

Claveria garners 3rd place in MMK



President Rodrigo Duterte with Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol and Underseretary for Fisheries/Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Commodore Eduardo B. Gongona PCG (Ret.) bestows the Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan award to Local Government Officials led by Honorable Mayor Celia T. Layus, MD, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Corazon Estorquia and Municipal Agriculturist Ms. Marilyn Dalire in this photo taken April 5, 2018 in Rizal Hall of Malacañan Palace.

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TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The municipality of Claveria, this province, bagged third place in the recently concluded Search for Outstanding Coastal Community.

The Search, also known as Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK), was topped by Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental followed by Palompon, Leyte. The trio bested 16 other regional winners in the entire country. Prize payout were 30 million pesos, Php 20M, and Php 10M, all in the form of projects.

The prize garnered by Claveria, is in addition to the 2 million pesos it bagged for being the regional awardee. As of this time, Claveria MA Marilyn Dalire said that they will propose the procurement of patrol boat, FADs, fishing bancas and gears, and fish processing alongside conduct of livelihood and capability-building trainings, and mangrove rehabilitation.

Against illegal fishing

In garnering the award, Claveria banked on its firm stance against illegal fishing. The town is one among the coastal towns which have a Basic Municipal Fisheries Ordinance, dating back to the year 2000.

The MFO includes, among others, provision for the classification of municipal waters and foreshore areas including therein provision for the declaration of Municipal Sanctuaries, establishment of Closed Fishing Season, protection of corals, ban on catching juvenile fisheries resources, grant of fishing privileges, fishery licenses and permits, regulations on aquaculture, creation of Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council and prohibitions and penalties.

In support to the implementation of the MFO, the municipality has its

Two huge fish traps dismantled in Quirino

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Government authorities have recently dismantled two huge illegal fish traps set along Addalam River in Aglipay town in Quirino.

According to a report from Florence Mangoba, OIC – Provincial Agriculturist, the fish traps were discovered by her office's fishery regulation officers led by Edgardo Apongol, together with local police and barangay officials during their foot patrol along the area.

Additionally, the fish traps were the subject of complaints during the Deputy Fish Warden training and information campaign on RA 10654, conducted in the province by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Region 02.

The fish traps, locally known as 'asar' were discovered in Brgy. Pinaripad Sur. The traps, the report said, were managed by two groups led by certain Ruben Villanueva and Alfredo Navarro.

Dismantling came after a series of dialogues in the locality, the report said. The dialogues were attended by local and provincial officials and personnel from BFAR regional and



provincial offices.

The traps had wood for its frame and posts and bamboo slats set closely with each other serving as sort of net. The traps had two huge wings that encompassed almost the entire width of the river and were set against the downstream flow, thereby enabling it to trap almost all types and sizes of fish.

This manner of fishing is prohibited under RA 10654 otherwise known as the amended Philippine Fisheries Code. Specifically, the act is prohibited under Sec 87 (Engaging in Unauthorized Fisheries Activities), Sec. 111 (Obstruction to Navigation or Flow or Ebb of Tide in any Stream,

River, Lake or Bay) and possibly Sec. 114 (Obstruction to Defined Migration Path).

The perpetrators, however, were no longer charged, as the fish traps were already dismantled.

"We commend the move of the provincial and municipal government in taking action to eliminate illegal fishing practices in their area, as we all know, enforcement of fishery laws in municipal waters is within their jurisdiction. We at BFAR will continuously conduct monitoring activities and stand ready to assist LGU counterparts, if needed," BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales said. ☒ Maximino Prudencio.



Illegal Fish Traps - Tumugon ang BFAR RO2 FPLEG sa hiling ng LGU Camalaniugan na tanggalin ang mga tanggar o fish trap mula sa nasasakupang municipal waters ng naturang bayan sa Cagayan River.

Kasama ang PNP Camalaniugan, natanggal ang dalawang tanggar, pati na ang iba pang floaters at anchors, noong June 7, 2018.

Nauna na dito ang boluntaryong pagtanggap ng iba pang mga tanggar.

Ang paggamit ng tanggar ay maaring paglabag sa Sec. 86 Unauthorized Fishing, Sec. 93 Use of Fine Mesh Net, at Sec. 111 Obstruction to Navigation ng RA 10654.

CPCe and FVC training to boost monitoring of MPAs in CV



TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Twelve scuba divers from the fisheries bureau here have completed a 4-day intensive training aimed to boost their skills and capabilities in conducting underwater resource assessment.

The training entitled “Coral Point Count with Excel Extension (CPCe) and Fish Visual Census Assessment and Analysis” specifically provided the divers with updated and more accurate tool in conducting coral survey and refreshed their knowledge on fish identification and census. Said skills and knowledge are necessary in the regular monitoring and assessment of marine protected areas (MPAs), fish sanctuaries and other underwater areas in Region 02.

The training was also participated by divers from PENRO Isabela, PLGU Cagayan and LGU Gonzaga.

Dr. Emma L. Ballard, head of the Fisheries Resource Management Section of BFAR RO2 said that the CPCe would increase the accuracy and efficiency of coral reef monitoring efforts since it uses transect photographs with spatially random points under a computer program. Previous method, Ballard said, relies on visual acuity and memory of a diver.

“All the diver has to do this time is to take a picture of the coral reef then upload this to a computer. The software includes image calibration of the photo which facilitates the identification of benthic features. The software has the ability to generate Excel sheets with

summarized statistical analysis,” Ballard said.

New capabilities acquired in the training, along with a high resolution camera, would enable the Bureau and other concerned offices to conduct a more speedy assessment of the region’s MPAs, Ballard added.

The training, conducted by resource speakers from BFAR RO2, DENR and an NGO, was held last March 6 to 9, 2018 in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

For 2017, the Bureau thru its Fisheries Resource Management Section, has assessed 10 MPA sites in Region 02. These are located in Taggat Norte in Claveria; Casitan, Tapel, and Matara in Gonzaga; and Palaui in Sta. Ana, all in Cagayan. In Isabela province, the MPAs monitored are in MInanga, Aplaya, Diana and Malasin in Maconacon and Bicobian in Divilacan.

All monitored MPAs were in Good and Fair condition, except in Tapel, which was assessed to be in Poor condition.

BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales said that the monitoring of MPAs and fish sanctuaries, and establishment of new ones, are among the top priorities of the Bureau. “We all know that these protected areas are essential for the recovery and sustainability of our fisheries and aquatic resources,” RD Morales, said. ☒ Maximino Prudencio.

Iniabot ng BFAR RO2 sa DENR PAWB ang isang Giant Soft Shell Turtle (weighing 10 kg), na aksidenteng nahuli ng mga mangingisda sa Cagayan River sa Maddarulug, Solana, bandang alas tres kaninang madaling araw.

Ang mga mangingisda ay mula Iguig, Cagayan. Nagpapasalamat ang BFAR kay Mayor Ferdinand Trinidad na nagkumbinsi sa mangingisda na i-surrender ang pagong at nagbigay sakay para maidala ang naturang pagong sa istasyon ng BFAR sa APC, Iguig.

Ang Soft Shell Turtle ay protektado sa ilalim ng RA 9147 Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Nagpapasalamat ang BFAR sa mga mangingisda, LGU Iguig at DENR PAWB sa pangyayaring ito.





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EDITORIAL

MMK as key to alleviate poverty and increase fish supply

"MALINIS AT MASAGANANG
KARAGATAN"



One flagship project of the PDU30 administration under the fisheries sector is the Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) Search for Outstanding Coastal Community.

The Search aims to promote fisheries protection and conservation. It centers on the significance of sustainably managing fisheries and aquatic resources and promotes stakeholder engagement to the cause of resource protection and conservation.

The Search has five criteria, as follows:

- i. no illegal fishing
- ii. observance of off-fishing season
- iii. declared Marine Protected Areas or Fish Sanctuaries
- iv. clean coastal waters without any garbage or industrial effluents flowing to the sea &
- v. effective mangrove protection and rehabilitation

The aims of the Search, along said criteria, cannot be understated. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority indicate that fisheries production is on a downward trend since 2013. This decline is due to reduction in production in all subsectors.

More than the reduction in food

supply, the brunt of the decline in fish catch is borne by marginalized fishermen. The Poverty Incidence for Basic Sectors indicate that fishermen have the highest poverty incidence among all sectors, at 39.2 in 2012 (PSA – NSCB). Already considered as poorest of the poor, this decline will mean lesser catch and thus lesser income for our fishermen.

In Region 02, there are about 70,000 individuals who depend on fisheries resources for livelihood. On one hand, Philippine waters, at 220 million hectares, are seven times bigger than its land area.

The above criteria, are all designed to bring back the abundance of fish and rehabilitate marine, coastal and inland waters.

Claveria, as Top 3 in the 2017 edition, is a step in the right direction. But, we need more winners in order to really make an impact on the entire fisheries sector in Region 02. On the other hand, we realize that fulfilling the criteria can be a daunting task, especially if done by LGUs alone.

A convergence approach, among all concerned agencies, can greatly aid the LGUs in accomplishing the said criteria. With this, winning the prize of Php 10 to 30 million in the national level, would just be an icing on the cake.



BFAR 2 distributes a thousand fishing boats



Fisherfolk inspect their fishing boats awarded by BFAR RO2, Baguio Pt., Peñablanca, Cagayan.

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries bureau here has distributed a total of 964 fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) fishing boats in various areas of Region 02, including isolated coastal and island areas, from January to date.

The bureau has distributed 648 units in Cagayan, 172 in Isabela, 100 in Quirino, 39 in Batanes and 5 in Nueva Vizcaya. Beneficiaries from Cagayan and Isabela include Dumagat tribes from remote coastal areas.

The distribution of FRP fishing boats is part of the F/B Pagbabago program of the agency which aims to

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deputy fish wardens, assisted by the Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Resource sustainability

To ensure resource sustainability, the municipality imposes closed season on the catching of Goby fry locally known as Ipon, and imposed regulations on the catching of barnacles and shrimps. The municipality has also in place, regulation on the operation of fish aggregating devices (payao).

The Basic Municipal Fisheries Ordinance provided for the establishment of the Taggat Norte Marine Protected Area. It has a total area of 903.08 ha with Fish Sanctuary of 21.49 hectares.

Tourism area

Locally, the municipality is considered as a major tourism area with its pristine beaches and rivers, the natural landmarks (Lakay-lakay), bird

replace old municipal fishing boats and provide source of livelihood to coastal fisherfolk.

As per guidelines, each fishing boat awarded has 3 beneficiaries. Its use will then depend on the agreement among the beneficiaries.

The boats are awarded either with or without engine, but usually come with the necessary fishing gears.

Unlike traditional wooden boats, the FRP boats do not capsize even if overturned, due to built-in safety features. "The boats have vacuum boxes distributed within its hull, to aid

watching area and lush forests. Newly built is a coastal road linking the fish port to the tourism inns, hostels and the town center. To support the thriving tourism industry, the municipality has in place a strong waste management mechanism. This is embodied in its Ten Year Ecological Solid Waste Management Plan 2016-2025.

Apart from the ESWM plan, the municipality has relevant legislations in place such as anti-littering law and 'no segregation, no collection' policy. Materials Recovery Facilities are present in each barangay alongside a central waste processing facility.

Sanitation survey reveal that 98% of households have sanitary toilets. Settlements without such facility are provided for by the LGU.

The municipality together with the DENR conducts regular tree planting activities in the upland areas. For the period 2015 to 2016, 144,000 seedlings

in buoyancy and to keep it afloat, even if overturned," Rodel Pasaraba, F/B Pagbabago focal person in Region 02, said.

The use of fiberglass-reinforced plastic result in a product that is sturdy, safe, long-lasting and cost-effective compared to wooden boats. FRP boats last longer, are not susceptible to rotting & abrasion, and have lower maintenance cost. Fabrication is also much faster, as the materials can be easily procured.

"F/B Pagbabago is meant as a lifeline particularly for marginalized fisherfolk who have no means to replace their old wooden boats or to fisherfolk who have no means to purchase one," BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, said.

RD Morales added that the BFAR shall continue to carry-out its mandate along other areas such as fishery law enforcement and conservation and protection, to ensure sustainability of resources. This amid the perceived rise in fishing effort as brought about by the distribution of new fishing boats.

✉ Maximino Prudencio.

composed of coffee, tamarind, narra, bignay, mahogany, agoo and others were planted. This doubles as source of livelihood for the residents.

The MMK, a program led by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, aims to promote fisheries protection and conservation. It centers on the significance of sustainably managing fisheries and aquatic resources, and promotes stakeholder engagement to the cause of resource protection and conservation.

Awarding was held last April 5, 2018 in Malacañang Palace, Manila.

"Our big congratulations to Claveria being in the top three. In opening the search to our coastal municipalities, we hope to institutionalize the aims and advocacies of MMK. In doing so, we can ensure sustainability of our fisheries and aquatic resources," BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, said. ✉ Maximino Prudencio.

BuB hatcheries to boost aquaculture in Cagayan



TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Two new fish hatcheries have started operation and are set to provide a major boost to the aquaculture industry in this province.

One of the hatcheries, located in Abulug town, has produced two hundred thousand fingerlings since its start of operation last year. Municipal Agriculturist Bernard Ojano said that these were distributed to fish farmers from the different barangays of their town.

“Having our own hatchery is good since the fish farmers can have a ready source of fingerlings,” Ojano said. Unlike before, Ojano said, gap between each production cycle is quite far since

the fish farmers depend mostly on dispersal from BFAR for their stock.

The hatchery in Abulug employs tank-based method. The facility has four tanks measuring 80 square meters each. Fund for its construction, amounting 2.4 million pesos, came from the now defunct Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) Program.

Along with technical assistance from BFAR to improve its operation, Ojano said that it would be best if they can source out another fund for the expansion of the hatchery.

In Sta. Teresita, another BuB-funded hatchery is set to open in the coming weeks. Agricultural

Technologist Artemio Unipa said that they have scheduled the selection of breeders in the coming days, after which, actual breeding will commence.

The town’s hatchery, worth P 0.8 million, was awarded to the Simbaluca Fisherfolk Association.

Both towns, being coastal in nature, have extensive brackishwater areas fit for fish culture. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Region 02, continues to unlock this potential by conducting techno-demo projects, both for fishpond and fish cage technologies.

“As of this time, there is huge potential for a fish hatchery business, since bulk of the fingerling requirement in Cagayan, still comes from other provinces,” BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, said.

Both hatcheries, aside from augmenting the fingerling supply in the province, can enhance technical capabilities at the local level and at the same time serve as show window for potential investors, RD Morales, added. ☒ Maximino Prudencio.

BFAR 2 completes GAqP Training

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries bureau here has completed the conduct of training on the Code of Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP) in four provinces of Region 02.

The GAqP training is necessary to prevent or minimize risks associated with aquaculture production. It was attended by fish farmers and agriculture technicians from different municipalities.

The GAqP Code outlines necessary measures that must be adopted, from pre-operation aspects such as siting and design, facilities and sanitation, water use, and farm management. Actual operation aspects include feeds and feeding, mortalities, disease, drugs and chemical use, harvesting and transport.

The Code also includes related aspects such as biodiversity, animal

welfare, labor and community.

Apart from the guidelines that must be followed in each aspect, the GAqP Code also details compliance requirements to serve as evidence that the guidelines are strictly followed.

Dr. Milagros C. Morales, regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 02 said that the training is part of the country’s commitment to the ASEAN Roadmap for ASEAN Community 2009 – 2015.

The training, RD Morales said, is designed to enhance intra and extra ASEAN trade and long term competitiveness of ASEAN food, agriculture and forestry products.

RD Morales said that the training is just a preparatory measure since aquaculture production in Region 02 caters solely to the local market, at present. Nonetheless, the regional

director said that the knowledge gained can be used by the operators to improve their farm operations. Further, this will redound to the benefit of consumers in the form of safer foods.

The training was conducted by personnel from the Training Division, Fisheries Production Division, Fish Health Laboratory and Provincial Fishery Offices of the agency.

Apart from the GAqP Code, RD Morales said that agency also implements other measures to ensure food safety specially in aquaculture such as antibiotic residue monitoring, conduct of trainings on aquaculture and fish health, fish disease monitoring, and fish handling trainings.

In related development, the Bureau is also pursuing the registration of all aquaculture farms pursuant to Sec. 87 of RA 10654. To be registered under the BFAR are all aquafarms regardless of size. ☒ Maximino Prudencio.

BuB spawns fish processing start-ups in Isabela

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Apart from having a steady source of additional income, members of the Rural Improvement Club in Mabini, Gamu, Isabela are glad that they have some form of activity to strengthen the bond among themselves.

The RIC is recipient of a fish processing project from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Region 02. Fund for the project came from the now-defunct Bottom-up Budgeting Program (BuB).

Operational since June 2016, the group processes a minimum of 50 kilograms fish per session, with one or two session per week.

“After initial assessment, the BFAR conducted a fish processing training for us. After which they left the smokehouse and drying trays. Additional equipment such as the freezer and vacuum packer were awarded later”, Helen Laberinto, head of the RIC, happily relates.

The group mainly processes smoked fish and sells mostly within their barangay and to the municipal hall and provincial capitol. Not to be left out in today’s tech-driven world, the group is savvy as they employ SMS and social media to advertise their product and connect with their customers.

With the use of the vacuum packer, Laberinto says that their product does not easily spoil and flavor is maintained for a longer span of time.

The group has an income of one to two thousand pesos per session. Laberinto says that if not distributed to members, the income is allocated for the purchase of additional equipment. “We have also a number of outings financed by our income”, a beaming Laberinto says.

Already, Administrator Joycelyn Nadres said that the LGU has already completed the bidding process for the fish processing building to be awarded

to the group. Funding comes from the provincial and municipal government plus a counterpart from the group themselves, Agriculture Technician Marie Francilyn Tanjusay says.

In Cauayan City also in Isabela, RIC Minante head, Edna Cortez said that they are on the process of opening a more convenient outlet for their processed fish products. Like RIC Mabini, Cortez’ group is also a recipient of a fish processing project funded under the BuB.

BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales said that the agency continues to assist women groups particularly thru the provision of alternative livelihood. “Fish processing is an ideal livelihood for women and women groups considering current gender roles,” RD Morales said.

Launched in 2012, the BuB sought to achieve inclusive growth, reduce poverty and promote good governance.  Maximino Prudencio.

BFAR 2 to undertake more extensive efforts to conserve Ludong

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here has formulated last Jan. 30, a comprehensive plan to conserve Ludong, following the approval of a project proposal for the purpose.

The project amounting to 26 million pesos was supported by Sen. Loren Legarda and Rep. Rodolfo Albano III. The plan will build on the initial accomplishments made by the bureau under the Oplan Sagip Ludong project, since its launching in 2010.

According to Dr. Evelyn Ame, national focal person on Ludong, the project has three components, namely: Socio-cultural, Biological and Environmental Studies; Establishment of Breeding Facility and Breeding in Captivity; Sanctuary Establishment, Regulatory and Livelihood.

Under the first component, the bureau will conduct resource and socio economic profiling, and assessment

of fishing technologies along Ludong fishing communities; biophysical assessment of selected Ludong niches; larval survey of ludong; and taxonomic identification of Ludong and Ludong-like species.


Ame, also BFAR RO2 Training chief, said that the studies shall enable the Bureau to have a more comprehensive information needed for the conservation of the species, as well as enable the agency to implement resource mobilization and livelihood opportunities to increase income of fisherfolk along Ludong areas.

Under the second component, the Bureau will establish a Ludong facility in Claveria town, this province for the artificial breeding of Ludong. This sub-activity will complement related initiatives being done by the Isabela State University in Roxas, Isabela.

Under the last component, the Bureau will recommend to LGUs concerned the establishment of

Ludong Sanctuaries. The Bureau will also conduct fishery law enforcement training for river wardens. The wardens will be tasked to safeguard said sanctuaries and assist the agency in the enforcement of fishery regulations.

Ludong, also known as the President’s Fish (*Cestreaus sp.*) is a rare and indigenous fish that thrives in the headwaters of Cagayan River and some river systems in Ilocos Region. The fish is catadromous and makes its annual spawning run in time with the Ludong closed season from Oct.1 to Nov. 15 of each year. Known as the Philippines’ most expensive food fish, its price has reached almost P6,000.00 per kilo in recent years.

“With this funding, we are inching closer to our goal to close the life cycle of Ludong and thus ensure its sustainability. We trust our researchers, scientists and collaborators to make this happen,” Dr. Milagros C. Morales, BFAR RO2 regional director, said.  Maximino Prudencio.

Seaweed Harvest Day underscores need to ramp-up production



Hon. Mayor Lloyd Antiporda together with BFAR RO2 FPD Chief Dr. Severina Bueno and Cagayan PFO Mr. Venchito Villarao, SIAP Pres. Alfredo Pedrosa and other BFAR personalities graced the Gracilaria Harvest Field Day, May 29, 2018 at Calamegatan, Buguey, Cagayan.

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries bureau here, in collaboration with the municipal government of Buguey, Cagayan, recently held a Harvest Field Day highlighting a bountiful harvest of seaweed in the town's Barangay Calamegatan.

According to Judimar Taloza, President of the Calamegatan Fisherfolk Association, his group planted seaweeds (*Gracilaria sp*) last February and have started harvest last April. Harvest will run until August this year, Taloza said.

Taloza said that the harvested

seaweeds are usually dried and sold to a consolidator at 10 pesos per kilo. "This is great since seaweeds has been absent in our area for the past three years," Taloza said. Income from their harvest will be used for household expenses specially with the upcoming start of school year, the fisherfolk leader added.

Taloza's observation is confirmed by Dr. Severina Bueno, chief of the Fisheries Production Division of BFAR RO2. In her message, Dr. Bueno mentioned the sharp decline in seaweed production in Region 02. Decline is possibly due to changes in environmental parameters along

with the lack of policy governing the exploitation of said resource.

To arrest the decline, Bueno said that the BFAR RO2 has targeted the establishment and / or maintenance of seaweed nurseries and seaweed grow-out techno-demo projects. Bueno said that the Bureau needs to maintain its success in introducing Gracilaria culture in non-traditional sites particularly in Claveria, Sanchez Mira, Gonzaga and Sta. Teresita, all in this province.

Gracilaria is a source of agar, which is used in a number of food, non-food and industrial uses. Locally, the seaweed is sold fresh as food and is used also as ingredient in a number of seaweed-enhanced products like miki, canton, chips and pickles. Gracilaria is also used as feed for farmed fish particularly Siganids (aka malaga).

During the harvest day, held last May 29, 2018, the parties also agreed to provide banca (amphibian type) for harvesting, form cooperative among seaweed farmers and gatherers and fish cage operators, conduct training for proper handling, and provide other seaweed paraphernalia.

The harvest field day was attended by local and BFAR officials; Seaweed Action Officers from Regions 1, 3, 4a, 5, 6, and 8; local seaweed players and Mr. Alfredo Pedrosa, President of the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (SIAP).  Maximino Prudencio.

Tahong ID - Ginanap ang Seminar on Mussel Identification sa BFAR - RO2 ngayong araw. Lecturer si Dr. Michael A. Rice na Professor sa University of Rhode Island.

Nasabi ni Regional Director Milagros C. Morales ng BFAR - RO2 na mahalaga ang nasabing seminar upang mapalawak ang kaalaman patungkol sa mussel o tahong lalo na sa pananalasa ng black mussel sa ilang bahagi ng baybaying lugar sa kasalukuyan. Ang seminar ay dinaluhan ng iba't - ibang section / units ng ahensiya.



Study finds high fishing pressure on tuna in BC

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – A research conducted by the National Stock Assessment Program in Region 02 has determined that top two tuna species caught in Babuyan Channel are being exploited beyond sustainable level.

The study, entitled "Biology and Population Dynamics of Bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*) and Frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*) in Babuyan Channel, Philippines", was led by Dr. Melanie Calicdan and Dr. Angel Encarnacion, Assistant Project Leader and Project Leader of the NSAP in Region 02.

Conducted from April 2012 to April 2014 and published in Kuroshio Science Journal, the study specifically determined the sex ratio; GSI; length ranges; and population parameters such as growth, mortality, exploitation rate, recruitment pattern, probability of capture and VPA. The findings, according to the authors, is crucial for planning purposes and in crafting management measures to ensure sustainability of the resources.

The tuna species, locally known

as 'tulingan' or 'tangi', are considered as top economically important fish species in Region 2.

Although both species are fast growing having a growth value (K-value) close to 1, the study has determined that the exploitation rate on both species have exceeded sustainable level. Exploitation rate (E-value) was 0.6 for both and have exceeded the 0.3 to 0.5 sustainable level, the study finds.


Factors that may have contributed to the high exploitation rate, aside from high fishing effort, might be the use of unsustainable fishing gears that do not discriminate fish sizes. These are round haul seine and beach seine. The study finds that the fish species are usually caught at sizes much lower than their standard length at first maturity.

Thru virtual population analysis (VPA), the researchers have determined that *A. rochei* and *A. thazard* are usually caught at 23 cm & 24.5 cm. On the other hand, the length at first maturity or the minimum size at which the species are ripe for reproduction is

35 cm.

"If stocks are caught at much smaller sizes compared to their length at first maturity, then there will be less fish that will turn to adulthood for reproduction," Dr. Calicdan says.

The study has also determined that both species do not spawn in Babuyan Channel but in some other areas. Gonadosomatic index (GSI) or the calculation of the gonad mass as a proportion of the total body mass, indicate that the fish samples collected were at most only under Stage III (mature / developed). There were no Stage IV (gravid & spawning) collected.

BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales said that the Bureau has included in its plan for 2018 a whole gamut of interventions in order to counteract the findings. This include intensified fishery law enforcement efforts; provision of fishing bancas, fishing gears and alternative livelihood to fisherfolk residing in coastal areas; and the monitoring of existing or establishment of new fish sanctuaries / Marine Protected Areas.  Maximino Prudencio.

Isabela waters can augment fish supply in CV

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Marine waters in Isabela province remain relatively untouched and has potential to supply fish needs of the entire Cagayan Valley region.

According to the study prepared by the National Stock Assessment Program in Region 02, the province's lengthy range of seacoast is rich in untapped fisheries and marine resources and also has extensive sea grass beds and coral reefs that is home to variety of fish species.

The study, entitled "Diversity, Species Composition, and Richness of Marine Fish Fauna in Isabela Waters, Philippines", was led by Dr. Angel Encarnacion and Melanie Villarao, Project Leader and Assistant Project Leader of the NSAP in Region 02.

Findings indicate that demersal species dominate the area, followed

by large pelagics & small pelagics. The area also has sizeable chunk of oceanic tunas. These oceanic and neritic tunas are abundantly present throughout the year, the study finds.

On species richness, the fishing ground has 238 marine fish species with an evenness value close to 1, indicating that there is complete evenness. The species in the area are highly diverse with diversity value of 3.77 which is above 3.5, the typical value. High species diversity could be an indication that the habitat is still good and undisturbed. The influence of keystone predators and other biotic interactions might as well contributed to high diversity in the area.

Species richness derived however is slightly lower compared to nearby fishing grounds in Cagayan. This could be due to few types of gears used in the area.

Contributory to the richness of the marine waters in the area, according to the study, is the use of more sustainable fishing gears, such as troll lines and other types of lines, fish traps and gill nets and lesser number of fisherfolk utilizing the resource.

Another is the flow of Kuroshio current to the area which brings nutrient-rich marine waters from upper latitudes, mainly near Japan.

To further develop the area, BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, said that the agency continuously conduct technology caravan in the area, where technologies as well as livelihood assistances are delivered. The establishment of Community Fish Landing Center in the area and adjacent municipalities, is also towards same purpose.  Maximino Prudencio.

NIFEP Inilunsad sa Aneq SWIP Delfin Albano, Isabela



Inilunsad noong Marso 9, 2018 sa bayan ng Delfin Albano, Isabela ang National Inland Fisheries Enhancement Program (NIFEP) na may layuning mapataas ang produksiyon sa pangisdaan sa mga lawa at mga reservoir sa bansa kabilang ang Aneq Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP) sa nasabing bayan.

Sa kanyang pakikipanayam sa benepisyaryo ng proyekto na Aneq Small Water Irrigation System Water Service Cooperative (ASWISWSC), binigyang diin ni BFAR R02 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales ang kahalagahan ng programa lalo na sa pagsasaayos ng pisikal na kalagayan ng mga lawa at mga reservoir upang higit itong mapakinabangan sa produksiyon ng isda.

Aniya, layon ng pagsasaayos na mapaunlad ang pangisdaan upang patuloy na magkaroon ng sapat na suplay ng isda nang matugunan ang kahirapan sa mga kanayunan.

Base sa datos ng Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), tanging apat na porsiyento

(4%) ng kabuuang produksiyon sa pangisdaan ng bansa noong 2013 ang nagmula sa inland capture fisheries. Lumalabas na ang produksiyon ng isda mula rito ay maaaring mas mababa pa sa 50 kilo bawat ektarya kada taon sa kabila ng napakalawak na katubigan ng Pilipinas.

Sa katanuyan, may higit 80 na lawa sa bansa na may kabuuang lawak na higit 200,000 ektarya. Bukod rito ay may 106,300 ektarya ng swampland, 19,000 ektarya ng reservoir at dam, at 31,000 na mga ilog na may kabuuang lawak na 10,892,300 ektarya sa bansa.

Sa pamamagitan ng programa ay planong maitaas ng hanggang 200 kilo bawat ektarya kada taon ang produksiyon ng isda mula rito.

Bago ang paglulunsad ng programa sa Aneq SWIP ay nagkaroon ng pagpapalakas sa hanay ng mga miyembro ng ASWISWSC upang mas mahusay nilang mapamahalaan ang proyekto.

Nagsagawa rin ang mga miyembro ng kooperatiba ng paglilinis sa palibot ng SWIP bago ang pagtatayo ng brush park o bakod na may lawak na 200

metro kwadrado sa gilid at mababaw na bahagi ng SWIP.

Ayon kay Apple Joy B. Usquisa, Punong Tagapangasiwa ng programa sa Rehiyon Dos, naglagay ang BFAR ng 600 Tilapia breeders sa loob ng brush park na magsisilbing pangitlugan.

"Kapag napisa ang mga itlog ay kusang lalabas ang mga fingerling mula sa brush park habang ang mga breeder naman ay papalitan pagkaraan ng dalawang taon. Sa ganitong paraan ay patuloy na mapararami ang mga isda sa lugar," paliwanag ni Usquisa.

Bukod rito, nagpakawala rin ang BFAR ng 12,000 Tilapia fingerlings sa SWIP na may lawak na higit limang ektarya.

Plano rin ng BFAR na magdagdag ng iba pang katutubong klase ng isda upang patuloy ang mga ito na mapangalagaan at masiguro ang kasapatan sa pagkain.

Nagtanim naman ng ilang kawayan sa paligid ng SWIP upang sa hinaharap ay maiwasan ang pagkatangay ng lupa papunta sa tubig. ☒ Donald Aguinaldo.

BFAR 2 earmarks Php 5M for trawl fishing crews

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries bureau here has set aside a fund amounting five million pesos, to purchase fishing gears as livelihood intervention for fisherfolk involved in trawl fishing.

This comes as the Bureau is set to fully implement Sec. 95 of RA 10654 banning the use of active gear in municipal waters.

Trawl fishing, locally known as 'galadgad', falls under the ban. Rodel Pasaraba, Chief of the Fish Capture Section of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Region 02 said that the fishing gears will be awarded to fisherfolk to be affected with the ban.

Currently, trawl is one of the top fishing gears used in Region 02. It is used mostly to catch demersal

or bottom dwelling species. Its use in municipal waters however, is considered as illegal.


"Trawl is considered as an 'active gear' since its operation involves pursuit of the target species. More so, it damages corals and other habitat at the sea bottom, since it targets bottom-dwelling species," Pasaraba explains.

The law states that only 'passive gear' or fishing gear that is characterized by the absence of pursuit of the target species such as hook and line, fish traps, fishpots and the like, are allowed in municipal waters.

The livelihood intervention, mostly gillnet, troll line and cast net will go to fishing crews involved in trawl fishing, the section chief, said. At present, Pasaraba said, the goods are

on bidding stage. Pasaraba added that some of the said crews were earlier awarded with motorized fiberglass fishing boats under the F/B Pagbabago program of the agency.

On other development related to fishery law enforcement, the Bureau has conducted visibility patrol in recent weeks leading to voluntary surrender of a number of electro-fishing gadgets in various municipalities in Isabela.

"As far as agency resources allow, we always take into consideration the livelihood of fisherfolk when implementing fishery laws. These livelihood interventions are designed to supplement their source of income once we implement our fishery laws and regulations," BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales, said.  Maximino Prudencio.

Marine Mammal matagumpay na pinakawalan

Isang Pygmy sperm whale, isang uri ng marine mammal, ang matagumpay na pinakawalan matapos itong mapadpad sa baybayin malapit sa Brgy. Allasitan sa bayan ng Pamplona, Cagayan.

Bago nito ay namataan ang nasabing marine mammal, na may habang 1.76 metro, bandang 06:12 ng umaga noong March 05, 2018 ng mangingisdang si Jayson Tangonan.

Agad namang sinaklolohan ang balyena ng mga tauhan ng BFAR na sina Vevie Lian Guillermo, ang National Stock Assessment Program Coordinator ng Pamplona at Jennah Mae Arellano, ang Fisheries Livelihood Development Technician ng Pamplona, at tatlong miyembro ng LGU-Pamplona Rescue Team.

Mula sa Brgy. Allasitan ay inilipat ang balyena gamit ang isang improvised stretcher sa baybayin ng kalapit na barangay ng Nagtupacan kung saan mas kalmado ang mga alon.

Nang matiyak ng rescue team ang maayos na paghinga at kondisyon ng babaeng balyena ay agad itong inalalayan patungo sa mas malalim na bahagi ng dagat bago tuluyang




Makikita sa litrato sa pagaaruga sa balyena na napadpad sa Allasitan, Pamplona noong Marso 5, 2018. Sa tulong ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 02 at Local Government Unit Staff, matagumpay na napakawalan ang nasabing marine mammal sa araw din na yun.

pakawalan bandang 09:20 ng umaga.

Binantayan ang marine mammal sa loob ng 30 minuto upang matiyak na ito ay hindi na babalik sa dalampasigan.

Ayon kay Dr. Jefferson K. Soriano, ang Focal Person ng Philippine Marine

Mammal Stranding Network (PMMSN) sa Region 02, maaaring napadpad sa lugar ang balyena dahil sa malalakas na mga alon at paghahanap nito ng pagkain na kung saan naitala ang maraming bilang ng anchovies o dilis sa lugar.  Donald Aguinaldo.

Fisherfolk's *Champion* and **HERO**

by: Gene V. Baquiran (PIA RO2)

"I know that there are challenges waiting for me, but with God's divine providence, I will emerge successful in my new assignment. God puts us in places where we are needed. I am willing to discover what He wants me to do,"

- Milagros C. Morales, DrFT, CESE

If a movie would be filmed featuring her story, the title that best suits this year's IDDU awardee for Fisheries Category is "Ang Babaeng Isang Iglap lang ang Pahinga". Director Milagros Cabingabang Morales is truly an epitome of hard work and dedication, a perspective that every public servant should look up to.

Ma'am Miles, as she is fondly called, is the incoming regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Cordillera Administrative Region after serving BFAR Region 2 as regional director for almost two years.

A proud Aparriana, Ma'am Miles already has 38 years of unblemished public service in the fisheries sector. She started public service as the head of the Regional Fishermen's Training Center (RFTC) based in Aparri, Cagayan in 1989.

As the head of the RFTC, she provided trainings for the fisherfolk in the Cagayan Valley region and some parts of the Cordillera and the Ilocos regions. Morales recalled her early years at the RFTC where they have

to walk kilometers of muddy fields, mountains and rugged roads just to reach the fisherfolk's areas.

But those experiences did not hinder her from pursuing her work as training supervisor because she found fulfillment in helping others especially the underprivileged in far-flung areas who are seldom reached by the government services.

"It was hard for us to deliver training services during our time given that we didn't have vehicles," she said.

Trainings from fishpond design and construction, to fishing gear fabrication, fiber-glass boat making to fish processing and many others, Director Morales did all for the love of the fisherfolk whom she desires to earn more as a result of the trainings they undergo.

For her untiring efforts to empower fisherfolk, she was awarded the Most Outstanding Employee for Training and Extension under the prestigious National Gawad Saka Search for Outstanding Agricultural



Achievers in 2000.

Her long stint as Training Center Director paved the way for her appointment as OIC – Regional Director of BFAR RO2 on September 24, 2015. She became a full-pledged director on October 13, 2016.

“I know that there are challenges waiting for me, but with God’s divine providence, I will emerge successful in my new assignment. God puts us in places where we are needed. I am willing to discover what He wants me to do,” she said.

Our awardee is an optimistic woman who always wears a smile despite the many problems besetting the fisheries sector especially those on foreign poaching and illegal fishing. She is one person who never gives up.

Director Miles is also a Gender and Development trainer and advocate. She has passion for helping the less fortunate fishers and women-groups, notably the Rural Improvement Clubs. Like any other organized group of fisherfolk, she provided livelihood for the RICs.

As regional director, she is a member 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 to contribute to the region’s development. She current chairs the Regional Nutrition Committee.

RD Miles believes that “We need to



look back, in order to move forward.”

The Wife and Mother in Her

Despite being a passionate field worker, Miles never fails to perform her roles as wife to her husband and mother to her growing children. She admits though that she sometimes sacrifices her time for her children when the demand of work cannot be delayed. But she makes up immediately after for the lost time for her family.

Director Morales is married to Nelson, a former employee of BFAR assigned in Sta. Ana, Cagayan under the National Stock Assessment Program. They are blessed with four children namely Michael Angelo, Nielsen James, Nemylene Joyce and Christian James.

Seeing that retirement is inevitable, RD Miles said as long as she is physically and mentally capable, she will continue to serve the community and the church, and of

course, her family.

Humble Beginnings

Dir. Miles graduated as Salutatorian at the St. Anthony’s College in Sta. Ana, Cagayan and finished her secondary education at the Cagayan State University (CSU) Gonzaga campus. She finished her Certificate in Fisheries at CSU and later earned a degree in Education at St. Anthony’s College. She also finished Master in Public Administration at the same university. She finished her doctorate degree in Fisheries Technology at the Iloilo State College of Fisheries in 2005.

She started as secondary school teacher and after a couple of years, she was taken in by BFAR as Fishery Product Examiner. From there, she steadily rose from the ranks at the Regional Fisheries Training Center - the training arm of BFAR.

Among her local and foreign in-service trainings, seminars and studies from 1984, included her training on preservation and packaging of fishery products in the United States of America.

She has also attended training and conferences in the country and in countries like Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, and Michigan State University and the Michigan State and the University of Rhode Island in the United States. (PSL/MDCT/GVB)

Editor’s Note:

This article appeared in IDDU Honor Roles for Women an anthology published by PIA RO2.



BFAR RO2 namigay ng fishing boats at gamit pangisda



Kasama ni BFAR RO2 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales si Provincial Fishery Officer Venchito B. Villarao, Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco, Mayor Lolita C. Garcia at Municipal Agriculturist Edwin P. Madrid sa pamimigay ng fishing boats at fishing paraphernalias noong 3rd Namunit festival sa bayan ng Sta. Teresita.

Nakiisa ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 02 (BFAR R02) sa pagbubukas ng 3rd Namunit Festival at 6th National Ecotourism Festival sa bayan ng Sta. Teresita, Cagayan noong March 7, 2018.

Tumanggap ang ilan sa rehistradong mga mangingisda ng nasabing bayan ng iba't-ibang

mga proyekto katulad ng bangkang pangisda (20 units non-motorized small boats, 5 motorized flat bottom boats, 5 non-motorized flat bottom boats, 2 motorized V-bottom type boats), fishing paraphernalia (52 units long line, 39 units gill nets, 50 units life vests, at 15 units cast nets), at post-harvest equipment (2 units price computing scale, 4 units banyera, at 2 units cooler box).

Sa kanyang mensahe, sinabi ni Regional Director Milagros C. Morales na layon ng mga proyekto na maragdagan ang huli ng mga mangingisda, masiguro ang kanilang kaligtasan sa laot, at mapataas ang kanilang antas ng pamumuhay.

Hinimok ni Regional Director Morales ang mga mamamayan ng Sta. Teresita na ipagpatuloy ang kanilang ginagawang pangangalaga sa kalikasan na kung saan bahagi ang mga ilog, lawa at dagat.

Sa katunayan, ilang bahagi ng Laguna de Cagayan (dating Bangalao Lake) sa Sta. Teresita ang nakapasailalim sa pambansang programa ng BFAR na National Inland Fisheries Enhancement Program (NIFEP).

Layunin ng NIFEP na muling pasiglahin ang mga minor inland body of water sa bansa upang mas lalong mapakinabangan ng mga tao.

Kasama ni RD Morales sa pamamahagi ng mga proyekto si Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco ng Cagayan First District, Sta. Teresita Mayor Lolita C. Garcia, PFO Venchito B. Villarao and MA Edwin P. Madrid. ☒ Donald Aguinaldo.

Abulug School of Fisheries students undergo OJT in BFAR 2

Twenty-two Grade 12 Senior High School Agri-Fishery Arts students of the Abulug School of Fisheries are undertaking their Work Immersion at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 02. They will complete an 80-hour hands-on experience/work simulation on Food (Fish) Processing at the BFAR R02's Integrated Fish Processing Laboratory.

The two-week itinerary includes lecture and hands-on activities on the various post-harvest technologies such as Bangus Deboning, Marinating, Fish Smoking, Bottling, Value-adding, and Packaging and Labeling of finished products.

According to the Department of Education, the Work Immersion will provide learners with opportunities to become familiar with the workplace;



Ms. Arlene Tacuycuy, Head, BFAR R02 Fish Processing Laboratory demonstrate fish processing techniques to Abulug School of Fisheries students.

for employment simulation; and to apply their competencies in areas of specialization/applied subjects in authentic work environments. ☒ Donald Aguinaldo.

BFAR 2 inaugurates PFO building on Nueva Vizcaya

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 02 opened its Provincial Fishery Office in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya last June 26, 2018.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by no less Rep. Carlos M Padilla, Gov. Ruth R. Padilla, Vice Gov. Epifanio Lambert D. Galima, Board Members, Prov. Agriculturist Alexander B. Domingo and his staff.

Aside from office amenities, the two storey edifice features staff and guest house.

The building shall serve as center for the promotion of fisheries



development in the province, as a venue for seminars and trainings and a base for the enforcement of fishery laws.

The office is headed by Provincial

Fishery Officer Quirino Pascua with his deputy Mr. Dominador Abalos and staffs Jenaiza Pattung, Glenn Dela Peña, Cristian Lopez, Ian Bryle Balisi, Tito M. Tuzon. ☒ Maximino Prudencio.

Turn-over Ceremony of CFLC Pamplona



Isa na namang panibagong CFLC o Community Fish Landing Center (CFLC) sa Rehiyon Dos ang binuksan para sa mga mangingisda sa bayan ng Pamplona, Cagayan.

Ang CFLC na nagkakahalaga ng halos tatlong milyong piso ay pinasinayaan noong Pebrero 15, 2018 bilang bahagi ng pambansang programa ng BFAR na TARGET o ang Targeted Action to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation in the Fisheries Sector.

Ang gusali ay kumpleto sa mga kagamitan kagaya ng stainless steel fish stalls at chest freezers na magagamit ng mga mangingisda para mapanatili ang mataas na kalidad at maiwasan ang agarang pagkasira ng kanilang mga huling isda.

Sinabi ni BFAR Regional Director

Milagros C. Morales na malaki ang maitutulong ng pasilidad na ito at ng mga kasamang kagamitan upang mabawasan ang pagkasayang ng mga huling isda o post-harvest losses na nakasasama sa kita ng mga mangingisda.

Bukod sa magsisilbing bagsakan ng isda, ang gusali ay naitalaga ring maging sentro ng kalakalan at mga pagsasanay sa pangisdaan.

Ang gusali ay pansamantalang pangangasiwaan ng lokal na pamahalaan hanggang sa mapalakas ang samahan ng mga mangingisda na siyang pagbibigyan ng proyekto.

Mula sa 24 na itatayong CFLC sa Rehiyon Dos mula 2016-2018, 12 ay natapos na at 10 ang napasinayaan, habang anim naman ang kasalukuyang itinatayo. ☒ Donald Aguinaldo.

BFAR 2 completes Deputy Fish Warden Training

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 02, thru its Fisheries Protection and Law Enforcement Group (FPLEG), finished the final leg of Deputy Fish Warden (DFW) Training on January 15-17 in Claveria, Cagayan with 51 trainees comprised of barangay officials, MFARMC members, and fisherfolk associations members.

Catering 15 batches over Region 02, the DFW training sought to strengthen the capabilities of participants on fisheries law enforcement for the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources.

The three-day training included courses on Coastal Resource Management; Role of Bantay Dagat in Fisheries Law Enforcement; Fisheries laws and orders; Fishing operations; and Scientific fish examination among others. ☒ Donald Aguinaldo.





Can't be reached. Dr. Angel Encarnacion, BFAR RO2's hardworking and clean-cut Executive Assistant and Planning Chief, was accorded the Outstanding Young Scientist Award 2018 by the National Academy of Science and Technology for his researches mainly on antioxidants, marine fisheries stock assessment and fisheries post-harvest. In same vein, he was also awarded the Gintong Medalya Award sa Dangal ng Lahing Cagayano Search 2018 by PLGU Cagayan.

Anti-koryente drive. BFAR RO2 RD Milagros C. Morales and FMRED Chief Atty. Arsenio Bañares led the destruction of confiscated / surrendered electro-fishing (koryente) gadgets. Electro-fishing is prohibited under Sec. 92 of RA 10654. Electro-fishing is illegal as it causes even small fishes to get caught. Bigger fish that withstand its electric shock are rendered neutered, hence can no longer reproduce.



Newly-designated airline pilots, err, Quarantine Officers. Dashing in their bright white uniform, BFAR RO2 Quarantine Officers recently underwent orientation on new rules and regulations pertaining to Inspection and Quarantine Services of the Bureau. The Quarantine Officers are present in two checkpoints, seaports and airports throughout the region.

Balik Igat. The Bureau continues with its elvers (young eel) dispersal program as one way to revive the population of Anguillid species in the wild. The gathering of young eels and its export are important industry locally and in the national level. FAO 242 stipulates that eel fingerling with less than 15 cm. in length are prohibited for export. This is a way to conserve the species and also allow local fishers / aquaculturists to derive more income from resource.



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Sec. Piñol visits Batanes



The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Sec. Emmanuel F. Piñol, was in Batanes, for the first time last May 8-9, 2018.

With him were the Undersecretary for Fisheries/Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Comm. Eduardo B. Gongona, the Regional Director of BFAR-RO2, Dr. Milagros C. Morales, the OIC, Regional Director of DA RO2, Mr. Lorenzo M. Caranguian, and the Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit, Ms Evelyn G. Lavina.

Upon arriving in Batanes, they had a quick breakfast at the Provincial Capitol with the Provincial Governor, Hon. Marilou H. Cayco, and the Vice Governor, Hon. Ronald P. Aguto. Afterwards, together with the Vice Governor of Batanes, Hon. Aguto, they headed straight to the port and boarded the MMOV bound for Itbayat Island, the biggest inhabited island in Batanes. They visited the Garlic Storage where farmers were eager to meet them. They also went to Itbayat National Agricultural High School, where the dignitaries met with the farmers and fisherfolk of the island municipality. Sec. Piñol had an open conversation

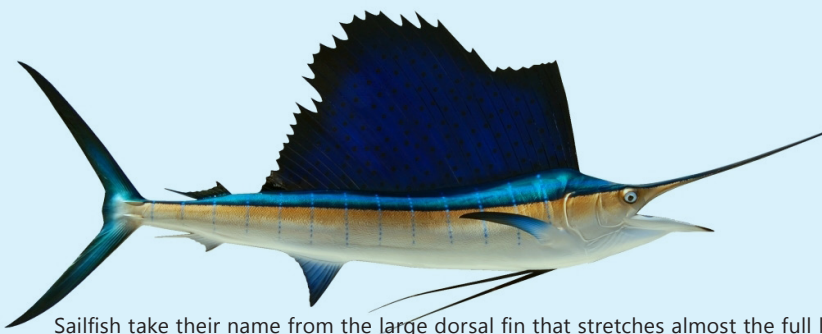
with them and during his talk, he committed to provide an ice plant, cold storage, food consolidation area, and to provide funds for the construction of the seaport in Itbayat.

They returned to Batan Island right after the forum to meet the fisherfolk of Batan and Sabtang Island who were waiting at Uyugan. They boarded the MCS patrol boat and went straight to Uyugan where the Provincial Governor, Municipal Mayors, Municipal Agriculturists, and fisherfolk were waiting. They, too had a talk with the Secretary. He asked them their needs regarding the fisheries sector. He committed to provide six ice-making facilities and one cold storage for the Province of Batanes. He also committed that he will give farmers and fisherfolk access to Credit/Loaning Facilities as source of capital for them to venture in agri-fisheries businesses. The Secretary also said that he will provide funds for the rehabilitation of ports and damaged boats during Typhoon Ferdie. As per request of Governor Cayco, Secretary Piñol committed that the MCS 3010 will be docking in Batanes to provide assistance and patrolling along the waters surrounding the province. Shirley Ann Vasol/Maximino Prudencio Jr.

FISH FACTS:

SAILFISH

(*Istiophorus platypterus*)
Fastest sailor in the ocean



Sailfish take their name from the large dorsal fin that stretches almost the full length of their bodies and it is claimed that it is the fastest swimmer over short distances in the ocean which can reach up to 68 miles per hour, which has the same speed as cheetah according to the Guinness Book of Records in 2015.

The species are highly migratory in nature and Philippines is blessed to be a migratory path of these magnificent creatures. With the warm water carries by the Kuroshio Current from Japan to the Philippines, it brings the abundance of sailfish in the Region, thus Cagayan Valley Region was labelled as the sailfish capital of the Philippines.

In Region 02 fishing ground, sailfish are abundant particularly during summer (May to July) in Isabela Coast and Babuyan Channel area. To date species are not yet considered endangered or under any protections for conservation purposes.

2018 National Fisherfolk Director and Regional Fisherfolk Director



National Fisherfolk Director Mr. Alexander Agra, from Claveria, Cagayan and Region 02 Fisherfolk Director Mr. Ferdinand T. Ignacio of Diffun, Quirino during their Oath Taking Ceremony in Puerto Princesa, Palawan last April 12, 2018.

Congratulations, Mr. ALEXANDER M. AGRA of Claveria, Cagayan on your election as National Fisherfolk Director for the year 2018.

A staunch advocate for fisherfolk empowerment and fisheries and aquatic resources protection, conservation and sustainable management, Mr. Agra sits as the current Chairperson of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC) of Claveria, Cagayan that won the National Gawad Saka Most Outstanding MFARMC Award in 2013. He also served as the Fisherfolk Regional Director of BFAR Region 02 in 2014.

Mr. Agra is the second National Fisherfolk Director from Region 02, the first being Mr. Primitivo O. Clave of the province of Isabela in 2006.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ferdinand T. Ignacio of Diffun, Quirino was sworn in as the Fisherfolk Regional Director of Region 02 for 2018.

The Fisherfolk Directors Program of BFAR is based on Department of Agriculture Special Order No. 88, series of 2005, dubbed as "Mangingisdang Direktor Para sa Mas Matatag na Balikatan" where national and regional fisherfolk leaders that have been chosen by their fellow fisherfolk leaders shall act as BFAR Director at the national and regional levels for the whole month of May to highlight the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month Celebration.  Donald Aguinaldo.

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KNOW YOUR **IFARMC** AND **PALOS** OFFICERS!

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CLAUDIO RODRIGUEZ	
JOSE BAYANI MEDRANO	Municipal Representative
VIVENCIO AGCAOILI	
HENRY MARIANO	
FEDERICO CABULAGAN	

Well-oiled machinery.

The BFAR RO2 held its Team Building last March 23-24, 2018 in the scenic and serene Portabaga Falls Resort in Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan. Staff underwent values formation and team-building as a way to strengthen teamwork and rapport with each other.



Bet na bet ang SHAWARMANG GAMET!

Sentro sa pagdiriwang ng 10th Gamet Festival sa bayan ng Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan ang Cooking Contest kung saan tampok bilang pangunahing sangkap ang gamet, isang uri ng seaweeds o halamang dagat, sa paghahanda ng Shawarma.

Nagpagalingan sa nasabing paligsahan ang sampung barangay ng Sta. Praxedes kung saan itinanghal na kampeon ang mga kalahok mula sa Brgy. Centro 02.

Layon ng paligsahan at ng taunang Gamet Festival na higit na maipakilala at mahikayat ang pagkain ng gamet, gayundin ang pangangalaga, proteksiyon at likas-kayang pamamahala nito.

Tinagurian ang gamet bilang “black gold of the sea” at mas kilala rin bilang nori na siyang gamit sa paghahanda ng sikat na pagkaing Japanese na sushi.

Gamet Shawarma with Beef Tapa

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 pieces Pita bread
- 1/2 kilo Beef Tapa, cooked
- 1 piece Gamet
- 1/2 cup Tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 cup Grated cheese or 6 pcs. Sliced cheese
- 1/2 cup Lettuce, chopped
- 1/2 White onions, chopped
- 1/2 cup cucumber, chopped
- 1/2 cup Garlic mayo sauce

BEEF TAPA INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 kilo Sirloin beef, sliced thin
- 1 tbsp. Soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. Salt
- 1 tbsp. Miracle whip
- 1 1/4 tbsp. Sugar
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

GARLIC MAYO SAUCE:

- 1/2 cup Mayonaise
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp. Olive oil

PROCEDURES:

1. To make the beef tapa, combine all the tapa ingredients in a bowl and marinate overnight or 2 days in a refrigerator for best result. Fry the tapa until golden browned.

2. To make the garlic sauce, just combine all the ingredients in a bowl, mix until smooth and set aside.
3. To assemble the shawarma, heat the pita bread in an empty hot skillet until both sides are light golden brown. Set aside.
4. Lay the first shawarma in a plate and put 1 1/4 tbsp. of beef tapa, 1/2 tbsp. cucumber, 1/2 tbsp. tomatoes, 1/2 tbsp. white onions, 1/2 tbsp. lettuce, 3 tbsp. gamet, 1/2 tbsp. grated cheese or sliced cheese and 1 1/2 tbsp. garlic mayo sauce on the center.
5. Wrap the filling with the pita bread like a log or a burrito. Do the same on the rest of the pita bread.

