both remote fishing communities in the province of Isabela. The towns are cut-off by the Sierra Madre Mountain Range to the rest of Luzon and are found resting along the Pacific Ocean, the largest in the world.**

In a Turn-over Ceremony held in Maconacon, Isabela on December 9, 2015, no less than Agriculture Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat joined BFAR R02 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, Provincial Fishery Officer for Isabela Mr. Emerson S. Tattao, and LGU officials in awarding the various fishery livelihood projects to the recipients.

"We continue to support our fisherfolk to improve their quality of life. At the same time, we provide them with livelihood projects that are environment-friendly so that our fisheries and aquatic resources are managed sustainably for the future," Regional Director Morales said.

Overall, BFAR R02 distributed 10 units of banca, 10 units of 5.5HP boat engine, and various fishing gears such as 100 pieces crab pot, 50 pcs. squid jigger, 150 pcs. multiple handline, 30 pcs. gill net, and 150 pcs. hook and line that benefited hundreds of fisherfolk in Maconacon and Divilacan including the indigenous people of the Dumagat

tribe.

The fisherfolk also received 300 life vests, which they can use to ensure their safety in mid-sea.

To address the problem on postharvest losses, BFAR R02 awarded three units of 16-cubic feet freezer to Maconacon-based Lita Fisherfolk Organization and Minanga Fisherfolk Organization, and Divilacan Fisherfolk

Association.

The freezers will be used to store fish catch and produce ice that will be used to preserve the quality of the fish.

"Most often than not, fish that are not sold right away are wasted because there is no way to preserve them. Fisherfolk are even forced to sell the fish at a much lower price just so the catch will not be wasted. In both cases, our fisherfolk are always in the losing end," Regional Director Morales told.

Maconacon Mayor Lycelle Kate Domingo-Vicente urged the fisherfolk to take care of the projects so they can benefit fully and use these projects for a longer time.

On the other hand, Dr. Morales met with the fisherfolk leaders to see how the previous projects have been implemented and she presented to them prospects such as training on financial management and institutional strengthening that will capacitate the organization towards self-reliance.

The lady director also inspected the proposed site of the community fish landing center that will be constructed next year in Divilacan and the on-going construction of the fish port in Maconacon. 📷 Donald Aginaldo.



**TILAPIA FORUM.** Tilapia industry stakeholders gather at BFAR R02 MIS Hall, Tuguegarao City for the Tilapia Forum, organized on the occasion of the 52nd Fish Conservation Week and is being held to provide stakeholders the avenue to thresh out goals and plans geared at improving the tilapia industry of Region 02, which currently stands as the number 3 top producing tilapia region in the Philippines next to Region 03 and Region 4A. Photo shows DOST Provincial Director Teresita Tabaog discussing Package of Science and Technology Interventions.



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For information and feedback, please send to:

Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Region 02

Regional Government Center

Carig, Tuguegarao City

Telefax: (078) 304 5331 / (078) 396 9774

E-mail us @

[bfar\\_ro2@yahoo.com](mailto:bfar_ro2@yahoo.com)

[bfar2fis13@gmail.com](mailto:bfar2fis13@gmail.com)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/bfarcagayanvalley](http://www.facebook.com/bfarcagayanvalley)

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Layout and Design

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# EL NIÑO

**The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) reports that the country is in the midst of El Niño. Commencing first quarter 2015, it is expected that the weather phenomenon will further intensify and may gradually weaken from February 2016 onwards.**

El Niño is an unusual warming of the tropical Pacific Ocean that occurs irregularly at about 2-7 year intervals in response to large scale weakening of the trade winds that normally blow westward from South America toward Asia. El Niño usually lasts from 12 to 18 months.

The PAG-ASA forecasts that 80% of the country will likely experience drought by end of February 2016.

Given this grim scenario, it is a must that our fish farmers and others involved in the aquaculture industry, be well-informed and equipped to deal with the ongoing / forthcoming weather anomaly and the devastation that it can cause.

Needless to say that water is the prime requirement for any aquaculture venture. A reduction in its supply coupled with higher temperature would surely cause severe stress on the stocks, if not outright mortality or fish kill.

To mitigate the ill-effects of El Niño, fish farmers can consider the following measures:

1. Increase water level on fishponds if possible.
2. Observe proper feeding management, do not feed on

ad libitum basis. Excess feeds will speed up accumulation of organic material and cause algal bloom. Die-off of this algal bloom will consume dissolved oxygen, thus will compete with oxygen requirements of stocks and will cause fish kill.

3. Thinning
4. Forced harvest, specially if stocks show abnormal signs like gasping for air in water surface, and erratic swimming
5. Those planning to stock to consider lessening usual stocking density.
6. Fish farmers in brackishwater areas to consider shifting to high-saline species this time like milkfish, grouper, sea bass, saline tilapia, siganids and caranx species.
7. Take advantage of dry season to dry and level pond bottom.
8. Lessen application of organic and inorganic fertilizer.
9. Fish processing.
10. Improve financial viability of the aquaculture venture (i.e. lessen costs and look for ways to maximize income) in order to cushion any negative impact of El Niño.

BFAR RO2 will continue to seed viable bodies of water and implement measures to improve fish catch from capture fisheries, in order to compensate for any production shortfall from aquaculture. It will also continue to render technical assistance to fish farmers in order to minimize impact of the said weather phenomenon.



# Reviving Bangalao Lake



Residents of Brgy. Luga Sta. Teresita, Cagayan attend the Consultative Meeting and Briefing on the Restoration and Enhancement of Fisheries in Philippine Lakes and Reservoirs of which the Bangalao Lake is one of the identified sites. Set to be launched in February 2016, the said project in Bangalao Lake will revive the fisheries in the area and will provide additional source of livelihood to the residents.

**Bangalao Lake in Luga, Sta. Teresita, Cagayan will soon have an added attraction aside from bird watching, where more than 29 different species of endemic and migratory birds can be seen within the lake and the dominant bakung plantation which is gaining economic importance as a prominent industry for the locales. In the near future, Bangalao Lake will once again teem with various freshwater fish species.**

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources through the National Inland Fisheries Technology Center based in Tanay, Rizal had identified the Bangalao Lake as one of the pioneer sites of the national program on the Restoration and Enhancement of Fisheries in Philippine Lakes and Reservoir. Under the said national program, a certain portion of the Bangalao Lake will be restored and enhanced with freshwater fishes through the establishment of habitat structures called brush

parks and culture based open water fisheries to bring back the lake's former magnificence.

It is expected that thru the program, the fisheries resources in Bangalao Lake will not only multiply so as to provide greater livelihood opportunities for small fisherfolk but also to support the town of Sta. Teresita to remain as a leading eco-tourism destination in the region and in the entire Philippines. Donald Aguinaldo.

## BFAR 2 ready to extend assistance to Buli-buli operators

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 02 has reiterated its commitment to provide assistance to “Buli-buli” operators in face of the implementation of Fishery Administrative Order 246.**

The fishery regulation bans the use of modified Danish seine locally known as “Buli-buli” due to its destructive nature.

During a recent dialogue with Buli-buli operators, BFAR RO2 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales said that the bureau can provide fish aggregating devices or payaos and fishing gears as immediate assistance. Buli-buli crews can also be provided with fishing boats and fishing gears, however potential

beneficiaries must be registered in the FishR or the nationwide fisherfolk registry.

Further, RD Morales said that the agency can provide technical assistance for the conversion of said fishing gear into other legally-allowed types or the conversion of the fishing boats such that they can operate other types of fishing gear particularly long-lines. The latter is used by foreign fishing boats who often intrude into local waters to fish.

The regional director has said that the agency can provide a study tour, in line with the conversion of either the fishing gear or fishing boat.

In addition, RD Morales said that the agency can also endorse

the buli-buli operators to financing institutions should they opt to take out loan for the conversion of their equipment.

Buli-buli is a type of fishing gear used by commercial fishing boat operators. Its use of a tom weight – a rectangular concrete block which scrapes the sea bed and destroys coral cover – renders it destructive. Moreover, technical experts of BFAR RO2 attribute the decline in the production of the Babuyan Channel to the use of buli-buli. “It scrapes the sea bed and does not discriminate between mature and juvenile fishes. Further, its use outside Buguey has been the subject of complaints from other municipalities for years,” one expert, noted. Maximino Prudencio.

## BFAR RO2 releases 2M FishR reward

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN –** Lucky fisherfolk from the town of Abulug have received their early Christmas windfall, thanks to the regional office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here.

The agency has started the release of various livelihood support projects and materials intended as a reward for said municipality for the early completion and submission of their fisherfolk registry, pursuant to the nationwide fisherfolk registration program dubbed as 'FishR'.

The fisherfolk received various fishing materials and other related equipment such as fishing gears, fishing bancas with engine, and life vests.

The beneficiaries, according to Provincial Fishery Officer Venchito Villarao, were thoroughly screened both by the local government units and BFAR RO2 thru its Fishery Livelihood Development Technicians, to make sure that they belong to the "poorest of the poor" in their respective communities.

Said town, to include Ballesteros, Buguey, Aparri and Reina Mercedes and San Mariano in Isabela, will receive a total of two million pesos each worth of livelihood assistance.

The FishR, launched by the bureau in late 2013, is intended to enhance, fast-track and complete the municipal fisherfolk registration as required under RA 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.



BFAR RO2 Provincial Fisheries Action Officer Mr. Venchito Villarao (2nd from left), Hon. Mayor Jesus Emmanuel P. Vargas and Municipal Agriculture Officer Mr. Bernard L. Ojano, lead the ceremonial awarding of livelihood projects and interventions for fisherfolk in Abulug, Cagayan, under the two-million peso FishR reward.

Fisherfolk are defined as those directly or personally and physically engaged in taking and/or culturing and processing fishery and/or aquatic resources. people directly or personally and physically engaged in taking and/or culturing and processing fishery and/or aquatic resources.

"The identification of beneficiaries of the 2 million reward demonstrates the very purpose of FishR. This is part of our 'targeted interventions' meant to extend help where it really matters and thus maximize limited government

resources," BFAR RO2 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales, said.

In consonance with the FishR, the Bureau is also embarking on the registration of municipal fishing bancas, both motorized and non-motorized, under the program known as BoatR.

Just like in the FishR, top municipalities who can complete the registration of municipal fishing boats in due time, will be given reward.

✉ Maximino Prudencio.



**#WhatsOursIsOurs.** BFAR RO2, thru its representative, Mr. Arsenio Bañares, chief of the Fisheries Inspection Quarantine Unit, joins the Multi-Sectoral Forum on the West Philippine Sea Issue. The activity, led by the Philippine Information Agency, Presidential Communications Operations Office and Department of Foreign Affairs, was held to raise awareness on the stand of the Philippine government regarding the territorial row at the West Philippine Sea between our country and China and other claimant states. The legal basis governing our claims over the West Philippine Sea and the efforts being done by the Philippine government to pursue our territorial claims over the disputed islands were also presented. Also in attendance are representatives from the fisheries sector in Region 02.

# New innovations to reduce fishing costs



Mr. Rodel Pasaraba, head of the Capture Fisheries Section under the Fisheries Production Division, supervises the fabrication of squid traps by fisherfolk in Gonzaga, Cagayan.

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN – The fisheries bureau in Region 02 recently introduced new innovations and technologies meant to reduce fishing costs and, at the same time, protect the environment.**

This include the introduction of squid trap and fiberglass boat making technology.

According to Moises Mangrubang, a specialist from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here, the squid trap is a simple, non-destructive and selective fishing gear that can also

reduce fishing cost. The squid trap is a box-like device with wooden frame and PE net enclosure. It is fitted with a non-return valve or opening. The fishing gear is set at a specific depth using anchors and buoys with bamboo leaves as attractant.


“Unlike the traditional squid jigger, fishermen need not go further to look for squid. They just set the squid trap, wait for a few days, then harvest,” Mangrubang explained. Mangrubang adds that the squid trap, being a passive and selective fishing gear, ensures sustainability of the target

species. Mangrubang revealed that initial tests in Claveria town on the use of squid trap showed good results, prompting them to further promote said fishing gear, particularly in Gonzaga, also in this province.

Fiberglass boat making technology on the other hand, has been introduced in the towns of Buguey and Gonzaga.

While a fiberglass boat costs slightly higher compared to traditional wooden banca, Mangrubang said that this can be offset by the longer lifespan and lower maintenance cost of the former. The use of fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) in boat-making also means that no timber is used, thereby, saving the environment.

Apart from squid trap and fiberglass boat making technology, the BFAR RO2 also held trainings on multiple handline construction in Sta. Ana and hairtail fishing gear in Sanchez, both towns in this province.

“We shall continue to look for ways to assist our fishermen particularly towards the improvement of their current technologies or ways of fishing,” Milagros Morales, the new BFAR RO2 Regional Director, said.  Maximino Prudencio.

## Gov't officials mull action vs janitor fish

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN – Fishery experts from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist – Cagayan and the bureau of fisheries here, recently met and discussed ways to control the rapid spread of Janitor fish in different bodies of water in the province.**

Bernaldo Camit, head of the Fishery Section under the OPA, noted that communal bodies of water and fishpond areas in the towns of Gattaran, Lasam, Iguig, Amulung, Baggao, Solana, Enrile, Tuguegarao City in Cagayan and Roxas and Quirino in Isabela, are now infested with Janitor fish.

Fisherfolk, Camit said, are complaining because most of their catch now comprise of Janitor fish.

### What is Janitor fish?

Janitor fish (*Pterygoplichtys pardalis*) got its name as it can often be seen glued to the glass walls in an aquarium where it uses its sucker-like mouth to ‘clean-up’ the attached algae.

Originally from South America, experts speculate that Janitor fish came from aquarium enthusiasts who inadvertently dumped the fish into local waters. This gradually led to its proliferation in the different bodies of water in the country.

Adaptation of the species into local waters is not hard, as the fish has a number of biological features enabling it to survive and thrive in marginal water conditions, fishery experts say. The fish is an omnivore. It feeds on algae and weeds but it also eats crustaceans, insects and detritus.

The fish has short and rounded body and can grow to a maximum length of around half a meter. It has a flat head like a catfish. The upper parts of its head and body are encased in longitudinal rows of scutes or armored plates.


This unsightly appearance notwithstanding, experts say that the fish is edible.

### Government action

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Region 02 Regional Director Dr. Milagros Morales said that the government will implement a two-pronged approach to control the spread of the species. One will be to implement direct measures to eradicate the fish and the other to promote its utilization as food or other purposes.

“We will conduct research and development on the utilization of the species, and a study to assess its abundance in the wild,” RD Morales, said.

The Regional Director said that the agency will also send trainees to Marikina and Laguna where they can learn the technology on fish processing and leather-making using Janitor fish.

The Bureau and its LGU partners will also intensify information and policy campaign at the local level.  Maximino Prudencio.

# Fisherfolk in Isabela receive livelihood projects, programs from BFAR



Mr. Emerson S. Tatta (1st from left), Provincial Fisheries Officer of Isabela hands over the various fisheries projects to the fisherfolk in the coastal municipality of Dinapigue, Isabela represented by the honorable Mayor Reynaldo Del Rosario Derije during the occasion of the Fisheries Technology Caravan.

**Hundreds of fisherfolk in Dinapigue and Palanan in Isabela, remote coastal towns that lie along the Pacific Ocean, recently received various livelihood projects and programs from BFAR R02 as part of the agency's annual activity dubbed as "Fisheries Technology Caravan".**

Overall, BFAR R02 has distributed to fisherfolk various fishing gadgets such as 250 pieces hook and line, 100 pcs. squid jigger, 50 pcs. gill net, and 150 pcs. multiple hand line, which they can use to increase their catch.

The fisherfolk also received 300 pcs.

life vest to ensure their safety at mid-sea as well as three 16-cubic feet freezer (through the LGUs), which they can use to store their catch and therefore avoid post-harvest losses.

## Capacity building

Aside from the livelihood projects, BFAR R02 staff also organized a group of women fisherfolk in Dinapigue as a move to elicit their participation in fisheries activities particularly in post-harvest.

BFAR R02 also met with the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) of Dinapigue to strengthen the organization especially on its function of being at the forefront of fisheries and aquatic resources protection, conservation, and proper management.

Issues affecting the fisheries sector and possible solutions were also tackled during the FARMC meeting.

In a forum with the fisherfolk and LGU officials, BFAR R02 staff discussed Republic Act No. 10654, which amended RA No. 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

The discussion emphasized the stricter fines and penalties enumerated

➔ 10

## Fishermen charged...p1

External manifestations exhibited by the fish samples such as blood oozing from the operculum/gill cover, blood effusion at the base of pectoral fins, and loosening of scales at the mid-portion of the body, indicate that the fish may have been caught thru the use of explosives.

Further examination confirmed the initial indications. Internal manifestations revealed that the air bladder of the fish samples were ruptured and filled with blood, and internal organs were crushed and mixed with blood.

"As a Fish Examiner and part of the law enforcement team of BFAR R02, it is our duty and authority to conduct scientific examination of fish suspected

to have been caught with the use of explosives," the fishery law enforcer said. His name is withheld so as not to jeopardize future operations.

Under Republic Act No. 10654 or an Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing – the amended version of Republic Act No. 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998- the discovery in any fishing vessel of fish caught or killed with the use of explosives, noxious or poisonous substances, or by electricity shall constitute a prima facie presumption that the fisherfolk, operator, boat official or fishworker is fishing with the use thereof.

As of last Monday (Dec. 7), the fishermen were under custody of the

Philippine National Police in Claveria, Cagayan.

If found guilty, the fishermen will pay an administrative fine equivalent to five times the value of the catch or PhP300, 000.00 whichever is higher and will face an imprisonment from 5 to 10 years and a fine equivalent to twice the amount of the administrative fine, respectively.

"While this is a sad development as it involves our local fisherfolk, we have no choice but to apply the full force of the law. The use of explosives indiscriminately kills large number of fish and other marine organisms in the vicinity and can damage or destroy the habitat especially coral reefs," BFAR R02 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales said. ☒ Donald Aguinaldo.



# IPs in Maconacon receive fishery livelihood projects

Indigenous people (IPs) of the Dumagat tribe in Maconacon, Isabela have recently received the fishery projects that were promised to them by Agriculture Undersecretary for Special Concerns Bernadette Romulo-Puyat during her official visit to the town early this year to monitor the state of agriculture and fisheries in this side of the Pacific.

In the Turn-Over Ceremony held on December 9, 2015, Usec. Puyat together with BFAR R02 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, Provincial Fishery Officer for Isabela Mr. Emerson S. Tattao, Liga ng mga Barangay of Isabela President Francisco Faustino A. Dy and LGU officials handed over the various fishery livelihood projects to the members of the Dumagat tribe.

"I love being in the field because it is in this way that I personally get to see things firsthand and hear from the people we serve," Usec. Puyat mentioned.

The beneficiaries received motorized bancas, boat engines, and various fishing gears which will help their fishing activities become more efficient and more productive.

They also received life vests which they can use to ensure their safety in mid-sea.



Indigenous people of the Dumagat tribe in Maconacon and Divilacan in Isabela Province received various fishing paraphernalia that will help them increase their catch and live beyond subsistence fishing.

"Our indigenous people have mastered traditional forms of fishing but recently they were learning to use the new technologies introduced by BFAR in the past years," BFAR R02 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales said.

The lady director was referring to the livelihood projects given by the agency during its annual Fisheries

Technology Caravan that visits remote fishing communities in the region.

"The projects shall strengthen the livelihood of our indigenous people who have been largely dependent on subsistence fishing. Through this way, BFAR can promote inclusive growth," Regional Director Morales said. ☒ Donald Aguinaldo.



**GREAT AT 68.** Employees of BFAR R02 dance their way to a Zumba Dance exercise as a healthful way to celebrate the 68th Anniversary of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in July. The anniversary celebration at the BFAR R02 Regional Office kicks off with the Fun Walk around the Regional Government Center in Carig, Tuguegarao City. Looking back, Republic Act No. 177 organized the Bureau of Fisheries on July 1, 1947. On March 20, 1963, R.A. 3512 reorganized it into the Philippine Fisheries Commission. On September 21, 1972, the integrated reorganization plan of the government took effect and the Philippine Fisheries Commission was reverted to its original name as Bureau of Fisheries. By virtue of Presidential Decree No. 461, which was signed on May 17, 1974, the office was renamed as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

## Stock enhancement sustains eel population



**Flagship species.** BFAR R02, in partnership with the local government units in Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, and Nueva Vizcaya and the community leads the stocking of elvers in communal bodies of water in Region 02 to revive the dwindling population of eel, which is the flagship species for freshwater fish conservation in the Philippines under the Darwin Initiative of the Zoological Society of London.

**The Elvers Stock Enhancement program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 02 (BFAR R02) continued this year as a preemptive measure to safeguard the abundance of eels or igat in the wild.**

Over the month of August, BFAR R02 already dispersed approximately 130,000 pieces of juvenile eels called elvers (*Anguilla species*) in communal bodies of water in the provinces of Cagayan, Quirino, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya where the Cagayan River passes through.

The elvers were sourced from the estuarine areas in Aparri, Cagayan where they naturally thrive until their migration to freshwater areas.

Resource management expert Dr. Evelyn C. Ame said that the program aims to repopulate the dwindling number of eel in the wild.

Dr. Ame, citing the report of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), shared that some eel species are already being rated as endangered and near threatened in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

ZSL, a UK-based NGO, is currently working with BFAR R02 in the management of eel which the group considers as its flagship species for freshwater fish conservation in the Philippines

Meanwhile, BFAR R02 Regional

Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales said that the stock enhancement program that started in 2009 is geared towards the conservation, protection and preservation of this endemic and high-priced fishery resource, which is at the verge of rapid decline.

Several years ago, the massive

exploitation of elvers or juvenile eels brought by open access and the high export value which reached up to fifty thousand pesos per kilogram alarmed authorities especially BFAR because of the adverse effect to the population of eels.

In 2012, the ban on exportation of elvers was reinstated through BFAR Fisheries Administrative Order No. 242.

Dr. Ame emphasized the importance of eel in the ecosystem. The species serves as conduit in the distribution of nutrients between marine and freshwater ecosystems because they migrate between these habitats.

Further, eels are a popular food source with high nutritional value for humans and help keep ecosystem from overpopulation by feeding on the eggs of predatory fishes.

Eels can also be a bio-indicator for pollution.

After 8 to 15 years in freshwater, the eels attain their sexual maturity and migrate to the sea to spawn. Eels are considered as absolute spawner, which means they only spawn once in their lifetime and die after laying their eggs. Donald Aguinaldo.

## Fisherfolk in Isabela receive...p8

in the amended law that would maintain its deterrent effect.

Although still due for implementation next year, BFAR R02 and the local government of Dinapigue started to validate sites for the community fish landing center, which is due to be established in Dinapigue in 2016.

BFAR R02 has likewise helped the LGU officials organized the Project Monitoring Committee which will take charge in the preparatory stage until the completion of the fish landing center.

BFAR R02 staff also registered fisherfolk in the FishR or Municipal Fisherfolk Registration, which is a national program of BFAR to enlist every fisherfolk in the country based on the principle that "what gets measured gets managed".

Furthermore, BFAR R02 also monitored the bamboo propagules

that were planted by fisherfolk who were affected by the enforcement of BFAR Administrative Circular No. 247 that banned the catching of Ludong from October 1 to November 15 of every year.

Bamboo planting is an alternative livelihood project that BFAR R02 provided to the affected fisherfolk wherein they get paid for every propagule that survives.

"Our overall goal in conducting this activity is to bring the agency right at the doorstep of our clients for their convenience and make our services more accessible for such a remote place like Dinapigue and Palanan," Mr. Emmerson S. Tattao, Provincial Fishery Officer of Isabela, remarked.

PFO Tattao continued, saying there is so much potential in this area of the Pacific Ocean, which accounts for 70 percent of the world catch from sea. Donald Aguinaldo.

# Over 3M milkfish fry awarded to fisherfolk

**Fisherfolk from coastal municipalities in Cagayan received 2.65 million milkfish fry as input assistance for 2015 while another 500, 000 pieces shall be allocated for techno-demo and livelihood projects of BFAR R02.**

The 2.65 million milkfish fry will benefit hundreds of fishpond and cage owners in coastal towns of Sta. Ana, Gonzaga, Sta. Teresita, Aparri, Buguey, Sanchez Mira, Claveria, and Abulug as well as self-reliant groups (SRGs) under the Integrated Coastal Resource Management Project (ICRMP) in Sta. Ana, Sta. Teresita and Sanchez Mira.

Meanwhile, the remaining 500, 000 milkfish fry will be reared to fingerling size at the BFAR stations in Claveria and Sta. Teresita before these will be stocked in the techno-demo and livelihood projects of BFAR R02 early next year.

BFAR R02 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales said that the dispersal program seeks to address the problems on inadequate milkfish fry supply from the wild in consideration to the stocking calendar. Fry production from the wild is affected by changes in environmental conditions, fluctuation in natural recruitment aggravated by calamities such as typhoon and floods starting 2010.

The Regional Director shared that the milkfish fry were bought from a private hatchery in Sarangani in Mindanao which is the major commercial-scale milkfish hatchery in

the country today.

Edwin P. Madrid, Municipal Agriculture Officer of LGU Sta. Teresita, said that the dispersal program is a show of the government's commitment and support to small fisherfolk.

For 2015, the town of Sta. Teresita obtained the largest allocation of 1 million pieces.

Among all recipient municipalities, Sta. Teresita edged its way to secure the biggest share because of its encouraging performance in terms of production, receptiveness to the program and for dutifully providing program implementers with production data.

"We have either increased or decreased the share of one municipality primarily on the basis of its production in the previous years as reported by the LGU," Jennifer T. Tattao, Project Leader for Bangus, said.

Ms. Tattao went on to say that BFAR R02 has already dropped from the list of recipients the municipalities which displayed low harvest.

"It appears that the place is not really fit for the culture of bangus. Also, it can be that the problem lies on the people and how they manage the stocks," she added.

In a briefing, BFAR R02 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales reminded the fisherfolk and the local government units to manage the

stocks as it should be and provide BFAR R02 with the data especially on production.

"The allocation for the region will eventually be determined based on the production data that the LGUs are going to provide to BFAR R02 which the latter forwards to the national office such that the higher the production, the larger the allocation," Regional Director Morales explained.

On the other hand, Ms. Tattao clarified that survival rate for nursery-reared milkfish fry to fingerling size at farmer's level is accepted at 20-35 percent and that BFAR recommends the stocking density of 10,000 – 15,000 pieces per hectare in semi-intensive culture ponds.

The Bangus Project Leader also instructed the fisherfolk to release the stocks in a well-prepared nursery pond instead of putting them inside the hapa which usually leads to high mortality of stocks.

"We are making these clarifications and instruction to ensure success of the dispersal program and guide our fisherfolk as beneficiaries of the input assistance program," she said.

Apart from the dispersal program, Dr. Morales, who is a Gender and Development, advocate encouraged women fisherfolk to register in the FishR program because there are projects that are particularly intended for them.

✉ Donald Aguinaldo.



**RECEPTIVE RECIPIENT.** Fisherfolk in Sta. Teresita, Cagayan receives the largest share in the BFAR R02 C.Y. 2015 milkfish dispersal as an incentive for their receptivity in the production of milkfish. In the photo are BFAR R02 RD Dr. Milagros Morales, MAO Edwin P. Madrid, LGU employees and fisherfolk recipients.

# BFAR R02 conducts info campaign on RA 10654



Mr. Jay-Arre Usquisa, Fishery Regulation Officer of BFAR R02, explains salient provisions of RA 10654 in this photo taken in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan.

**BFAR R02 is raising public awareness on Republic Act No. 10654, An Act to Deter, Prevent and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing or IUUF to make sure everyone is informed on the new fisheries law.**

**RA 10654 amended RA 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.**

Following the completion and issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 10654 on September 22 this year, BFAR R02 has embarked on an IEC Caravan, visiting every town in the region to familiarize the public particularly on the salient provisions of the newly-amended fisheries law.

The BFAR R02 technical staff emphasized during the caravan that RA 10654 sets higher penalties

compared to the old law. This can be as high as P45 million for commercial fishing violators and \$2.4 million for poachers.

BFAR R02 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales shared the idea that fines are more effective than imprisonment because they target vessel owners.

"The penalties stipulated in RA 10654 will be enough to warn potential violators of our fishery law," Regional Director Morales said.

Another significant provision of RA 10654 is the installation of vessel monitoring system (VMS) which only applies to Philippine-flagged commercial fishing vessels operating outside Philippine waters and

commercial fishing vessels of 30 gross tons and above which are operating within Philippine waters.

Dr. Morales said that VMS can help both the government and other entities in monitoring the movement of commercial fishing vessels especially that of vessels encroaching into municipal waters.

Under RA 10654, BFAR now has the power to impose administrative fines and penalties through an adjudication committee who shall investigate and hear administrative cases.

Through the deterrent effect of the amended law, RD Morales hopes that BFAR can revitalize the dwindling fish stocks and save what remains of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources.

"At the very beginning, the reason behind our efforts to strengthen our fishery law is really to restore the wealth of our bodies of water, which when realized will redound to increased income especially among marginal fisherfolk," the Regional Director said.

Aside from RA 10654, BFAR also discussed during the caravan Inland and Coastal Resources Management, and Scientific Examination of Dynamited Fish.

The caravan is in partnership with the various local government units in the region. 📧 Donald Aguinaldo.

After landing second place for their documentary film KATIBAYAN in the Regional Bayani Ko sa Pangisdaan: The Search for Heroes of the Youth, the team from Cagayan State University - Carig Campus composed of Maricris De Ocampo, Christopher Angelo Del Rosaio, Jessa Mangrubang, Jea Crisa Salvio, Allen Sagun, Bon Jeminic Pascual, Lea Cuddao, and Justin Renz Allapitan won fourth place in the national level, besting other films and groups from the 17 regions of the Philippines. Katibayan presents the life of Mr. Vivencio Agcaoili and his outstanding contribution in fisheries conservation, protection, and proper management which makes him truly deserving as Bayani ng Kabataan sa Pangisdaan. Our hero is the President of San Jose Fisherfolk Association and among their notable accomplishment is the establishment and effective management of a Marine Protected Area in Gonzaga, Cagayan.



Mr. Vivencio Agcaoili

KATIBAYAN

# BFAR R02 completes BoatR Orientation and Training

**The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources R02 has completed the Municipal Fishing Vessels (3 gross tons and below) and Fishing Gears Registration or BoatR Orientation and Training in the five provinces of the region namely Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino.**

BoatR represents the second level of technical support to LGUs following the FishR or the Municipal Fisherfolk Registration Program.

The BoatR Orientation and Training was a two-day activity composed of project briefing and municipal fishing boat admeasurement training for LGU officials.

MARINA, or the Maritime Industry Authority assisted the trainees in the hands-on exercise where the latter had actual experience of measuring the volumetric capacity of a fishing vessel to determine its gross tonnage, and technical recording of municipal fishing gears.

Further, the trainees developed implementation and communication plans for their respective LGUs, and indicative schedule for conducting the registration.

The orientation and training provided a forum for program implementers to raise clarifications.

## Mobile app

In an effort to speed up the BoatR, BFAR R02 turned over to LGUs, who have previously executed their memorandum of agreement with BFAR, the Smart-powered tablets containing a mobile application that will efficiently and economically aid the registration.

The mobile application enables the user to take photos of fishing vessels and record information which will then be uploaded to an online database.

It makes computation of gross tonnage and communication quick among users through the tablet's messaging feature.

## What gets measured gets managed

Dr. Milagros C. Morales, OIC Regional Director of BFAR R02, expressed that for BFAR to be more effective it has to determine first its clients and the statistics before deciding on the appropriate projects that the agency will provide for the fisherfolk.

The data that will be generated

in the BoatR Program will be used in determining targeted interventions for the fisherfolk and in crafting interventions for ecosystems-based approach to fisheries management.

Earlier, BFAR National Director Atty. Asis G. Perez said that this kind of reform is anchored on the principle that what gets measured gets managed.

The Provincial Fishery Officers (PFOs) of every province reminded the local government units to submit their enabling ordinances on the registration of municipal fishing vessels/boats three gross tons and below including fishing gears.

The PFOs also encouraged project implementers in the LGUs to maintain coordination with them especially when they need technical assistance and during monitoring of BoatR implementation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ronaldo R. Libunao, Boat-R Project Leader in Region 02, stressed that the BoatR is limited only to the conferment of identity to the fishing vessel and does not serve as an authorization or license to fish in municipal waters. 📧 Donald Aguinaldo.

# Fishers nabbed for unauthorized fishing, sued in court

**Fishers allegedly engaged in unauthorized fishing were nabbed by authorities of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) R02 and the PNP-Maritime in Gonzaga, Cagayan during a joint anti-illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUUF) operation.**

As stated in the criminal complaint of BFAR R02 filed before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Cagayan in Aparri, it said that members of the BFAR R02 Fishery Law Enforcement Quick Response Team (FLEQRT), while conducting seaborne patrol operation in Aparri, Cagayan, received information about fishers alleged to be operating without license.

From Aparri, the BFAR FLEQRT together with the PNP-Maritime travelled to Gonzaga aboard the DA-BFAR Multi-mission Patrol Boat No. 3050.

"At 12 midnight two commercial fishing vessels (CFVs), five light boats and two other boats used for towing were observed operating off the coastal waters of Brgy. Batangan in Gonzaga," the complaint reads.

The authorities approached and boarded the vessels with side markings "Liwliwa 1" and "Liwliwa 2", which are identified as small-scale CFVs with gross tonnage of 5.4 and 9.71, respectively.

Authorities discovered ring net, which is an active fishing gear banned in municipal waters, and fish catch that means the fishers were actually engaged in fishing.

"At first the captain of the fishing vessel refused to go with us to Sta. Ana for further investigation but instead turned off the vessel's engine and

instructed the crew to lower the anchor of the vessel," one of the FLEQRT staff said.

The captain and crew only agreed to join the FLEQRT when the Philippine Coast Guard came over for reinforcement.

Further, "Liwliwa 2" and some of the crew were discovered to be lacking in documents to operate and conduct fishing activity, respectively. Minors were also found on board.

The owners and captain of the commercial fishing vessels were charged for violation of Section 86 (fishing without license) and Section 95 (use of active gear in municipal waters) of RA 10654. 📧 Donald Aguinaldo.

# BFAR R02 joins People's Caravan, distributes fishery projects



**The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 02 participated in the People's Caravan initiated by the Cagayan State University (CSU) without missing to attend any of the nine municipalities visited and served in 2015.**

The People's Caravan was meant to visit every town in Cagayan to bring

government goods and services to various clientele right at their own place.

Other national government agencies in Region 02 also joined to deliver goods and provide services, catering to the different needs of various clientele.

Hundreds of fisherfolk, who are

registered in the FishR, benefitted from several livelihood assistance and services brought by BFAR R02 such as tilapia fingerlings, fishing gears and technical advisories.

BFAR R02 also dispersed tilapia fingerlings and elvers (young eels) in communal bodies of water like rivers and lakes to sustain the species' population in the wild.

Furthermore, the Post-Harvest and Marketing staff of BFAR R02 conducted a Technology Demonstration on Value-adding to promote a variety of ways of preparing Tilapia and seaweeds.

The team also distributed various IEC materials to intensify awareness on the programs, projects, and services of the agency that clients may avail themselves.

"Instead of our clients going to us, we do the other way around because we value our clients so much," BFAR R02 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales said.

"After all this is what public service is all about, being accessible and close to the people we serve," the RD added. 📷 Donald Aguinaldo.

## Abalone - a promising species...p1

Tanks" Paraggua mentioned that the country is one of the major sources of abalone for export to the world market, however, there had been a noticeable decline in catches in recent years.

The declining catch from the wild and its high price both in the domestic and export market, makes it worthwhile to develop technologies for the artificial propagation of the species, Paraggua said.

Abalones are an in-demand seafood in the world market, akin to other exotic species such as sea cucumber, shark's fin and eel. Currently, abalone is priced at 600 pesos per kilo.

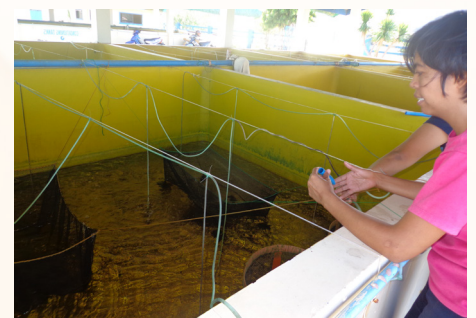
In their study, Paraggua and co-author Nathaly Piñera, made use of 625 pieces abalone early juveniles, which they stocked in a net cage. The cage is suspended in a tank and provided with plastic plates where the juveniles can settle or attach themselves.

The stocks were fed daily with seaweed specifically *Gracilaria* spp. Growth and survival of stocks, as well as the water parameters, were regularly monitored.

After 75-days culture period, the researchers determined that culture of abalone early juveniles in tanks is feasible given sufficient feeds and optimum water quality. Survival and growth rate, including the feed conversion ratio are within acceptable levels. Lower survival rate corresponds to higher growth rate on the remaining stock, the researchers stated.

While Paraggua acknowledged that they need to conduct another run on their study in order to have a more definitive results, the BFAR R02 researcher also mentioned that the next logical step would be to conduct research on the artificial culture of abalone up to marketable size.

"We plan to conduct research on



Ms. Felicita Paraggua shows the experimental set up.

its grow-out in the wild. If successful then the technology can be packaged and promoted to interested farmers or entrepreneurs," Paraggua said.

Apart from aquaculture, abalone hatchlings can also be used to seed known abalone habitats including marine protected areas. In such a way, population of abalone in the wild, can be increased and the threats to the species such as over-harvesting, predation, and loss of habitat can be alleviated. 📷 Maximino Prudencio.



# Cleaning our Oceans, Saving our Future

by : Donald B. Aguinaldo

**If we were to lose our fish that we appreciate so much by overfishing; or if we were to lose some of our favorite beaches to overbuilding and pollution, then how would we feel?**

Participants during the simultaneous coastal cleanup and "Scubasurero" in three coastal towns in Cagayan certainly knew the answer to the question. And it was rather more empowering than fearing.

The status quo is that: the fisheries resources are in continuous decline and that the environment is under threat. The fears may have consumed some of us to the extent of apathy. But still a many have chosen to be empowered to change the status quo. They are the men and women, the young and the older members of the community predicated by the ultimate love of the ocean and the vibrant life that teems within it. There is a standing principle which holds that interdependence is a key to a well-functioning environment where each one needs to take and at the same give. This relationship of give and take links us into a web of life.

For the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Cagayan State University in Aparri, the local governments of Sta. Ana, Claveria, and Aparri, the various fisherfolk associations, and the communities who participated in the activities, the coastal cleanup and

"Scubasurero" were moments of giving back and saving what remains of our fisheries resources.

When we lose our fishes and the ocean – their home- it becomes a case of not knowing what we've got until it's gone.



# Caravan by the sea

by : Donald B. Aguinaldo



One of the very highlights of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month celebration in May this year was the Fisheries Technology Caravan in hard-to-reach fishing communities in Region 02. The Technology Caravan is an annual activity of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources where the agency brings its services to fisherfolk who might be unable to access these services because of their isolation from the mainland.



Among those places are the coastal towns of Maconacon, Divilacan, Palanan and Dinapigue found along the skirts of the Sierra Madre Mountain (the country's longest mountain range) in the east. Going up north, the Babuyan Group of Islands (comprised of Calayan, Camiguin, Dalupiri, Babuyan Island and the Fuga Island of the town of Aparri, Cagayan) is separated from the rest of the mainland Luzon by sea. These places are only accessible by plane or a boat ride.

BFAR reached these destinations through the DA-BFAR MCS Patrol Vessels manned by the Philippine Coast Guard personnel. The patrol vessels moved goods and staff in a courageous sail through the Pacific and the Babuyan before reaching these remote communities lying along the Pacific Ocean and the Babuyan Channel, some of the major and teeming fishing grounds in Region 02.

#### Wave of fishery projects

In the words of Maconacon Mayor Ma. Lycelle Kate D. Vicente, the Technology Caravan came like a "storm surge", overwhelming fisherfolk with various projects and trainings seen to promote their socio-economic condition.

Fisherfolk received various fishing gears and equipment such as gill nets, crab pots, multiple handline, hook and line and squid jigger. They also received post-harvest equipment like freezers, smokehouse and plastic sealer. Fishermen received life vests that they can use to ensure their safety in midsea.

Non-motorized bancas were also given to some fishermen. BFAR gave lying-in cages to certain local government units, too. The lying-in cage technology will help conserve the population of lobsters in the wild which thrive abundantly in the Pacific. The technology works by allowing gravid lobsters to lay their eggs while they are inside the cage. After the lobsters have shed their eggs, fishermen can gather them and sell.

Further, fish aggregating devices called payao were set a few kilometers from the shore of municipal waters of the coastal towns so that fishermen won't have to go farther to the sea. By going farther that means more money spent for fuel and more perilous situation to fishermen. Payao attracts fishes which mean less effort for the fishermen.

#### More than the goods

Empowered fisherfolk is one goal of BFAR. As much as possible, it does not want the fisherfolk to rely on dole-out.

To complement the goods, BFAR sent its technical staff to administer trainings on the various fishery technologies like Fishing Design and Construction and Fishing Methods, Value-Adding of Fish and Proper Fish Handling, Fishpond Management, Fishing Boat Construction and Lying-in Cage Production.

For Regional Director Dr. Jovita P. Ayson, who was with the team during the Caravan, trainings are sustainable. She said, "Trainings teach fisherfolk to fish. The knowledge and skills that they accumulate from the trainings can be used in their everyday lives and the learning are lasting."

For instance, the value-adding of fish can add extra income to the fisherfolk and their family and proper fish handling can ensure quality of fish.

#### New programs

Even to the most remote fishing communities, BFAR adheres to the principle that every fisherfolk should be informed and part of the agency's projects and programs.

BFAR introduced its new programs like the Boat below 3 gross tons and Fishing Gear Registration (BoatR), TARGET or the Targeted Action to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation Program, and the establishment of a Community Fish Landing Center in Calayan Island under the TARGET Program.

Under the BoatR Program, boats that are below 3 gross tons and fishing gears should be registered. Like the Fisherfolk Registration Program, the data generated will be used to identify appropriate interventions for the fisherfolk. These programs go with the principle of Director Asis G. Perez' administration "what gets measured, gets managed".

The TARGET Program gives priority to the poorest of the poor fisherfolk. If there is anyone who should be more deserving of the services of BFAR, it should be the poorest fisherfolk so that development will be truly inclusive.

Regional Director Ayson is optimistic that with the establishment of the community fish landing site, fisheries post-harvest losses will be reduced to

improve the income of fisherfolk

In a national scope, losses in fisheries post-harvest are estimated at 25 percent. The CFLC project will aim to reduce the number to 18 percent.

BFAR also briefed the fisherfolk about the Republic Act 10654 that amended Republic Act 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. Fisherfolk were informed on the more stringent fines and penalties contained in the new law.

#### Fisheries conservation and protection

BFAR started deploying its newly-acquired 30-footer patrol boat and trained personnel to safeguard the waters in the coastal towns of Isabela from illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing (IUUF) and poaching.

Together with the personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard, BFAR law enforcers conducted series of joint seaborne-patrol operations in the Pacific and the Babuyan. The operation led to the apprehension of Taiwanese fishing vessels in the Babuyan and Balintang Channel up north.

Regional Director Ayson said that these efforts are ways of strengthening the fisheries conservation and protection goals of BFAR for the benefit of the fisherfolk.

Moreover, the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMCs) in every town were strengthened so it can continue to function as a recommending body to the LGU on matters regarding the conservation, protection and management of the fishery resources.

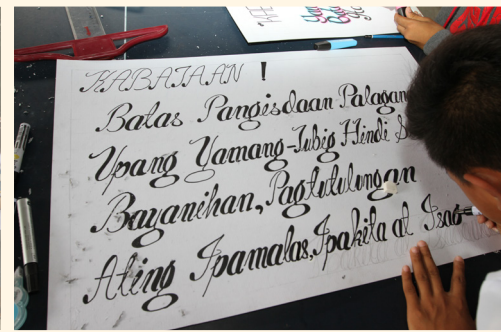
Dr. Ayson admires the resiliency, interest and dedication of the fisherfolk and the LGUs. More so, she marvels at their receptivity and support. "It inspires us more," she said.

In the end, Divilacan Mayor Florita Bulan made this enthusing remark that will make us serve the fisherfolk even more: "The true measure of success is positive change in the lives of our fisherfolk."

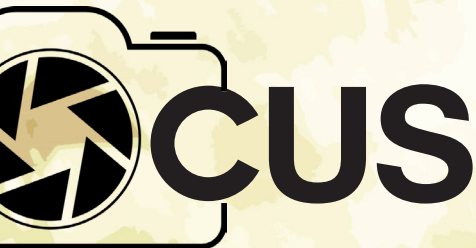


# LINGGO NG PANGISDAAN IN FOCUS

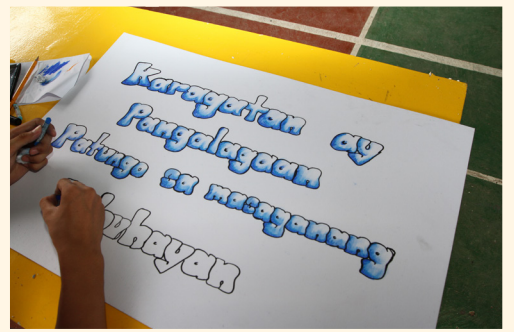
"Pinatag na Batas Pangisdaan, Hakbang sa Pagkamit ng mas Masaganang Karagatan"



# NG PANGISDAAN



“a Batas Pangisdaan,  
ng mas Masaganang Karagatan”



## Carp Kare-Kare with Tofu

### Ingredients:

- 1 ¾ kls Fish
- ¼ kl String beans
- 1 pc small Banana Blossom
- 2 Slices Squash
- 1 Bundle Pechay
- 500 grams Peanut Butter
- 60 grams Kare-Kare Powder
- ¼ Grams Fish Tofu
- 1 Clove Garlic
- 1 pc Onion
- ¼ grams Bagoong Alamang
- 1 cup Cooking oil
- Salt and Pepper



### Procedure:

1. Wash and clean the fish and season.
2. Pan fry the fish, then set aside.
3. Wash and clean the vegetables.
4. Sauté the garlic and onion, put squash and mash, put the Kare-Kare mix, season and sauté the bagoong alamang.
5. Garnish the dish with bougainvillea flower.



### Breading procedure:

- Flour
- Egg wash
- Bread crumb

### Procedure:

1. Fillet and flake the fish until it is well shredded.
2. Combine with potato, egg, mix well.
3. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a little ground ginger.
4. Shape into rounds, slightly flattened cakes.
5. Pass the cake through the standard breading procedure.
6. Pan fry until golden brown.
7. Serve 4 cakes per portion. Accompany with sauce.

## Carp Cakes

### Ingredients:

- Carp fillet, cooked
- Mashed potato
- 1 whole egg
- Salt to taste
- White pepper to taste
- Ground ginger, pinched

### Sauce:

- Mayonnaise
- White onion, minced
- Parsley, finely chopped
- Salt to taste
- Lemon juice

## Carp Fillet with Chili and Coconut

### Ingredients:

- 4 carp fillet
- 4-5 tbsp. Lemon Juice
- 40 mL white Rum
- 2-3 tbsp. pepper
- 1 bunch spring onions
- 1 mango (cubes)
- 60 g butter
- 150 g fresh shrimps
- 150 mL coconut milk
- 1 tbsp. Ginger (Grated)
- 1 red Chilli
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 2 tbsp. Bell pepper

### Procedure:

1. Rinse and dry the carp. Sprinkle with the lemon and rum, season with the pepper. Allow to stand for 20-25 minutes.
2. Clean the spring onions and cut into strings. Peel and finely chop the garlic. Peel the mango, remove the seed and cut the flesh into cubes.
3. Heat the butter in a wok and gently sauté the carp and shrimps in it. Add the spring onions, bell pepper, garlic ginger and mango. Stir fry everything together for about 4 minutes.
4. Pour the coconut milk in the wok and add the chillies. Braise everything for 2-3 minutes over a mild heat. Arrange on plates and serve. A green rice mixture goes well with the dish.



**Philippine Fisheries Code... from p24**

The prohibitions under RA 10654 and respective penalties can be seen in the table below:

PROHIBITIONS	PENALTY	
	JUDICIAL	ADMINISTRATIVE
Sec. 86 Unauthorized fishing (Capture fisheries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● 6 months imprisonment</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 50K to P 100K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 150K to P 500K for medium scale</li> <li>● P 1M to P 5M for large scale</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear</li> </ul>
Sec. 87 Unauthorized fisheries activities (aquaculture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● 6 months imprisonment</li> <li>● Rehab of area affected</li> <li>● Confiscation of stocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 500K to P 1M</li> <li>● Dismantling of structure</li> <li>● Rehab of area affected</li> <li>● Confiscation of stocks</li> </ul>
Sec. 88 Failure to secure fishing permit prior to engaging in distant water fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● 6 months imprisonment</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 2M to P 9M for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 10M to P 15M for medium scale</li> <li>● P 16M to P 20M for large scale</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear</li> </ul>
Sec. 89 Unreported fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 months imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 5K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 100K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 200K for medium scale</li> <li>● P 500K for large scale</li> <li>● If committed beyond national jurisdiction:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 2M to P 9M for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 10M to P 15M for medium scale</li> <li>● P 16M to P 20M for large scale</li> <li>● P 25M to P 45M for CFVs 750GT and more</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Sec. 90 Unregulated fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The same as Sec. 89</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear</li> <li>● The same as Sec. 89</li> </ul>
Sec. 91 Poaching in Phil. waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● USD 1.2M</li> </ul> <p>If caught in internal waters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Additional penalty of imprisonment 6 mos. &amp; 1 day to 2 yrs. &amp; 2 mos.</li> </ul> <p>If repeat offender &amp; caught in internal waters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 years imprisonment</li> <li>● USD 2.4M</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● USD 600K to USD 1M</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch, fishing equipment and fishing vessel</li> </ul>
Sec. 92. Fishing thru explosives, noxious or poisonous substance or electricity	<p>Blast fishing or fishing w/ poison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch, gear, explosives and poisonous substance</li> <li>● 5 to 10 yrs. Imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> </ul> <p>Possession of explosives and poisonous substance for illegal fishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch, gear</li> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● 6 mos. to 2 yrs. Imprisonment</li> </ul> <p>Electrofishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. &amp; a fine of P 5K</li> </ul>	<p>Blast fishing or fishing w/ poison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch, gear, explosives and poisonous substance</li> <li>● P 30K for municipal fishing</li> <li>● P 300K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 1.5M for medium scale</li> <li>● P 3M for large scale</li> </ul> <p>Possession of explosives and poisonous substance for illegal fishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch, gear</li> <li>● P 10K for municipal fishing</li> <li>● P 100K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 500K for medium scale</li> <li>● P 1M for large scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 93 Use of Fine Mesh Net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. to 2 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and fishing gear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch and fishing gear</li> <li>● P 20K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 50K for small-scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 100K for medium scale</li> <li>● P 200K for large scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 94 Fishing in overexploited Fishery Management Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. &amp; 1 day to 6 yrs. Imprisonment</li> <li>● P 500K to P 5M</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and fishing equipment</li> <li>● Cancellation of fishing permit or license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch and fishing gear</li> <li>● P 20K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 100K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 300K for medium-scale</li> <li>● P 500K for large scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 95 Use of Active Gear in Municipal waters, bays and FMAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 to 6 yrs. Imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● Confiscation &amp; forfeiture of catch &amp; fishing gears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; fishing gears</li> <li>● P 20K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 50K for small-scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 100K for medium scale</li> <li>● P 500K for large scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 96 Ban on Coral Exploitation and Exportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10 to 20 yrs. Imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the amount under Administrative case</li> <li>● Forfeiture of subject corals</li> <li>● Pay compensation for the restoration of damaged corals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 500K to P 10M</li> <li>● Forfeiture of subject corals</li> <li>● Pay compensation for the restoration of damaged corals</li> </ul>

PROHIBITIONS	PENALTY	
	JUDICIAL	ADMINISTRATIVE
Sec. 97 Ban on Muro-ami, Other Methods & Gear Destructive to Coral Reefs and Other Marine Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 to 10 yrs. Imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the amount of the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 2M</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; gear</li> <li>● P 20K or community service for the fish workers</li> </ul>
Sec. 97 b) Ban on the Gathering, Possession, Commercial Transport, Selling or Export of Coral Sand, Coral Fragments, Coral Rocks, Silica and other substances w/c make up any marine habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 to 10 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the amount of the administrative fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch or substance &amp; equipment used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 5M and confiscation of the substance</li> </ul>
Sec. 98 Illegal Use of Superlights or Fishing Light Attractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. to 2 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● P 40K per superlight</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch, superlight &amp; gears</li> <li>● Community service for municipal fisherfolk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 20K per superlight</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch, superlight &amp; gears</li> <li>● Community service for municipal fisherfolk</li> </ul>
Sec. 99 Conversion of Mangroves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 80K base fine</li> <li>● Fine equivalent to administrative penalty</li> <li>● Payment for the restoration of damaged area</li> <li>● P 500K per ha/yr until area is restored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 10M per hectare of mangrove</li> <li>● Payment for the restoration of damaged area</li> </ul>
Sec. 100 Fishing during Closed Season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. &amp; 1 day to 6 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; gear</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Cancellation of license or permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; gear</li> <li>● P 20K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 100K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 300K for medium scale</li> <li>● P 500K for large scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 101 Fishing in MPA, fishery reserves and sanctuaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 to 6 yrs. Imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; gear</li> <li>● Cancellation of license or permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; gear</li> <li>● P 20K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 200K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 600K for medium scale</li> <li>● P 1M for large-scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 102 Fishing or taking rare, threatened and endangered species A) as listed in CITES I & IUCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 12 yrs. &amp; 1 day to 20 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 500K to P 5M</li> <li>● Forfeiture of the species</li> </ul>
Sec. 102 B) species as listed in CITES II & III (subject to scientific assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 to 8 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 300K to P 3M</li> <li>● Forfeiture of the species</li> </ul>
C) ..Captive-bred species transplanted to the wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 to 8 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 300K to P 3M</li> <li>● Forfeiture of the species</li> </ul>
Sec. 103 Capture of Sabalo & other Breeders/Spawners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. &amp; 1 day to 8 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Forfeiture of catch &amp; gear</li> <li>● Revocation or suspension of license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 500K</li> <li>● Forfeiture of catch &amp; gear</li> </ul>
Sec. 104 Exportation of Breeders (wild), Spawners, Eggs or Fry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8 to 10 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry</li> <li>● Suspension or revocation of fishing license</li> <li>● Suspension or revocation of registration as exporter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 100K to P 500K</li> <li>● Confiscation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry</li> <li>● Suspension or revocation of fishing license</li> <li>● Suspension or revocation of registration as exporter</li> </ul>
Sec. 105 Importation or exportation of fish or fishery species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Forfeiture / destruction of the species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 300K to P 500K</li> <li>● Forfeiture / destruction of the species</li> </ul>
Sec. 106 Violation of Harvest Control Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. &amp; 1 day to 6 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear, revocation of license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch and gear, revocation of license</li> <li>● P 20K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 100K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 1M for medium scale</li> <li>● P 5M for large scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 107 Aquatic Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. &amp; 1 day to 12 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● P 15K/day until violation ceases and fines are paid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 300K to P 500K</li> <li>● P 15K/day until violation ceases and fines are paid</li> <li>● Cease and desist order, suspension of development / cessation of operations</li> </ul>
Sec. 108 Failure to comply with minimum safety standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 mo. &amp; 1 day to 6 mos. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Suspension / cancellation of permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 100K, suspension / cancellation of permit</li> </ul>
Sec. 109 Failure to submit a yearly report on all fishponds, fish pens and fish cages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 5K/unreported hectare</li> <li>● If FLA – cancellation of FLA</li> </ul>
Sec. 110 Gathering & Marketing of Shell Fishes or Other Aquatic Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 mo. &amp; 1 day to 6 mos. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 50K, confiscation, cancellation of permit or license</li> </ul>

PROHIBITIONS	PENALTY	
	JUDICIAL	ADMINISTRATIVE
Sec. 111 Obstruction to Navigation or Flow or Ebb of Tide in any Stream, River, Lake or Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 mo. &amp; 1 day to 6 mos. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 200K, dismantling of the obstruction</li> </ul>
Sec. 112 Noncompliance with Good Aquaculture Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 10K to P 100K per day until violation ceases and fines are paid</li> </ul>
Sec. 113 CFV Operators Employing Unlicensed Fisherfolk, Fishworker or Crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● b) Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Suspension or cancellation of license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 4K for each unlicensed fisherfolk</li> <li>● Suspension or revocation of license for commercial fishing</li> <li>● b) For Phil. Flagged vessels in distant water fishing</li> <li>● P 40K for each unlicensed fisherfolk</li> </ul>
Sec. 114 Obstruction of Defined Migration Paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7 to 12 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Suspension / revocation of permit or license</li> <li>● Dismantling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 150K to P 500K</li> <li>● Suspension / revocation of permit or license</li> <li>● Dismantling</li> </ul>
Sec. 115 Obstruction to Fishery Law Enforcement Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. to 2 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Cancellation of license or permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cancellation of license or permit</li> <li>● P 1M for FVs in Phil. waters, P 2M for FVs operating beyond Phil. waters</li> </ul>
Sec. 116 Noncompliance with Fisheries Observer Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 mo. &amp; 1 day to 6 mos. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch, suspension or cancellation of license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 500K, forfeiture of catch and gear</li> </ul>
Sec. 117 Noncompliance with Port State Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Denial of permission to enter port</li> </ul>	
Sec. 118 Failure to Comply with Rules and Regulations on Conservation and Management Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the administrative fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; cancellation of license or permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch &amp; cancellation of license or permit</li> <li>● P 20K or community service for municipal fishing</li> <li>● P 1M for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 2.5M for medium scale</li> <li>● P 5M for large scale</li> </ul>
Sec. 119 Noncompliance with Vessel Monitoring Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. to 2 yrs. imprisonment for the master</li> <li>● Twice the admin fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch or revocation of license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Twice the value of catch or the amount below, whichever is higher:</li> <li>● P 10K for municipal fishing or community service</li> <li>● P 250K for small-scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 500K for medium scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 2.5M for large scale commercial fishing</li> </ul>
Sec. 120 Constructing, Importing or Converting Fishing Vessels or Gears without Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 mo. &amp; 1 day to 6 mos. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the admin fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 50K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 500K for medium scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 2.5M for large scale commercial fishing</li> </ul>
Sec. 121 Use of Unlicensed Gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 400K to P 1M</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 200K to P 500K per gear</li> </ul>
Sec. 122 Falsifying, Concealing or Tampering with Vessel Markings, Identity or Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 to 6 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the admin fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of catch, suspension or cancellation of license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confiscation of catch, suspension or cancellation of license</li> <li>● P 10K or community service for municipal fishing</li> <li>● P 100K for small-scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 1M for medium-scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 5M for large scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● Twice the amount indicated for distant water fishing</li> </ul>
Sec. 123 Concealing Tampering or Disposing of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 to 10 years imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the admin fine</li> <li>● Suspension or cancellation of license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Suspension or cancellation of license</li> <li>● P 10K or community service for municipal fishing</li> <li>● P 100K for small scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 1M for medium-scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● P 5M for large scale commercial fishing</li> <li>● Twice the amount indicated for distant water fishing</li> </ul>
Sec. 124 Noncompliance with the requirements for the Introduction of Foreign / Exotic Aquatic Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 yrs. to 12 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the admin fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of foreign or exotic species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 200K to P 6M</li> <li>● Confiscation and destruction of foreign or exotic species</li> </ul>
Sec. 125 Failure to Comply with Standards and Trade Related Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. to 2 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● Twice the admin fine</li> <li>● Confiscation of the shipment</li> <li>● Suspension or revocation of registration or license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 50K to P 2M</li> <li>● Confiscation of the shipment</li> <li>● Suspension or revocation of registration or license</li> </ul>
Sec. 126 Possessing, Dealing in or Disposing Illegally Caught fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. to 2 yrs. imprisonment</li> <li>● P 100K to P 500K or eight times the value of fish</li> <li>● Confiscation of fish, and suspension or revocation of license or registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● P 50K to P 200K or five times the value of fish</li> <li>● Confiscation</li> </ul>
Sec. 127 Unauthorized Disclosure of Sensitive Technical Information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 mos. &amp; 1 day to 6 yrs. imprisonment, removal from office, forfeiture of retirement benefits</li> </ul>

# Philippine Fisheries Code amendment

## New PROHIBITIONS and other PROVISIONS

# under **RA 10654**



Fishery law violators beware. Stricter penalties await with the amendment of RA 8550. The revisions are embodied in RA 10654 entitled 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.'

Passed into law last Feb. 27, 2015, RA 10654 was crafted as legal basis for the country's compliance to the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF) as adopted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. As such, the new law forms part of the country's compliance to export regulations and international standards with regards to fishing and fishery products.

### Salient features

- i) Introduces the concept of IUU fishing.
- ii) The new law includes under its applicability, all Philippine-flagged

fishing vessels operating in areas governed by a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO), in the high seas, or in waters of other coastal states.

iii) The bureau was given a set of new roles and responsibilities. Most prominent among which include its power to hear and decide administrative cases before it, determine appropriate level of administrative sanction, and initiate the prosecution of criminal offenses (Sec. 16 x,y,z).

Said authority is related to the new Chapter VII on Administrative Adjudication. Under this chapter, the Department of Agriculture (thru BFAR as line agency under it), is empowered to impose the administrative fines and penalties provided under the Code. An Adjudication Committee will be created to implement this task.

Under Chapter VII, the Department is given power to issue cease and desist orders and to summarily evict without necessity of judicial order. The BFAR is also given authority to issue notice of violation and order confiscation.

Further under same chapter, the agency is also shielded against the issuance of temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction and preliminary mandatory injunctions.

iv) The concept of community service as well as citizens suits, are also introduced under Chapter VII.

v) RA 10654 also provides protection against any legal action filed to harass, vex, exert undue pressure to any legal recourse that any person, institution, or the government has taken or may take in the enforcement of the Code. Said actions will be treated as a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP).

vi) The escalation clause (Sec. 129) provides for the automatic increase in fines by at least 10% every three years to compensate for inflation and to maintain deterrent function of such fines.

It is hoped that this write-up can help educate the masses in order to deter future violators.