



# ALAP



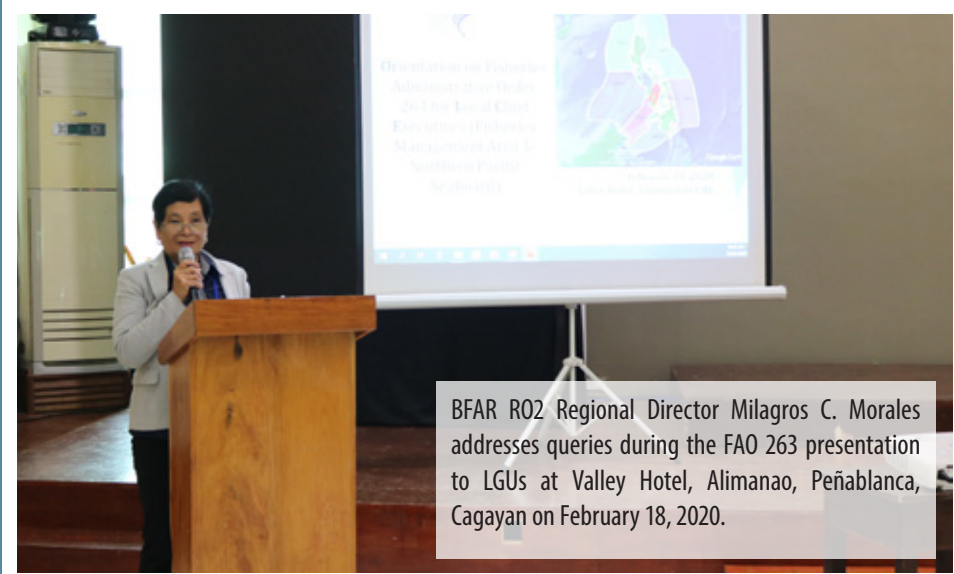
## RDC 2 issues resolution encouraging LGUs to join MMK

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan** – Cognizant to the need to balance resource use with conservation, the Regional Development Council in Region 02 has issued a Resolution “Encouraging Local Government Units to support and join the Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) National Search for Outstanding Coastal Community Program.”

The RDC 2 in its Resolution No. 02-21-2019 (s. 2019) cited the purpose of the Philippine Fisheries Code Republic Act 8550, as amended by RA 10654, which is to ensure rational and sustainable development, management and conservation

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## Paradigm shift in fisheries management as BFAR 2 rolls out FAO 263 to LGUs



BFAR R02 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales addresses queries during the FAO 263 presentation to LGUs at Valley Hotel, Alimanao, Peñablanca, Cagayan on February 18, 2020.

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan** – Fisheries bureau personnel met LGU counterparts and local chief executives on February 18, 2020 for the Orientation on Fisheries Administrative Order 263.

entire country, which seeks to provide science-based solutions, enhance stakeholder participation and increase transparency with regards to the governance and management of fisheries resources.

FAO 263 establishes Fisheries Management Areas in the

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## Two new fisheries regulations, key for species conservation in Region 02



**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan** – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 02 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales vowed to enforce Fisheries Administrative Orders 264 and 265 regulating the exploitation and trade of mangrove crabs (*Scylla spp.*) and spiny lobster (*Palinuridae*), respectively.

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## Farmers and Fisherfolk Month Culminating Program at Launching of Aquaponics Project, ginanap

**Ginanap noong ika-uno ng Hunyo, ang programa para sa pagtatapos ng Farmers and Fisherfolk Month kung saan lubos na nagpasalamat ang BFAR RO2 at DA RFO2 sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda patungkol sa kanilang papel na ginagampanan para sa food production ng bansa.**

Sa kanyang mensahe, nabanggit ni BFAR RO2 RD Dr. Milagros C. Morales na isa ang pangangisda sa mga pangunahing pangkabuhayan sa Rehiyon 2. Ayon kay RD Myles, mayroong mahigit 97,000 registered fisherfolk ang rehiyon na siyang umaalalay para sa produksyon ng isda.

Ibinahagi rin ni RD Myles ang mga hakbang at programa ng ahensya para mapangalagaan ang mga pangisdaan. Nandiyan aniya ang vessel monitoring system, fishery law enforcement, Fishery Management Area, F/B Pagbabago, fisheries laboratory services, CFLC, organization of fisherfolk association and cooperatives, ACEF loan at marketing.

Si Engr. Generoso M. Oli ng DA RFO2, na siyang kumakatawan kay RED Narciso Edillo ang siyang panauhing pandangal sa okasyon, ipinaabot niya ang pagbati sa lahat na dumalo at pasasalamat sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda lalo na sa kanilang malaking kontribusyon para matugunan ang food supply ng bansa.

Kaugnay ng mensahe ni Engr. Oli ang kahalagahan ng agrikultura



Inihahanda nina Engr. Generoso M. Oli ng DA-RFO2, BFAR RO2 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales, at 2019 & 2020 Fisherfolk Regional Director Mr. Jaime Yosores ang semilyang tilapia para sa Aquaponics Demo Project na naipatayo sa opisina mismo ng BFAR RO2, Regional Government Center, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City.

Si Engr. Oli ang kumatawan kay DA RFO2 Regional Executive Director Narciso Edillo bilang Guest Speaker para sa pagtatapos ng Farmers and Fisherfolk Month kasabay ng paglunsad ng Aquaponics Project.

sa ekonomiya ng bansa. Hinimok niya ang lahat para lagpasan ang pinsala na dulot ng COVID 19 pandemic at isa na dito, aniya, ang food production.

Bilang pagkilala, ginawaran ng BFAR RO2 ng Certificate of Recognition ang mga Gawad Saka nominees (Fisheries Category), Seafood KADIWA partners, 2019 & 2020 Fisherfolk Regional Director Mr. Jaime Yosores, at mga fisherfolk leaders na kumakatawan sa Babuyan Channel IFARMC.

### Aquaponics Inilunsad

Kasunod na naganap ang paglunsad ng Urban Aquaponics Project na siyang tugon ng ahensya sa Plant, Plant, Plant

program ng DA. Ang aquaponics, ayon kay Gng. Jennifer Tattaog, hepe ng Aquaculture Section, ay ang sabay ng pag-aalaga at pagpapalaki ng isda, tulad ng hito at tilapia, at high-value na gulay, tulad ng lettuce.

Sikreto dito, aniya, ang symbiotic relationship ng dalawa kung saan ang ipot ng isda ay magsisilbing pataba para sa halaman at ang halaman naman ang siyang 'maglilinis' ng tubig para sa isda.

Ang aquaponics ay mabisang paraan para makadagdag ng supply ng pagkain lalo na sa urban areas. ❖ *Max Prudencio*

## Bagong bangka para sa mga mangingisda, ipinagkaloob



**Alinsunod sa programang F/B Pagbabago, namigay ang BFAR RO2 ng 22 na bangkang-pangisda, kasama ang makina at iba pang partes nito, para sa mga mangingisda mula sa bayan ng Gonzaga, Sto. Niño at Buguey.**

Sampung V-bottom type at isang flat-bottom ang ipinagkaloob sa bayan ng Gonzaga, pitong flat-bottom sa Sto. Niño at tatlong flat-bottom at isang V-bottom ang napunta sa Buguey.

Bukod sa bangka, ipinahayag ni RD Milagros C. Morales na

mahalaga rin ang karunungan at kasanayan na nakuha ng mga mangingisdang benepisaryo mula sa paggawa nila ng fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) fishing boat.

Bukod sa mas matibay kumpara sa tradisyunal na bangka na gawa sa kahoy, ang teknolohiya sa paggawa ng FRP fishing boat ay sagot rin ng BFAR sa kawalan ng kahoy.

“Nawa’y maging katulungan na rin kayo sa pagpatupad ng batas pangisdaan,” sabi ni RD Morales.

❖ *Max Prudencio*



**Pamplona MPA** – The CRM group presents the result of baseline data survey for the proposed Marine Protected Area during the Sangguniang Bayan Regular Session on June 3, 2020 in Pamplona Cagayan. The MPA was proposed in order to restrict massive collection of aquatic species, particularly, the crablet or “rissing” in the area.

The group presented the area for the proposed MPA, result of assessment on underwater marine and freshwater resources conditions, possible areas to be protected, and recommendations for policy formulation. Recommendations of the group include: 1.) presentation of a post assessment report and dialogue with the fisherfolk including concerned agencies (DENR-CENRO, Sanchez Mira, Provincial Agriculture Office) and the local officials (MENRO, SB-Agri-fishery committee and the Local Chief Executive) to address the issues and problems identified and to discuss “alternative livelihood” for those fisherfolk directly involved in rissing collection; 2) An MPA in Barangay Nagtupacan be established to address rampant collection of “rissing”; 3) For the proposed freshwater river sanctuary in Barangay Masi, Pamplona, Cagayan, to conduct further survey/assessment particularly underwater survey to determine the fish species composition (biomass) and to determine the urgency of species of fish to be protected in the area; and 4) Advise LGU Pamplona to prepare management plan and ordinance for the establishment of MPA and issue on rissing collection.

**Low-cost oyster production** - BFAR RO2 Team led by Oyster Project Leader, Mr. John Figuracion established 10 units Oyster Culture Using Raft Method TD Project at Caroan, Gonzaga on June 9-11, 2020. Oyster culture is a low-cost livelihood that is suited in riverine settings such as Caroan, and adjacent areas.





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# Message OF THE REGIONAL RD DIRECTOR



Sa kabila ng sakuna na dulot ng COVID-19, nais kong batiin ang ating mga mangingisda dito sa Rehiyon Dos, at mga kasamahan sa LGUs at national government agencies, ng makabuluhang Farmers and Fishfolk Month.

Hindi lingid sa atin ang pinsala na dulot ng pandemic lalo na sa ekonomiya, kabilang na ang sector ng agrikultura at pangisdaan. Gayunman, nais kong ipabatid na ang BFAR Region 02 ay patuloy na nagpapatupad ng kaukulang tulong upang ating malampasan ang pinsala na dulot ng COVID-19.

Sa kabila ng lockdown, ang BFAR ay tuloy pa rin ang kanyang programa kagaya ng technical assistance, fingerling production and distribution, fiberglass boat construction and distribution, establishment of techno-demo projects, marketing assistance at pati na rin and issuance ng Food Pass, at ng fishery law enforcement, upang sa gayon ay maiwasan pa rin ang illegal na pangingsda. Ang lahat ng ito ay ginagawa ng Bureau upang mapanatili natin ang ating fish supply. Ang COVID-19 ay hindi magiging hadlang upang maiparating sa lahat ang mga serbisyong ito ng ating ahensya.

Nais ko ring banggitin ang mahalagang papel na ginagampanan ng aming information section sa pagsisiwalat ng mga kinakailangang impormasyon at pati na rin pagtugon sa mga online na katanungan lalo na ngayong panahon ng GCQ.

Sa suporta ng ating DA Sec. Hon. William Dar at ang BFAR National Director Commodore Eduardo B. Gongona, maraming nakaantabay na suporta o programa para sa magsasaka at mangingisda.

Una ay ang Social Amelioration Program na kung saan ang ating magsasaka at mangingisda ay nabigyan ng ayuda na hindi hihigit sa Php 5,500.00, ito'y upang matugunan ang kanilang pangangailangan ngayong panahon ng ECQ. Kasama din dito ang ACEF loan, na kung saan ang ating mangingisda ay pwedeng maka-utang sa mababang interest na 2% kada taon.

Katunayan marami na sa ating mangingisda ang nabigyan ng loan sa pamamagitan ng LBP. Ang unang naka-avail nito ay ang grupo ng mangingisda sa Canili Lake ng Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya.

Marami ring fishpond at fish cage operators sa Magat Dam, on-process na rin ang kanilang application. Dito sa Cagayan meron din tayong loan application para sa ating mga municipal fisherfolk, nakapagrelease na po ang LBP ng kanilang loans.

Mayroon din bagong loan para sa graduates ng Fisheries, ito ay pwede nating makuha sa pamamagitan ng ACPC. Yung mga fisheries graduates na gustong mag-negosyo ay pwedeng mag-loan dito, para masimulan ang kanilang negosyo sa agriculture and fisheries sector.

Isang programa po na aming ginagawa ngayon ay yong KADIWA ni Ani at Kita na magbibigay tulong sa ating farmers at fisherfolk upang sa ganoon maibenta nila ang kanilang produkto sa mataas na presyo. Ang BFAR ay nagkakaroon ng KADIWA every 1st week of the month.

Ngayong Biyernes sisimulan na rin ang Aquaponics Project o Urban Aquaculture. Dito ay sabay nating aalagaan ang isda at ang leafy vegetables. Ang isdang pwede na alagaan dito ay maaaring tilapia o hito. Dito po natin pwedeng ipakita kung paano mag-alaga ng sabay ng isda at gulay sa maliit na lugar.

At dahil Month of the Ocean din ngayong Mayo, inaanyayahan ko din ang lahat na manood ng livestream ng Webinar on Marine Protected Areas in the Philippines ngayong biyernes alas tres ng hapon. Ito'y mapapanood sa facebook page ng BFAR Central Office.

Sa ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda, kayo ang frontliners on food production. Lubos na nagpapasalamat ang Bureau sa inyong pagsuporta sa ating pagpanatili ng food supply dito sa ating rehiyon hindi lang ngayong taon ng COVID-19 pandemic kundi sa lahat ng pagkakataon at napakalaking bagay ang inyong mga ginagawang pagsisikap upang mapanatili po natin ang pangangailangan ng ating rehiyon ng isda.

Ibig ko ring batiin ang Department of Agriculture na sa Biyernes, magse-celebrate din ng kanyang 122nd Founding Anniversary.

Salamat at makabuluhang Farmer's and Fisherfolk Month sa lahat!

*\*Message delivered from Regional Director during the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month.*

  
**MILAGROS C. MORALES, DrFT, CESE**  
Regional Director

# Social media as means to connect with clientele in times of

# PANDEMIC

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**W**ithout any warning, the country grinded to a halt in mid-March with the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suddenly, the usual humdrum that all were accustomed to were put into a complete stop.

Gone were the simple amusement at the town center, dine-in at favorite restos, or even buying necessities at the public market or retail establishments.

Social gatherings were prohibited and public transport were cut-off in a bid to contain the spread of the COVID – 19 virus.

Government services, though not totally cut-off, were disrupted due to lockdowns, travel restrictions and the work-from home service delivery that ensued.

On the bright side, the lockdowns have also spawned a lot of home businesses and multitude of online creations and offerings.

In like manner, the restrictions have compelled the Bureau to intensify its online presence and interactions to reach its clientele and take advantage of the noticeable increase in online presence on the part of netizens during the pandemic.

Indeed, an internet resource stated that “people are spending more time online not only for entertainment but also to get COVID-19 updates.” Same resource stated that “more than half of humanity use internet and there has been noticeable increase in its usage compared to pre-COVID times.”

Aside from the usual posts, news update and shared contents, notices pertaining to agency activities were regularly posted thru the agency FB page and account.

As netizens, particularly the fisherfolk who are considered as the agency’s clientele and counterparts from the LGUs, noticed the active maintenance of the official social media platforms, they begin to interact more with the agency thru its social media administrator.

Indeed, the soc-med admin noticed an upsurge in online interactions during the pandemic. Not only was there increase in usual likes and comments to posts and news articles, but there were also increase in private messages particularly technical queries and requests for services such as technical assistance on fish culture, fingerling dispersal and fish health services. The agency also received reports on illegal fishing (sometimes not from this region) and requests for assistance in the implementation of fishery laws on the part of LGUs.

In recent months, the agency have also joined the bandwagon on online classes by offering some online tutorials on fisheries technologies. The agency also adopted the TAHARAL (Tahanan at Aral) series from the BFAR Central Office.

As we trudge along this pandemic path, our netizens-clientele can be rest assured to rely on the agency social media platforms for fast, easy and meaningful interactions.

# BFAR 2 disperses indigenous fish species



Ayungin Dispersal in Ganano River, Diffun, Quirino.

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan** – A departure from its array of fish species being dispersed in recent years such as tilapia, carp and eel, the fisheries bureau in Region 02 has started seeding freshwater areas with silver perch (*Leiopotherapon plumbeus*) locally known as ayungin.

The activity is pursuant to the Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) project of the agency which aims to “rehabilitate / restore the physical conditions of lakes, rivers and reservoirs.”

BASIL, a nationwide program drawn up by the BFAR Central Office, also aims to enhance the fisheries of freshwater areas and repopulate indigenous species in support of biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation and food sufficiency.

Dispersed since February this year is close to 100 kilograms of ayungin juvenile to rivers and freshwater areas in the municipalities of Alicia and

Angadanan in Isabela, and Nagtipunan, Diffun, Cabarroguis, Aglipay and Maddela in Quirino.

The seed materials were caught from the wild and were sourced from a supplier in Magat Dam in Isabela.

“We chose ayungin as seed material for BASIL since it is a native fish species hence, it will not upset the balance in the open-water ecosystem. On the other hand, the fish species is also very much acceptable as food fish among Filipinos,”

Apple Joy Usquisa, BFAR RO2 Project Leader on BASIL said.

Dispersal to other municipalities and provinces will follow, pending availability of juvenile and the lifting of Luzon-wide lockdown amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Usquisa added.

Ayungin is a silver-colored fish that eats a wide variety of organisms such as shrimps, zooplankton, snails, aquatic insects and vascular plants. The fish grows to a maximum of 16 centimeter in total length.

Meanwhile, BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales disclosed that the agency has drawn up plans to engage in the breeding and production of indigenous fish species such as ayungin, climbing perch (locally known as ar-aro) and native gourami.

“Each of our fish farms in the region will have their species specialization,” RD Morales said.

Aside from dispersal, the indigenous fish species will also be offered as new species for fish culture, the RD said. ❖ Max Prudencio



## Fishcages in SWIP offer additional income for farmer groups

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - Growing fish in water impoundments augments local fish supply and provides an opportunity for farmers to earn additional income.**

The Nappuaran Small Water Irrigation System Association (SWISA) had a net income of P10,275.07 from their Tilapia Fish Cage demo project awarded by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Region 2. Production cost amounted to P21,599.93 which was spent for growing the 3,000 pieces tilapia fingerlings in two 5m x 5m x 2.5m fish cages.

The project was established at Silagan Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP), Silagan, Allacapan, Cagayan, and ran from August 30, 2019, to January 16, 2020.

"I see this field day as the start of the continued success of Silagan residents in growing tilapia. The outcome undoubtedly keeps up with Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar's Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita program," Venchito Villarao, Provincial Fishery Officer for Cagayan, said.

"We are very happy about the result of this project. This is



Fishcage project at Silagan Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP), Silagan, Allacapan, Cagayan

a good alternative livelihood for residents here. Thank you very much BFAR Region 2," Nappuaran SWISA President Danny Vilorio said, adding that they are now coordinating for continued assistance from the fisheries bureau regarding their plan to roll over the demo's income.

On the other hand, an association from Ilagan City achieved a 49.34% ROI by utilizing the same technology. PASA Dam Farmers Irrigators Association Vice President Rogelio Balisi said, "I asked my companions if they are interested to continue and they said 'yes' because the result is really, really good."

Freshwater Fish Cage Regional Project Leader Jyecebel

Domingo said the high income brought by employing fish cage culture technology is made possible due generally lower investment, compared to other culture technologies.

"Use of fish cage requires less manpower, easier to handle, maintain, sustain, record and manage," Domingo explained.

Elated by the success of the projects, BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros Morales said that "the bureau assures continuous efforts to capacitate our fisherfolk with viable fish farming technologies and thus, improve the quality of their lives so they may be able to contribute further towards food security." ❖

Max Prudencio / Jackie Mark dela Cruz



**Fishcage livelihood - Fisheries Production Division in tandem with the Training Division held Training and deployment of the 4-unit brackishwater fishcage technology demonstration project at Dana-ili, Abulug, Cagayan on May 19-26, 2020. Capitalization for 1-unit fishcage using this model amounts to Php 22,759.93 while possible net income per demo cycle is Php 17,740.07. Fish caging is a possible livelihood project in Abulug given the vast brackish water areas thereat.**

## BFAR RO2 patuloy ang fingerling production and dispersal activities



**Sa kabila ng umiiral na Luzon-wide lockdown sanhi ng COVID-19 pandemic, patuloy pa rin ang ahensya ng pangisdaan sa Rehiyon Dos sa isa sa mga pangunahing gawain nito – ang fingerling production and dispersal.**

Nasa 180,000 piraso ng tilapia fingerlings ang naipamigay ng

ahensya, katuwang ang PFO Nueva Vizcaya at CVROSFR, sa bayan ng Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya noong ika-2 ng Abril.

Ang nasabing tilapia fingerlings ay naipamigay sa dalawampung katao at pitong grupo. Ang naturang mga benepisaryo ay dati nang nakakuha ng pautang

mula LBP - ACEF nito lamang umpisa ng taong kasalukuyan.

Nitong linggo rin, namigay din ng 39,000 halong semilya ng tilapia at karpa para sa fishport operators sa bayan ng San Mateo, Isabela.

“Alinsunod sa kautusan ni Sec. William Dar, at ang pamunuan ng ahensya, patuloy ang food production-related activities namin, sapagkat hindi natin maaaring isapawalang-bahala ang pangunahing pangangailangan ng mamamayan, lalo na ngayong panahon ng sakuna,” ani ni BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros Morales.

Nasabi rin ni RD Morales na tinututukan din ng ahensya ang pamimigay ng food pass, marketing ng isda at produktong pangisdaan, at fishery law enforcement sa kabila ng Luzon-wide lockdown. ❖ *Max Prudencio*

**SWIP Stocking** - The Bureau through the Provincial Fishery Office of Quirino with the Office of the Provincial Agriculture headed by PA Florence Mangoba stocks fingerlings at the Small water Impounding Project located at Capitol Hills, Cabarroguis, Quirino on May 29, 2020. Five thousand tilapia fingerlings were stocked with the presence of Mr. Elmor Villaruel, Executive Assitant V, Provincial Project in-charge. Stocking of CBWs such as SWIP can augment fish stocks especially in fish deficient areas.





## 'Coz it's better to go the natural way: High ROI possible with organic tilapia

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan** — Remember the good ol' days when the fish that people eat grow naturally?

Enjoying organic tilapia and harnessing nutrients from it like the good ol' days is possible with "Tilapia Organic Aquaculture", BFAR 2 Regional Project Leader on Organic Aquaculture Rhodamel Soriano said.



Soriano said that organic aquaculture is done through growing fishes by natural methods. Prohibited are veterinary drugs, use of synthetic or growth promoters, synthetic food additives, noxious substances, inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.

BFAR 2 staff Alvin Abedes said that locally available materials can be used as feed ingredients in organic aquaculture. For a typical mixture, the ingredients in formulating 25 kgs. feeds are: 6.49 kgs. fish meal, 7.92 kgs. copra meal, 7.41 kgs. rice bran and 3.18 kgs. cassava flour. These will be mixed and processed through a pelletizing machine, meat grinder can be utilized as an alternative.

Said formulation for 25 kgs. of organic feeds costs 20% to 30% lower compared to commercial feeds.

Feeds formulation follows certain formula depending on crude protein (CP) requirement of stocks.

Soriano said that income from organic fish culture is high as fisherfolk no longer buy expensive commercial feeds.

For one, demo cooperator Miriam Alcantara netted 138% ROI by employing the technology on her 750 sqm pond in Barsat West, Baggao, Cagayan. The pond was stocked with 2,250 tilapia fingerlings and

had a 70% survival rate within 180 days culture period.

Alcantara said, "I am very grateful to BFAR for educating us with organic farming. I initially thought making feeds require expensive machinery but it's not. Locally available materials like malunggay leaves and dried and chopped kuhol can be used as ingredients."

The demo cooperator underscored growing organic tilapia to marketable size takes 4-6 months as compared to 3-4 months on conventional fish growing, this is because the former follows the natural process.

BFAR 2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros Morales said, "We are encouraging interested individuals who want to learn the process of growing organic tilapia to coordinate with us so we could organize a comprehensive training relative to this. Let us encourage more fisherfolk to adopt organic aquaculture." ❖ Max Prudencio / Jackie Mark de a Cruz



BFAR R02 Organic Aquaculture Team led by Aqua II Rhodamel Soriano and Mr. Alvin Abedes, demonstrate organic feed formulation using locally-available materials.

## Growing cost-efficient and healthier aquaculture produce



**An environment-friendly and cost-efficient technology that brings tastier and healthier produce is now available and is a promising option for fisherfolk to switch into.**

Prior to his retirement as Head Teacher III of Camarungayan Elementary School in Aurora, Isabela, Mr. Alfonso A. Ricardo, MAEd already took action on what to do next. He began setting-up his ½-hectare organic farm.

“I have yet to retire at the time when I became a cooperator of the Agricultural Training Institute which enabled me to attend so many seminars on organic farming. I choose this because of the health benefits and better taste over inorganic that may contain harmful chemicals.”

Being the sole identified organic practitioner in the municipality, his farm has soon reached prominence. To further help him with this and make organic aquaculture known to the public, BFAR RO2 had chosen him as a recipient of its technology demonstration project.

The Bureau had assisted Mang Alfonso to build his fish pond, trained him on the process of making organic feeds and provided raw materials for feed formulation which are fish meal, copra meal, rice bran, and cassava flour. Other training and assistance related to fish growing were also given to him.

Unfavorable weather had caused fish kill on his pond two months after stocking on the first attempt. Having seen the process and confident that he can make it the second time, he opted to stock fingerlings again and used the remaining feed materials from BFAR. In addition, he is now formulating his feeds using available raw materials from his organic farm.

The retired teacher continuously grows organic aquaculture products. He is on process of constructing two more fish ponds and will employ the same technology. He also employs polyculture by growing tilapia and ulang together. Mang Alfonso notes that income from organic aquaculture is high because he spends less on feeds and fertilizer.

Though growing organic tilapia requires efforts and takes 4-6 months to reach marketable size as compared to 3-4 months on conventional fish growing, the reward is worth the wait.

There is also integration in his all-organic farm. Vegetables become fodder for livestock and poultry, livestock and poultry's waste serve as pond fertilizer, and water from the pond for the vegetables.

The retired teacher has kept his strong physique and brilliant mind despite being in the old age threshold at 73, eating organic foods probably is a factor.

He shared his aspirations for a bigger market for organic products. But for now, he has yet to fulfill his dream to make his organic farm as a tourist destination where people could just pick from his vegetable garden, fish from his fishpond and cook in the area.

Interested to venture into organic aquaculture? Visit the nearest BFAR Office in your area or message BFAR Cagayan Valley on Facebook. ❖ Max Prudencio/  
Jackie Mark Dela Cruz

## BFAR patrol vessel chases away foreign fishers

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – A patrol vessel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, on patrol mission within waters northwest of Calayan Island, has driven away a handful of foreign fishers. This information, revealed by BFAR RO2 fishery law enforcer Sherwin Buguina.**

The BFAR RO2 Enforcement Head said that they departed Batanes close to midnight of June 19, and were en route to Port Irene in Sta. Ana town, this province, when they encountered said fishers. Buguina said that they spotted the foreign vessels based on their light attractants.

Hot pursuit ensued for 2 hours, Buguina added, but the government enforcers were not able to apprehend the target vessel as it was maneuvering dangerously and even threw ropes in an attempt to disable propeller of the government vessel.

Based on the flag and the general make-up of the boat, Buguina said that the foreign vessel can be from Vietnam.

While the BFAR has been successful in apprehending Vietnamese fishing boats in previous years, BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros C. Morales said that this time the said foreign vessels have come prepared with evasive tactics and have apparently upgraded their propulsion motors which enabled them to deal with the government enforcement vessel.

As of this time, 3 Vietnamese fishing vessels previously apprehended for poaching in Region 02, are moored in Toran wharf in Aparri, while the BFAR RO2 awaits for the change of ownership in favor of the fisheries agency.

Utilized in this recent trip was the BFAR MCS 3005 jointly manned by the BFAR and Philippine Coast Guard headed by Lt. Bernard N. Ventura.

Aside from their patrol mission, MCS 3005 was also utilized to deliver BFAR RO2 projects to Batanes and ferry LSIs and government uniformed personnel to and from the province. ❖ *Max Prudencio*



## BFAR RO2 FLEs patuloy ang trabaho sa kabila ng ECQ

**Sa kabila ng umiiral na Enhanced Community Quarantine dala ng COVID-19 pandemic, patuloy pa rin ang fishery law enforcers ng BFAR RO2 sa maigting na pagpapatupad ng batas pangisdaan.**

Simula ng a-singko ng Abril, nakapagtala ang grupo ng dalawang voluntary surrender ng baby trawl at nabawi rin ang apat pang parehong gamit-pangisda. Ang paggamit ng baby trawl o kilala bilang 'galadgad' sa municipal water ay itinuturing bilang "use of active gear" at ito'y ipinagbabawal sa Sec. 95 ng RA 10654.

Nabawi ang mga nasabing gamit-pangisda habang nagpapatrolya ang grupo sa baybayin dagat ng Aparri at Buguey, Cagayan.

Bukod sa nasabing pagkumpiska, patuloy rin ang grupo sa pagpapatupad ng land-based at seaborne operations sa iba't-ibang baybaying bayan ng Cagayan, kabilang na ang market-denial operations sa mga fish landing centers.

Kaalinsabay nito ay ang patuloy na pagsiyasat at pag-isyu ng food pass para sa mga fish and fishery products cargoes, palabas ng rehiyon. Ayon sa datos ng Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Unit, mayroon ng 142 Food Pass na na-isyu ang ahensya. ❖ *Max Prudencio*



## BFAR 2 orients stakeholders on FMA



**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Following the Fisheries Management Area Orientation for Local Chief Executives held last Feb. 18, the fisheries bureau here has conducted a similar activity, this time for other fisheries stakeholders.**

The activity was held on March 6, 2020 at the Valley Hotel here, was attended by national government agencies, fishery law enforcement agencies, non-government organizations and representatives from the different fisheries sectors.

The Bureau through FMA Regional Assistant Focal Person Dr. Emma Ballad, conducted a briefing on the rationale and mechanics of the FMA, followed by selection of representatives to complete the Regional FMA Management Body.

Chosen as representatives were Mr. Nonie Dela Peña for Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Sany Cortez for Traders / Processors, Mr. Ricardo Umoso for Municipal Fisheries, Mr. Claudio Rodriguez for Commercial Fisheries, Mr. Victor Suguitan for Aquaculture, Mr. Alexander Agra for IFARMC, Dr. Helen Grace Bangi for the

Academe, and Sis. Minerva Caampued for NGOs.

Representatives from national government agencies also participated in the orientation, particularly, Mr. Arnie Santiago of MARINA, Major Andres Banguil of PNP Maritime, Lt. Rey Remegio of PN, Cdr. Lawrence Tamayo of PCG, Mr. Philip Tamayao of DILG, Ms. Fanibeth Domingo of DOT, Ms. Myra Dayag of DENR, and Ms. Gene Baquiran of PIA.

Mr. Marcelo Bumidang, Mr. Marvelyn Guiang, Mr. Tito Mangantulao and Ms. Mina Labuguen also represented their respective Protected Areas.

Chosen earlier was Mayor Joan Dunuan of Baggao, this province, as Co-Chair. The BFAR automatically heads the Management Body.

BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Milagros Morales said that the above representatives, will represent Region 2 in the final selection of representatives and formation of Management Board for FMA 1.

Fisheries Management Areas,

as embodied under Fisheries Administrative Order 263, seeks to provide science-based solutions, enhance stakeholder participation and increase transparency with regards to the governance and management of fisheries resources.

The declaration of FMAs took into consideration the fact that fish stocks roam or straddle the marine waters without regard to geo-political boundaries. While fish stocks freely roam the marine waters, these same stocks have a roaming range.

Said range, as well as the presence of fish families or species common to neighboring regions or provinces, served as basis in the delineation of the FMAs. Overall, the country has 12 FMAs.

BFAR RO2 was designated as lead agency in the implementation of FMA 1, which covers the coastal provinces of Batanes, Cagayan and Isabela in Region 2; Aurora in Region 3; Quezon in Region 4A and Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Sorsogon (including Northern Samar) in Region 5. ❖ *Max Prudencio*

## Paradigm shift in fisheries management...from p1

The declaration of FMAs took into consideration the fact that fish stocks roam or straddle the marine waters without regard to geo-political boundaries. While fish stocks freely roam the marine waters, these same stocks have a roaming range, as explained by Dr. Emma Ballad, senior staff of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here.



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The FMA shall be governed by a Management Body composed of representatives from the BFAR, LGU and the municipal, commercial, aquaculture and fish processing/marketing fisheries

subsectors. The Body shall also include representatives from the academe, indigenous people, NGO, NGAs and the PAMB, as applicable.

The Management Body, with inputs from a Science Advisory Group (SAG), is charged to formulate management plan for the FMA.

While trans-regional in scope, the implementation of FMA, shall not supersede existing administrative jurisdiction and even LGU authority over their municipal waters. "The FMA aims to enhance existing management measures as well as ensure that existing policies and interventions conform to the general recommendations to be formulated under the

FMA," Dr. Ballad explained.

During the activity, held at the Valley Hotel here, BFAR RO2 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales, provided a rundown of the regional and national fisheries resources, fisheries situationer and vision, and current BFAR RO2 actions to shore-up fisheries production.

Atty. Arsenio Bañares, Chief of the Regulatory Division, also facilitated the selection of Vice-Chairperson for the Management Body (regional level) in the person of Hon. Mayor Joan Dunuan of Baggao, Cagayan, and Hon. Mayor Nelson Robinion of Sta. Ana, Cagayan as alternate. Designated Chairperson is from BFAR. ❖ *Max Prudencio*



**High value ulang** - Hon. Mayor Esterlina Aguinaldo leads distribution of 7,000 pcs ulang post larvae earlier hauled at BFAR-MHVSH, Claveria to several recipient fisherfolk of Brgys. San Juan, Centro 2 and Portabaga, in Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan on April 28, 2020. Ulang is a hardy species that is easily farmed. On average, farmed ulang weighs from 30 to 100 grams, which translates to 10 to 25 pieces per kilo at 300 to 350 pesos/kg. This is very much comparable to the medium to large or jumbo sizes of brackishwater tiger shrimps or sugpo. Ulang can be used in polyculture together with tilapia and carp. They can tolerate temperature up to 34°C and actively feed at night. They consumed less feed than tilapia since they are nibblers and slow feeder. Said high-value species can be substituted for lobster and tiger prawn (sugpo) because of their appearance and excellent taste.

## BFAR RO2 to promote new value-added products from oyster

**TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan** – With the continued rise in oyster production in this province, oyster producers can expect even more income in the near future as the fisheries bureau here is set to introduce technology for the preparation of value-added products from the species.

The new and value-added products will be introduced by the Fish Processing Laboratory of the agency, headed by Ms. Arlene B. Tacuycuy. The Fish Processing head said that priority areas are top oyster producing municipalities such as Buguey, Sta. Teresita, Gonzaga, and Sanchez Mira.

The products namely, smoked oyster in oil, smoked oyster, pickled oyster and oyster sauce, were output of their recent participation to a trainer's training on oyster processing conducted by Mr. David De Guzman of BFAR Region 1.

Mr. de Guzman emphasized that there are no chemical



*Pickled oyster and smoked oyster in corn oil*

preservatives used in the preparation of the products.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Region 2 Regional Director Milagros C. Morales expressed her gratitude to BFAR RO1 for sending their expert and was also elated as the training enabled the Region to hit the ground running when it comes to the development of the oyster commodity.

"We are coming up with species specialization for each

of our fish farms, along with development plans for each. In such a way, we can address needed interventions along the value chain of each species."

"This training is surely a positive step towards such goal," RD Morales said.

Sanny Cortez, member of the Women in Fishing Enterprise Group (WIFE) group in Gonzaga, said that she would surely adopt the technology and expressed her willingness to disseminate the same, in her locality.

Participants during the closing program of the training cannot help but express their delight in approval, after having a taste of the products.

"It's really yummy. These can serve as toppings for palabok, pancit, and the seaweed pancit canton," one participant said.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority indicate that from 648 metric tons in 2016, oyster production in Region 02 rose to 709 metric tons in 2018.

❖ Max Prudencio



## RIC members finds fish processing as potent side business



**Members of the Sta. Lucia Rural Improvement Club (RIC) in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya – a typical barkada, used to spend their downtime by simple kape-kape and the usual story-sharing.**

Not until a year ago when one member, Migirl Moreno, suggested that they start a smoked fish processing venture using a smokehouse earlier awarded to the group. Moreno usually attends trainings rendered by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources,

being an employee at the town's Municipal Agriculture Office.

First, they started with just 3 kilos roundscad (galunggong) as raw material. The group sold the finished product to their immediate neighborhood.

Not long after, the group was able to increase the volume of raw material several fold. "We were encouraged to increase the volume, with the positive feedback from our customers" Moreno says.

From their barangay, market expanded to include neighboring villages and establishments. "Our product have even reached abroad, due to order from balikbayans," Myleen Moreno, also a member of the group, says.

Net income is around 25% of their capital, while 20% of which goes to the RIC funds, for upkeep of the equipment.

From smoked fish processing, the group has now expanded to catering with fish lumpia and pancit as main offering for snacks.

More than the monetary reward, the group appreciates the bond that they can have thru their budding fish processing venture.

The latter added that as women and responsible citizens, they should look to whatever assistance they can render to their community, and not just limit themselves to their personal occupation. ❖ Max Prudencio

### How To: ONE DAY OLD FLYING FISH (Specialty of Batanes)

Sa panahon ng tag-init, uso ang flying fish o kilala bilang "borador." Habang nasa ECQ, maaari tayong gumawa ng patok na patok at masarap na One day Old Flying Fish, na siyang specialty ng Batanes.

Narito ang paraan, mula kay Provincial Fishery Officer Ritchie Rivera:

1. Remove gills and fins
2. Split into fillet, remove bones (optional)
3. Wash thoroughly
4. Prepare marinating solution using vinegar, salt, and spices (pepper, crushed garlic)
5. Soak for 1 to 3 hours
6. Drain and sun dry for 1 day
7. Deep fry until golden brown.
8. Serve with preferred dip.
9. You may pack the excess / uncooked, and freeze, for future use.



## RDC 2 issues Resolution...from p1

of fisheries and aquatic resources.

The development body also cited guiding principles under the fisheries code, among which is the adoption of precautionary principle and the application of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and Integrated Coastal Area Management.

RDC 02 also mentioned the focus of the Regional Development Plan 2017 – 2022 along similar lines.

The RDC 02 Resolution, as signed by its Interim Secretary Gina V. Dayag, and Interim Chairperson RD Dionisio C. Ledres, Jr. of NEDA Region 02, stated that the five (5) criteria under the MMK are consistent with the above government thrusts and policies and hence, must be adopted by local government units.

The MMK Search is a priority program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under the Pres. Rodrigo Duterte administration and awards coastal municipalities with exemplary efforts in protecting and conserving their marine environment. The program has five main criteria which are (1) no illegal fishing, (2) observance of closed fishing season, (3) establishment of marine protected areas, (4) clean coastal waters without domestic



and industrial wastes, and (5) effective mangrove protection and rehabilitation program.

In its inception in Region 02 in 2017, the municipality of Claveria, this province, was adjudged third place in the national level, with total prize of Php 12 million, all in the form of fisheries projects. The municipality made use of its prize to further develop its fisheries sector.

The following year, the municipality of Ivana in Batanes, was declared as regional winner but failed to make it to the national level, mainly due to its lack of accomplishment on criteria #5, there being no mangrove area in the town.

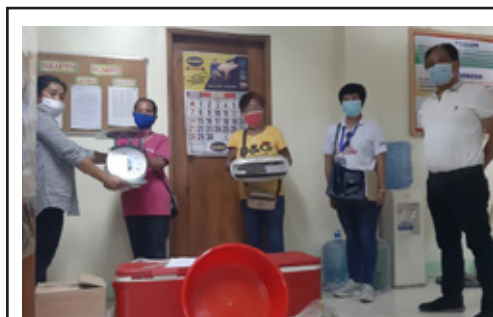
Nevertheless, the municipality made use of its earnings under the MMK, with counterpart

fund from the LGU, to procure equipment and fund construction of its seaweed processing center.

Last year, regional winner was Maconacon of Isabela province, and is still on the process of coming up with a project proposal to make use of its Php 2 million prize.

This early, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 02 is calling on its LGU counterparts to start preparing their nomination documents for the MMK Search.

BFAR RO2 RD Dr. Milagros C. Morales assured that the agency stands ready to assist LGUs in implementing projects to comply with the criteria, and all the way to the packaging of nomination papers. ❖ Max Prudencio and MMK Focal Person Dr. Emma Ballad



**Fish Processing** - The Fisheries Post-Harvest Section awarded post-harvest paraphernalia as livelihood assistance to fisherfolk associations in the region. The paraphernalia were awarded to Cabisera Farmers and Fisherfolk Association of Ilagan City and Samahang Mangingisda ng Brgy. Compania, Tumauni in Isabela on June 22, 2020; Bayombong Fish Vendor's Association of Bayombong and Quirino Women's Association of Solano in Nueva Vizcaya on June 23, 2020; and Namnama Fisherfolk Association of Gonzaga in Cagayan on June 25, 2020.



## Two new fisheries regulations...from p1

FAO 264 prohibits the catching, possession, transport, trade and selling of mangrove crablets and mangrove crab juvenile from the wild that are less than 12 centimeters in carapace width (CW).

Catch, possession, transport, trade and selling of gravid mangrove crabs likewise, along with the export of wild-sourced mangrove crablets and juvenile mangrove crabs and export of wild-sourced mangrove crab breeders, spawners, eggs and fry, are also prohibited.

However, catching and trade of crablets having 5 cm CW and bigger, for local aquaculture purposes, are allowed. Likewise, catching and trade of mangrove crabs having 12 cm CW and bigger for local aquaculture purposes, specifically for hatchery, are allowed.

Further, possession and trade of hatchery-sourced mangrove crabs at least 10 cm in CW and intended for the soft-shell crab market, is allowed.

Also not prohibited is the collection of gravid mangrove crabs and crablets for research and academic purposes, along with the transport, selling and trade of hatchery-bred mangrove crablets.

Violation to FAO 264 entails penalty ranging from one hundred thousand (Php 100,000.00) to five million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00) and imprisonment of 8 to 10 years, if convicted by court of law.

FAO 265, on the other hand, prohibits the catching, transport,

possession, trade and selling of gravid spiny lobsters and juvenile spiny lobsters from the wild, measuring less than the maturity carapace length (CL) at first sexual maturity.

The CL at first sexual maturity ranges from 5.2 cm to 18.7 cm, depending on species.

FAO 265 also prohibits the exportation of wild-sourced puerulus (young), breeders, spawners, eggs or fry of spiny lobster.

The penalty for violating FAO 265 is fine ranging from one hundred thousand (Php 100,000.00) to five million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00) and imprisonment of 8 to 10 years, if convicted by court of law.

Department of Agriculture thru Sec. William Dar, with recommendation from BFAR Central Office Dir. Eduardo Gongona, issued the FAOs in the first quarter of this year.

In issuing both regulations,

the Department noted decline in production along with the destructive and unsustainable manner in catching said species.

"As early as 2017, we have already conducted information dissemination and lobby with the LGUs, particularly on the unsustainable manner of catching crablets. This led to the issuance of a number of local ordinances, and some are also pending at this point," RD Morales said.

The RD mentioned the use of push net (dus-dus), baby trawl (galadgad) and fyke net (tanggap / sayut), which are used to catch megalopa (very young crabs) and crablets locally known as 'rissing', 'burros' or 'langaw-langaw'.

'Dus-dus' causes destruction of substrate, while 'sayut' has a lot of by-catch composed of fish fry or fingerlings, that are left to die when target species are retrieved, explained the regional director. ❖ Max Prudencio



**Fisheries Regulations Officer Kenneth Cababa conducts inspection of crablets prior to the issuance of the Local Transport Permit to the shippers. The Shippers were from the municipalities of Buguey and Aparri and found to be compliant as per FAO 264. Crablets will be shipped to Pampanga.**

**FAO 264** - Fisheries Quarantine Inspector Mr. Ronnel Villanueva inspects and confiscates crablets, in compliance to Fisheries Administrative Order 264 (Regulation on the Catching, Possession, Transporting, Selling, Trading and Exporting of Mangrove Crablets, Juvenile Mangrove Crabs and Gravid Mangrove Crabs).

With this inspection, around 1000 pcs crablets with less than 5cm carapace width (CW) were voluntarily surrendered by the shipper. The shipper was reminded of the prohibitions and exemptions under FAO 264.

Prohibited under FAO 264 are as follows:

- a. Catch, possess, transport, trade and sell mangrove crablets and juvenile less than 12cm CW from the wild;
- b. Catch, possess, transport, trade and sell gravid mangrove crab;
- c. Export of wild-sourced crablets and juvenile;
- d. Export of wild-sourced crab breeders, spawners, eggs or fry.

The 1000 pcs crablets (voluntarily surrendered) were turned over to BFAR Farm and were stocked in CVBTOS, Sta. Teresita, Cagayan on May 25, 2020.



**Tilapia hatchery from PRDP** – PFO Emerson Tattao Jr. with Provincial & Local Government Unit Officials and DA-PRDP, joins the groundbreaking ceremony for the project “Tilapia Fingerlings Production & Marketing Facilities” at Brgy. Villamarzo, Cordon, Isabela on May 13, 2020. The project was realized thru the initiatives of the Provincial Government of Isabela in partnership with the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) and LGU Cordon. BFAR provided technical assistance in the preparation of project proposal. The project includes a 120 square meter building, concrete conditioning tanks with shed and concrete pond lining. Proponent of this project is “Wigan Settler’s Multi-Purpose Cooperative” of Wigan, Cordon, Isabela.

**Eel stock enhancement** – Inland Resource Management personnel conducts stock enhancement of elvers, under the Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) Project. The project aims to bring back productivity of freshwater resources, thru enhancement of indigenous fish species. In sum, 60,000 pcs. elvers were dispersed in the province of Cagayan, 50,000 in Isabela and 40,000 in Quirino, .





# Seafood KADIWA todo arangkada

Umaga pa lang ay halos nakalahati na ang nasa 300 kilo na bentang isda sa Seafood KADIWA Fish Market na binuksan ng BFAR RO2 sa harap ng tanggapan nito.

Simula noong a-onse ng Mayo, ay dagsa na ang mga mamimili, kung saan sila'y nahahalina hindi lang sa magaganda at bagong huling isdang-dagat tulad ng tambakol, kunig, tangigue, talakitok, blue marlin, tulingan, galunggong at espada, kundi sa abot-kayang presyo ng mga ito.

Bukod sa isdang dagat, nariyan din ang mga galing palaisdaan tulad ng tilapia, hipon at malaga, at pati na rin gulay pang-pakbet at prutas gaya ng saging at hinog na manga.

Ayon kay Gng. Gemma Libunao, hepe ng Marketing Section ng BFAR RO2, binuksan ng ahensya ang Seafood KADIWA upang mapabilis ang pagbenta ng huling isda mula sa mga mangingisda at makapagbigay pagkakataon sa mga mamimili na makabili ng de-kalidad na isda at gulay sa kaaya-ayang-presyo, ngayong panahon ng GCQ.

Bukas ang Seafood KADIWA ng BFAR RO2 kada ikalawang linggo ng buwan, mula

umaga hanggang hapon. Ito ay ipapatupad ng ahensya hanggang matapos ang GCQ.

Ang KADIWA ay proyekto ng Department of Agriculture, kung saan layon nito ang magbigay daan sa mga agricultural at fisheries producers na maibenta ang kanikanilang produkto, at sa mga mamamayan na makabili ng mga dekalidad na produkto lalo na ngayon panahon ng sakuna dulot ng COVID 19.



The Seafood segment of DA's KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Program

