

2,194 Fisherfolk in Region 2 to receive Php 6.5M fuel subsidy

A total of 2,194 fisherfolk in region 02 will receive 3,000 pesos worth of fuel subsidy as cash assistance to marginalized fisherfolk identified by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

From Cagayan province, a total of 1,881 fishers will receive fuel subsidy thru the Fuel Discount Voucher program, while 86 fisherfolk of Batanes will be benefitted from this program. On the other hand, Isabela province has a share of 216 fisherfolk-beneficiaries and seven will come from the province of Quirino.

Representatives from the ONE DA family witnessed the initial distribution of cards in Cagayan and Isabela.



Isabela Fisherfolk waved their "Card" as proof of being one of the beneficiaries of the Fuel Discount Voucher Program of the Department of Agriculture. DA Secretary William Dar led the distribution during his visit in Ilagan City on May 20, 2022 as part of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month Celebration.

DA top exec moves to beef up eel industry in Region 02



USEC Caballero visited eel farms in Region 02 after initiating a dialogue with local eel growers and importers to discuss status of eel industry in Cauayan City. With her were RD Angel B. Encarnacion, Dr Evelyn C. Ame, National Coordinator for Eel Fisheries, Mr. Eric Guinto and brothers, owners of the Cauayan Aqua Ventures Corporation and other potential investors.

ARITAO, Nueva Vizcaya – In a recent visit of Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and Fisheries Ms. Chery Natividad-Caballero in Region 02, she pushes measures to beef up the thriving Eel fisheries industry in the region. This came after a short meeting with eel growers on March 17, 2022 at Cauayan City, Isabela and Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

After identifying bottlenecks among local eel growers, USEC Caballero presented three key points that her office and the fisheries bureau can support the industry. First, is to strengthen the rules and regulations on the catching, transporting and trading of eel fry to ensure that there is a balance in production and the ecosystem to avoid resource depletion

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S

Message

ANGEL B. ENCARNACION, DMSc., CESE
Regional Director



With barely two years since the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic started to wane, we've managed to pull together ourselves and strived to thrive in this most challenging times.

This year, as the whole world adapts to new ways of doing things or others call it the "new normal", we were able to celebrate milestones in leadership as a public servant. With this victory, we will not rest on our laurels; instead, it will serve as a springboard for us to do more to realize the fruition of what we have envisioned for our fisherfolk as front liners in our plight towards the achievement of a food secure nation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unimaginable changes in our lives; it affected our operation as a government arm. Travel restrictions have hindered us from bringing fisheries services direct to our clientele.

Early quarter of the year, while we are exerting efforts towards recovering from economic slump, we were greeted with a surge in fuel prices as a consequence of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The ripple effect of these scenarios put our marginalized fisherfolk in helpless situation.

At the midst of all these obstacles, our passion and commitment to serve our clientele transcends beyond these draw backs.

The challenge for us servant leaders is to provide the most effective support possible to alleviate the magnitude of these global setbacks.

The Fuel Discount Voucher Program, initiated by the Department of Agriculture is just one of the measures in providing support to our local fishers from the unrelenting increase of fuel price in the global market.

The Bureau will continue working with the help of stakeholders whom we share the same goals towards fish production using environment-friendly approaches alongside with improving economic conditions of our fisherfolk through various appropriate livelihood assistance. We will remain dedicated and committed to our mission to implement programs, projects and interventions geared towards the attainment of sustainable fisheries management and innovative services contributing to the nation's food security.

With the impending change in leadership in our political system, we hope that it will bring new perspective to the fisheries sector.

May we be one in achieving a food secure and better resilient Philippines!

Fisheries in the New Administration

Change has become part of everyone's lives as well as in government organizations. In countries like the Philippines, often than not, agency leaders (particularly appointees) leave their post not because they lack commitment to spearhead program reform, but their tenure ends as a consequence of an electoral process.

The inauguration of a new set of public leaders brings with it policy reforms and institutional revamps, personnel re-assignments and most often than not, re-branding of flagship projects.

What do we do, so as not to disrupt smooth implementation of projects and office operation?

One of the most popular coping strategies that agencies like DA-BFAR adapted, when there's shift in administrative governance is to strive to maintain normalcy.

It continued to implement programs and projects anchored to the agency mandates to improve service delivery and productivity during transition period.

Two years after the COVID-19 pandemic hindered in person encounters, the first semester of 2022 have seen gradual shift in the delivery of fisheries services to the



Bureau's intended clientele – the fisherfolk.

With the whole nation grapple with change in the political set up, DA-BFAR Region 02 meantime, leaned its priority directions in tapping its freshwater resources as potential site for aquaculture development thereby increasing local fisheries production.

Regular fingerling dispersal, stock enhancement of communal bodies of water using native species, upgrading of brood-stock and production facilities, strengthening of regulatory and conservation efforts, conduct of capability building trainings and rendering of technical assistance in aquaculture,

post-harvest and regulatory are among the strides that the Bureau carry out to achieve its goals.

Despite the global economic crises brought by high inflation rate, rapid spike in fuel price, local setbacks and the like, the Bureau remains unfazed and steadfast to its commitment as a government arm mandated to ensure sustainable fisheries and aquatic resources by empowering fisherfolk towards productivity and resiliency.

The change in leadership, rekindles hope among all fisheries stakeholders towards a better and resilient Philippines.



USEC CABALLERO VISITS DA-BFAR RO2

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan — The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 2 (DA-BFAR RO2) welcomes Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and for Fisheries – Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero during her visit in the region today, March 17, 2022.

DA-BFAR RO2 Director Dr. Angel Encarnacion together with Division Chiefs, Provincial Fishery Officers, Section Heads, Unit Heads, and other staff assembled to welcome USec. Caballero.

“We see how important Region 2 is in terms of our presence in West Philippine Sea and the resources that we have here. You are equipped technically and in terms of spiritual upbringing and values, because it shows in the way you coordinate things...When you present yourself to the outside world, you have to do it the best and that is what I saw, so congratulations,” USec. Caballero said in her message.

On the agency’s programs, she reiterated the importance of innovation under the One DA reform agenda, putting professionalism in everyone, encouraging, and enhancing the

personnel’s capabilities, to be more effective and relevant in terms of helping the community and clientele.

In conjunction with her visit, USec Caballero led the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected officers of 2022 DA-BFAR RO2 Employee’s Union.

USec Caballero and RD Encarnacion immediately proceeded to Isabela for the project visit to an Eel Farm Nursery and for a meeting with IFARMC Magat Dam Officers and Fishcage Operators Association. Thereafter, they will launch the Eel Nursery techno-demo project located at Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya. (JKC)

PHOTO NEWS



DA-BFAR RO2 welcomes new FPSSD Chief

March 1, 2022 | Dr. Ronaldo R. Libunao took his oath as the new Chief Aquaculturist of the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division of DA-BFAR RO2. The oath taking ceremony was administered by Regional Director Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion with the presence of all division chiefs and other employees.

Training on Induced Spawning of Ayungin held in ABTOS

In an effort to explore the aquaculture potential of ayungin in the region, the DA-BFAR RO2 Fisheries Resource Management Section organized a three-day Hands-on training on Induced Spawning of Ayungin on June 14-16 at Aparri Brackishwater Technology Outreach Station (ABTOS) in Punta, Aparri, Cagayan.

Dr. Froilan A. Aya, Head-Aquaculture Department of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Binangonan Rizal Station lectured on breeding and culture of ayungin and expounded on the technology of induced spawning and hatchery rearing of ayungin. Moreover, he held practical sessions and comprehensive interaction and monitoring with the trainees.

Participants who came from the DA-BFAR outreach stations, Provincial



Dr. Froilan Aya patiently taught participants efficient techniques on how to perform induced spawning of Ayungin. The broodstock will be used for stock enhancement activities under the BASIL Project.

Fishery Offices, and Regional Office were immersed in activities such as sex identification of ayungin, hatchery operations, preparation of artemia, and stocking of ayungin fry in hapa nets.

The training is also in support to the implementation of Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) project through the production of indigenous species like ayungin for stock enhancement.

DA-BFAR RO2 distributes 5.5M bangus fingerlings to Cagayan fisherfolk



TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan— The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 2 (DA-BFAR R02) in coordination with partner LGUs dispersed 5,537,806 pcs of milkfish (bangus) fingerlings to target fisherfolk beneficiaries in Cagayan as part of the agency's continuing efforts to boost fish production.

The distribution is funded under the Quick Relief Fund (QRF) of DA which provides recovery assistance
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to small scale fisherfolk who were affected by typhoons to restore their source of livelihood; and also under the Aquaculture Development and Enhancement Program (ADEP) which aims to boost fish production and income of fishpond and fish cage operators regionwide, in support to DA's twin objective of "Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita".

The number of fingerlings given to a recipient depends on the area or volume of their fishponds or fish cage.

For the initial dispersal last year, the bureau already distributed 3,390,493 pcs of tilapia fingerlings under QRF and 5,520,000 pcs of tilapia fingerlings under ADEP regionwide. Likewise, 14,000 pcs of crablets were given to the municipalities of Buguey and Sta. Teresita, Cagayan.

Further, more dispersal activities are expected this month to include the distribution of 159,500 and 140,000 pcs Siganid fingerlings under QRF and ADEP respectively. (JKC)

Higit 60 fisherfolk ng Camiguin Island, nakatanggap ng complete sets ng gill net at lifevest mula sa BFAR



CALAYAN ISLAND, Cagayan (PIA) - - Hindi bababa sa 60 na mangingisda ng Camiguin Island ang nakatanggap ng kumpletong set ng gill net at lifevest mula sa DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Office No. 2 ngayong araw.

Bahagi ito ng Fishery Technology Caravan ng ahensiya sa pamamagitan ng Provincial Fisheries Office nito sa lalawigan ng Cagayan.

“Kahit weekend ay minabuti naming magpunta rito upang makita ang kalagayan ng ating mga fisherfolk dito. Magiging daan ito para mas malaman namin kung ano ang pangangailangan ng sektor ng pangisdaan dito sa isla sa pamamagitan ng aming pag-iikot mamaya at pakikipagusap sa inyo,” ani Angel Encarnacion, ang regional director ng BFAR sa kanyang mensahe.

Sinabi nito na ngayong mas maluwag na ang restriksiyon sa pagbiyahe sa isla, magiging simula ito upang maiparating muli ang ibang programa ng pamahalaan.

Sinabi pa ni RD Encarnacion na dapat tingnan ng komunidad ang posibilidad na maghanap ng lugar sa

isla kung saan pwedeng mag-venture sa aquaculture upang magkaroon ng alternatibo ang mga mangingisda lalo na kung ‘off season’ ng pangangisda sa dagat.

“Nagpapasalamat din ako sa LGU dahil malaki ang naitutulong nila lalo na in terms of coordination ng mga activities ng BFAR dito sa isla,” aniya. Inirepresenta ni Sangguniang Bayan Crispiniano ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Calayan sa nasabing aktibidad.

Ayon naman kay Provincial Fishery Officer Jennifer Tattao, magsasagawa rin ang BFAR ng livelihood training para sa mga fisherfolk ng Babuyan Claro, isa sa mga isla ng Calayan Group of Island.

Aniya, naka-iskedyul din ito ngayong buwan ng Hunyo upang mas ma-empower pa ang mga mangingisda at mabigyan ng bagong kaalaman na makatutulong sa kanila upang magkaroon sila ng karagdagang pagkakakitaan para sa kanilang pamilya.

Samantala, nagpapasalamat naman ang punong barangay ng Balatubat na si Leo Batislaon sa mga ibinigay na tulong ng BFAR na ayon sa kanya ay malaki ang maitutulong lalo na ngayong

nagsisimula nang makarekober mula sa epekto ng pandemiya.

Hinimok nito ang kanyang mga kabarangay na bigyang halaga ang mga natanggap mula sa BFAR at nakiusap ito na gamitin ang mga ito at huwag ibenta.

Nagpapasalamat din ang mga mangingisda ng tatlong barangay na kinabibilangan ng Balatubat, Minabel at Naguillian sa mga bagong gamit na ibinigay sa kanila.

“Marami pong salamat sa naibigay na tulong, kahit hindi natuloy noong pandemic, nakarating ngayon. Inaasahan namin na sa susunod na taon, meron na naman ulit. Ito ang ipinangako namin, pag-ingatan at pagyamanin namin ang ibinigay na fishing gear sa amin,” ani Milbert Javier, isa sa mga benepisyaryo.

Ang Camiguin Island ay isa lamang sa mga isla ng Calayan Group of Island. Mula sa San Vicente Port sa Santa Ana, Cagayan, kinakailangang magbiyahe ng higit tatlong oras sa pamamagitan ng bangka bago marating ang Camiguin Island. (MDCT/PIA Cagayan)

Higit sa 15 fishpond owners, dumalo sa seminar ng Tilapia Grow-out Culture at Management

Rizal, Cagayan – Hindi bababa sa 15 na mga mangingisda o fishpond owners na residente ng Duyun, Batu, at Illuru Norte sa bayan ng Rizal ang dumalo sa dalawang araw, nitong Hunyo 9-10, 2022 na seminar na isinagawa ng DA-BFAR RO2.

Bahagi ito ng Training Assistance ng ahensiya sa pamamagitan ng Provincial Fishery Office ng Cagayan. Sa mensahe ni Vice Mayor Atty. Joel Ruma, binanggit niya na maaasahan ang tulong ng municipal office sa mga adhikain ng BFAR lalo na sa paglalako ng tilapia.

“Dalhin lahat ng BFAR dito ang kanilang programa na pwedeng maibigay sa mga fishpond owners dahil suportado kami diyan. Sa katunayan, bumaba ang presyo ng tilapia dito sa lugar namin mula ng dumami ang mangingisdang nag-aalaga ng tilapia”, ani Ruma.

Dagdag pa nito na laking pasasalamat niya sa kawanihan at sana magtuloy-tuloy ito para sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan sa lugar na ito.

Kalahok din sina Municipal Agriculturist Officer Juanito Guzman at Agri and Fisheries Sangguniang Bayan Graciano Simon sa seminar.



Resource speakers naman sa nasabing seminar sina FPSSD Staff Johnsen Tobias sa pagtatalakay ng Tilapia Culture at Management, Fishing Regulations Officer Jackie Carpio sa Fish Health Management, at FLDT Tiffany Cabulay sa pagsusuri ng gastos at kita sa larangan ng pag-aalaga ng tilapia.

Sa pagtatapos ng seminar, nagkaroon ng open forum kung saan sinagot lahat ni Provincial Fishery Officer Jennifer Tattao ang mga katanungan ng mga fishpond owners. Nakiusap din siya na manatiling aktibo sa lahat ng trainings

at seminars ang mga ito para mabilis din ang pagtugon ng pangasiwaan sa kanilang mga pangangailangan.

Nagpapasalamat ang mga mangingisda ng tatlong barangay sa mga bagong kaalaman na kanilang natutunan at isasagawa sa kanilang mga ponds.

Ang Rizal, Cagayan ay kabilang sa 5th class municipality na may diyalektong malaueg at kilalang lugar sa paghahanda ng ‘sinibalu’ sa kanilang mga mahahalagang okasyon.(MA)

DA-BFAR RO2 conducts series of training on aquaculture



Fisheries Technicians from Diffun and Maddela were trained on Tilapia Hatchery Management as a move to boost fisheries production in the landlocked province of Quirino.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has conducted series of training on aquaculture in Aglipay and Diffun, Quirino to boost fisheries production and achieve fish sufficiency in the landlocked province.

Selected fisheries technicians from the local government units of Diffun and Maddela were trained on the principles of Tilapia Hatchery Management and fingerling production on March 8-9, 2022 in Diffun, Quirino. The Hatchery aims to cater to the fingerling requirements of fish farmers in the province. The hatchery project

will also reduce mortality during fry transport as experienced by fish farmers from sourcing out fingerlings from neighboring provinces.

Meantime, fisheries experts from DA-BFAR served as resource speakers during the Hands-on Training on Grow-out Culture and Management of Freshwater Species at barangays Cabugao and Dumabel in Aglipay, Quirino which was participated by fishpond owners.

Also present during said training are Dr. Emma L. Ballard, Mr. Christopher B. Casco, Provincial Fisheries Officer of Quirino, BFAR aquaculture experts, and LGU staff. (With reports from Ma. Fatima B. Laeno, RFTFCD)

Pagsasanay sa Paggawa ng Tilapia Fish Cage, ginanap sa Piat, Cagayan



Piat, Cagayan – Serbisyong Paggawa ng Tilapia Fish Cage ang dala nang DA-BFAR RO2 sa Barangay Apayao ng Piat, Cagayan sa loob ng tatlong araw noong May 25-27, installation at stocking naman nitong Hunyo 3, 2022.

Bilang ahensiya na tumutulong upang magkaroon ng sapat na kaalaman ang mga mamamayan ukol sa katubigan, layunin ng BFAR RO2 na itaguyod ang pamumuhay ng mga mangingisda ng rehiyon dos kung kaya't isinagawa ang tatlong araw na pagsasanay patungkol sa paggawa at pangangasiwa ng tilapia

fish cage. Katuwang sa aktibidad na ito ay ang aktibong pakikiisa ng kanilang Municipal Agriculturist Officer Engr. Sagun at ang organisasyong ASIGA SWIP Fisherfolk Association sa pamumuno ni Ginoong Ahmed Helo.

Sa unang araw, ibinahagi ni Aquaculturist Jyecebel Domingo, bilang speaker, kung ano ang ukol sa cage, mga konsiderasyon sa pagpili ng lugar kung saan ilalagay, structure, at mga materyales na kakailanganin sa paggawa nito.

Samantala, masinsinang ipinaliwanag naman ni FLDT Tiffany Cabulay ang Return Cost Analysis (ROI) upang kanilang maintindihan na hindi lamang pang-maiksing panahon ang cages bagkus ito ay pangkabuhayan na kanilang iingat.

May sukat na 5x5x2.5 (Length, Width, Depth) ang fish cage na kayang mag-alaga ng 1500 sa loob ng apat hanggang limang buwan bago ang harvesting. Ito naman ay isa-isang inilahad ni Johnsen Tobias, isa sa staff ng FPSSD ng BFAR.

Bago pa man nagsimula ang aktwal na pagbuo ng cage, mahahalagang mensahe ang binitawan nila kasalukuyang Fisherfolk Regional Direktor Rodolfo Medrano, FPSSD Chief Aquaculturist Ronaldo Libunao, PFO Cagayan Jennifer Tattao, MAO Engr. Romeo Sagun, at Fishery Technician Marideth Maramag. “Alagaan ang proyektong ito gaya ng pagmamahal ninyo sa mga anak at asawa ninyo”, makabuluhang paalala nila.

‘Kooperasyon, dedikasyon, at panatiliing buo ang grupo’, ito ang binigyang-diin naman ni Tattao sa asosasyon.(MA)

Invasive Alien Species Retrieved in Cagayan River

Today, April 29, 2022, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 2 (DA-BFAR RO2) conducted a retrieval of invasive alien species (IAS) at Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao River, a tributary of the Cagayan River. A total of 85 kilograms of janitor fish were collected from the fisherfolk and were immediately buried.

Meanwhile, 75 kg of janitor fish were retrieved from Enrile, Cagayan last December. Some of the collected IAS were turned over to Cagayan State University for extraction and to Regional Fish Health Laboratory for dissection and preparation for Heavy Metal Test to be conducted by a third party laboratory in Metro Manila.

The activity is part of Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) project, a rejuvenating or enhancement program that gives focus on major rivers and lakes in the country.

Particularly, IAS are organisms that are either accidentally or intentionally introduced in areas outside of their natural habitat that may pose threat to the native ecosystem and biodiversity, causing an adverse impact to people's health, economy, and culture.

Janitor fish is considered a serious threat to river and lake's biodiversity as they compete with other native fish for food, prey on smaller fishes, and feed on eggs while reproducing faster than any other species. Moreover, with its

sharp scales, janitor fish is often stuck in nets set by fishers, destroying their fishing gears and nets.

The DA-BFAR has been working to address this problem. With the goal of eradicating and controlling the proliferation of invasive species like janitor fish in freshwater areas in the region, the bureau buys retrieved janitor fish at Php 20/kilogram from fishers.



DA-BFAR, CVAPCo to boost Red Tilapia Fingerlings Production in Isabela

Last year, Cagayan Valley Aquaculture Producers Cooperative (CVAPCo), through their Chairman Dr. Isagani P. Angeles, proposed a project entitled “Red Tilapia Fingerlings Production in Pond-Based Hatchery Management System”.

The hatchery is projected to significantly contribute to the increasing demand for the said commodity in the locality. Likewise this undertaking will help in the development and promotion of Red tilapia aquaculture in the region.

To jumpstart the hatchery’s operations, DA-BFAR provided the funding of 1 million pesos. On March 31, 2022, DA-BFAR RO2 Director Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion and Red Tilapia Project Leader Dr. Evelyn C. Ame turned over the cheque to Dr. Angeles.

The proposed farm located in Echague, Isabela will cover an area of



RD Angel B. Encarnacion with Dr. Evelyn C. Ame awarded the check amounting to 1 million pesos to Dr. Isagani P. Angeles, Chairman of CVAPCo as start-up capital for the joint project on hatchery production of red tilapia.

5,000 m2 with 5 compartments (1,000 m2 each compartment).

Further, broodstock Red tilapia will be obtained from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center BFAR-NFFTC.

Having a new source of red tilapia fingerling within the province will benefit the local red tilapia aquaculture community with lower cost of fingerling and more opportunities for employment to CVAPCo members and fisheries graduates in the community. (JKC)

DA top exec moves to beef up eel industry...

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since the industry depends on stocks from the wild.

In coordination with Local Government Units, fisheries ordinances to regulate indiscriminate gathering of glass eels must be in place to ensure the sustainable source of livelihood among marginalized fishers.

She stressed that documentary requirements should conform with the existing trade laws both local and international to avoid being rejected in the country destination. USec Caballero even cited cases wherein exported agriculture products denied access in the international market due to document inconsistencies in Saudi Arabia.

Further, she told local entrepreneurs to strengthen their organization because other countries like Japan, transact only with associations and not to individual exporters.

Next is to explore potential researchable areas on the culture and feeding management of glass eels to Kuroko size (15 cm) or table size through research

and development engagements to be spearheaded by DA-BFAR in collaboration with research institutions like the South East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) based in Ilo-ilo City, DA-NFRDI and other local and international academic institutions.

This is to reduce feed cost and other inputs that put pressure to investors and capitalists in the industry.

At present, eel culture depend solely from imported feeds coming from China and Taiwan with price range from Php 4,000 – 4,500 for a 20kg bag of feeds with 70% protein.

Lastly, establish a market linkage to eel consuming countries as an answer to the clamor of eel growers that there are no specific export markets for their stocks as of this writing since the onset of the global pandemic. For instance, the Cauayan Aqua Ventures Corporation in Isabela, has at present, 600,000 stocks of kuroko size *Anguilla* spp. (mostly species of *bicolor* and *marmorata*) in their tanks but failed to attract foreign market due to poor market matching scheme.

With this situation, USec Caballero said that she will initiate talk with Agriculture Attachés based in Japan and Korea to work with the Philippine government as possible source of their eel requirement.

USec Caballero also encouraged eel growers to conduct benchmarking activities and explore other options to market live eels like the production of Unagi or processed freshwater eel. She cited one company in CARAGA Region that is already into the business of exporting Unagi in Japan.

On the other hand, Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion, assures that DA-BFAR through Dr. Evelyn C. Ame, as the National Coordinator for Eel Fisheries will support the local eel growers in any way the agency can.

A National Summit via Zoom Application will be scheduled to further discuss and resolve other persistent issues in the eel industry involving all key players in the country. (AS)



DA-BFAR inaugurates CFLC project for Ivatan fisherfolk

BASCO, Batanes – The fisheries bureau through its Provincial Fisheries Office spearheaded the inauguration of the Community Fish Landing Centers (CFLCs) that will benefit Ivatan Fisherfolk from the coastal towns of Mahatao, Ivana, and Sabtang on June 20 to 22, 2022.

The series of inauguration and turn-over ceremonies were led by DA-BFAR RO2 Director Angel B. Encarnacion with Governor Marilou H. Cayco, Representative Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., Mayor Pedro F. Poncio (Mahatao), Mayor Leonardo Hostallero (Ivana) and Mayor Marcial Armando A. Alavado (Sabtang).

All of the mayors expressed their gratitude to the department for facilitating the establishment of the facility in their respective municipalities despite the pandemic and unfavorable weather conditions in the island province.

Likewise, Governor Cayco also conveyed her appreciation to the government for the additional CFLCs in the province as this is of great help to the fisherfolk in the said municipalities just like the first CFLC established in Uyugan, Batanes. She is confident that through the facility, the fishing industry in the province will be more developed and will significantly contribute to the food security particularly with the opening of Batanes to more tourists in the coming days.

Also thankful for the project, Representative Gato is very optimistic that these CFLCs would bring huge development and economic growth not just to the fisheries sector but as well as progress to the entire Province of Batanes.

Director Encarnacion mentioned that Batanes being one of the top tourists destination in the country, the bureau believes that the facility being the center for trading, can help in boosting

the food supply chain specially with the opening of food tourism.

Said project is composed of a building, freezers and stainless fish stalls. It aims to improve the socio-economic condition of fishing communities by reducing post-harvest losses in the island province. With the establishment of the CFLCs, local consumers will also have better access to safe and quality commodities. The facility will also be an avenue for skills training on disaster-resilient fisheries-based livelihood and resource management such as monitoring of fish catch and stock assessment.

CFLCs and other interventions under TARGET program will promote inclusive growth among coastal communities and alleviate poverty among fisherfolk.

COA gives DA-BFAR RO2 highest audit rating

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 2 (DA-BFAR RO2) received an “unqualified opinion” from the Commission on Audit (COA) on its financial report for the fiscal year 2021.

According to COA, an “unqualified opinion” rating is considered the best opinion that a government agency can receive. COA gives such a rating when a government office has fairly presented

its financial position and has its financial statements in order, in accordance with the Philippine Public Sector Accounting Standards.

DA-BFAR RO2 Director Angel B. Encarnacion affirms that this recognition is a testament of the bureau’s adherence to transparency and accountability.



Ivatan fishers receive livelihood projects from DA-BFAR

Basco, Batanes – The DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) regional office here is continuously providing livelihood support to fishers in Batanes province to help mitigate the effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The BFAR, through the Provincial Fisheries Office, awarded on June 20-22, 2022 to fisher-beneficiaries and associations in all municipalities of Batanes a total of 12 units of motorized fiber glass boat with complete accessories, 30 units of non-motorized fiber glass boat locally known as “Tataya”, and 6 sets of fish trading paraphernalia.

DA-BFAR Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion said the assistance aims to ensure sustainable livelihood for fishers especially during this time of health pandemic.

“The distribution of livelihood inputs was aimed at supporting the food security and sustainable income for the fisherfolk. This will not just



Ivatan fisherfolk received fisheries projects as mitigating measure against the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Twelve units of motorized fiber glass boat with complete accessories, 30 units of non-motorized “Tataya”, and 6 sets of fish trading paraphernalia were awarded by DA-BFAR 2.

help increase fish production in the locality but will also improve capture and postharvest fisheries for sustainable fisheries development, poverty alleviation, and food security,” Encarnacion said.

Aside from fishing boats and fish trading paraphernalia, the BFAR also distributed tilapia fingerlings to boost

their aquaculture production specially during off fishing season.

“The government is trying its best to institutionalize relevant programs particularly for fishers in the countryside to ensure food security during this pandemic when there is a global tightening of food supply,” Encarnacion added.

PHOTO NEWS



On March 7, 2022, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) distributed 10 units Motorized Fiberglass Boat with accessories as livelihood assistance to 30 fisherfolk beneficiaries from Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya as part of the convergence program with national agencies particularly the Department of Transportation and Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR). To complement, the DA-BFAR RO2 provided 10 sets of gillnets (015mm x 4K x 50MD x 200m) to the beneficiaries as additional aid for their livelihood.

Simultaneously, the DA-BFAR RO2 distributed 33,000 pieces Tilapia fingerlings to backyard fishpond operators and awarded a techno-demo project on upland aquaculture to Mr. Cenon Valencia—as part of the bureau’s commitment to IATF-ELCAC communities and to showcase the feasibility of the fishery technology to boost and ensure sustainable fish production in the locality.

DA-BFAR RO2 Director Angel B. Encarnacion personally attended the awarding with officials from the DOLE and Provincial Government of Nueva Vizcaya and LGU Alfonso Castaneda.

Officials of DA-BFAR and LGUs heed to the Ivatan fishers



Basco, Batanes- Simultaneous with the awarding of livelihood projects on June 20-22, 2022 in the different municipalities of Batanes, the bureau and LGUs conducted a forum to listen to the issues, concerns and needs of the grass roots.

Present during the forum were DA-BFAR R02 Director Angel B. Encarnacion, Governor Marilou H. Cayco together with her Chief of Staff Mr. Johnny Caballero, Representative Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., Provincial Fishery Officer Ritchie A. Rivera, Regional Fisherfolk Director Rodolfo Medrano, Local Chief Executives and Municipal Agriculturists of all the municipalities of Batanes.

Among the concerns of the fishers are the need for bigger motorized boats that can endure the rough sea condition of the Batanes fishing

grounds, additional fishing gears, improvement of fishports, provision of mechanical winch, and establishment of tilapia hatchery and ice making facility in the province.

Gov. Cayco said that since her stint as the leader of the province, agriculture and fisheries sectors are always included in her priorities thus, the provincial government will share its resources and complement the projects given by the national government.

Representative Gato expressed his commitment to help in legislative matters and encourage all stakeholders to work together in boosting the economic recovery of the province amidst the pandemic.

PFO Rivera promised to exert efforts to bring all the concerns of the fishers

to the concerned institutions for immediate resolution.

RFD Medrano also shared his personal experience and gave pieces of advice not only as a fisherfolk representative but as a former politician himself.

Meanwhile, RD Encarnacion seek the help of Rep. Gato, Gov. Cayco and all the mayors to augment BFAR's budget noting the current fund constraints of the fisheries sector. He added that he will be constantly working with the Congress and LGUs to ensure that appropriate interventions will be provided to the fisheries sector.

The main target of the said interventions is to increase the income of the fishers, thus, he also encouraged the fisherfolk associations and cooperatives to talk to their respective local leaders too, so the latter would understand where the sector is coming from and why there is a need to augment its budget.

Likewise, RD Encarnacion also urged the fisherfolk leaders to continue their advocacy as models in their respective communities to give light and hope to their fellow fishers as the government embarked the whole-of-nation and whole-of-government approach for sustainable development of the sector.

The forum was facilitated by Mr. Cesar Doroteo V. Hostallero, Batanes Provincial Agriculturist.

PHOTO NEWS

DA Secretary William Dar and the whole ONE DA family paid tribute to fisherfolk who have notable accomplishments towards the development of the fisheries industry during the launching of DA's key farmers and fisherfolk cash assistance program on May 20, 2022 at the Community Center, Ilagan City.

Mr. Arnel Santiago of San Mateo, Isabela a GAWAD SAKA Awardee, was recognized for his notable contributions towards the development of the aquaculture sector in the Cagayan Valley Region.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jaime Yosores of Sta. Ana, Cagayan and an active member of the Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council IFARMC was applauded for his selfless and exemplary achievements in the fisheries industry particularly in capture fisheries.





48 Cagayano fisherfolk receives fuel subsidy

Following the toll order of DA Secretary William Dar on the completion of distribution of fuel subsidies to corn farmers and fisherfolk before end of June, DA- BFAR RO2 Regional Director Angel Encarnacion, represented by Cagayan Provincial Fisheries Officer Ms. Jennifer Tattao led the giving out of fuel discount cards to 48 fisherfolk beneficiaries in the municipalities of Amulung and

Alcala during the Fuel Voucher Discount Distribution Caravan 2022 held at the Alcala Municipal Gymnasium on June 22, 2022.

The DA-BFAR recently identified a total of 2, 194 fishers who will receive 3,000 pesos worth of fuel subsidy as cash assistance to lessen the effects of soaring fuel price driven by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Processing of the Fuel Discount Voucher was facilitated by the Universal Storefront Services Corporation (USSC), a remittance company commissioned by the government to expedite said cash assistance program.

Said activity was attended by Hon. Cristina Antonio, Local Chief Executive of Alcala, Mr. Paul Vincent Balao from DA, DA-BFAR RO2 and LGU staff.

Agro Trade fair showcases unique Batanes culture, resilience



Basco Batanes, Philippines – Government and private sector groups are holding a trade fair in Batanes as after two years of pandemic which signals the opening of the island province to more tourists in the coming days.

Themed “Mitwas: the Story of Batanes Recovery”, the fair runs from June 20

– 26, 2022 in Capitol Grounds, Basco, Batanes and is actively participated in by food and non-food exhibitors from the different municipalities of Batanes.

The trade fair formally kicked-off through a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 20, 2022 spearheaded by Batanes Governor Marilou H. Cayco and DA-BFAR R02 Director Angel

B. Encarnacion. It was also graced by NCIP R02 Director Atty. Ronaldo M. Daquioag, DTI Batanes Provincial Director Ellerie Mila G. Ramel, Regional Fisherfolk Director Rodolfo Y. Medrano and other dignitaries from different government agencies and private entities.

Gov. Cayco in her message said that the 2022 Batanes Provincial Agro Trade Fair aims to showcase the local products of the province moulded by long and colorful culture, tradition and history of the province symbolizing the resiliency of Ivatans.

Dir. Encarnacion congratulated the Provincial Government of Batanes for successfully organizing the Agro-industry Trade Fair 2022, a re- opening of Batanes after the pandemic, showcasing the bounty on the agriculture and fisheries industry of the province and resilience of Ivatans which the theme aptly describes.

This year’s trade fair is chaired by DTI and Co-chaired by DA-BFAR Batanes Provincial Offices.

PAGPUPUGAY:
Ocean Heroes Awards
FOR CHAMPION PARTNERS AND ALLIES

JUNE 17, 2022 | 3:00 PM (GMT +8) | QUEZON CITY | [oceana.ph](https://www.oceana.ph)



3 DA-BFAR RO2 employees honored in 2022 Ocean Heroes Awards

Three DA-BFAR RO2 employees were recently recognized as Ocean Heroes for their leadership in effecting needed policy reforms and for their exceptional contributions in protecting the environment and our ocean.

Among the 2022 Ocean Heroes who received the award during the "PAGPUPUGAY: OCEAN HEROES AWARDS FOR PARTNERS AND ALLIES" on June 17, 2022 at the B Hotel, Quezon City, were:

Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion
Regional Director, DA-BFAR RO2
Chairperson, Fisheries Management Area 1

Dr. Emma L. Ballad
Officer-in-charge, Fisheries Resource Management Section

Officer-in-charge, Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Service
Alternate Focal Person, Fisheries Management Area 1

Atty. Arsenio S. Bañares
Chief, Fisheries Management Regulatory and Enforcement Division
Focal Person, Fisheries Management Area 1

For their exemplary leadership and role in effecting fisheries policy reforms to improve science-based fisheries management, enforcement of laws, transparency, accountability and multi-stakeholder participation in decision-making, and strengthening the resiliency of our marine ecosystems and people.

First given in 2016 to advocates who moved to protect the Tañon Strait

Protected Seascape, the Ocean Heroes Award is given to individuals who have consistently worked for ocean conservation and pushed policies for the science-based, participatory, and sustainable management of the country's fisheries.

Oceana works around the globe to promote sustainable fisheries and science-based coastal resource management and supports national government agencies, local government units, law enforcement agencies, academe, fisherfolk, and all stakeholders in their efforts to fully implement our fisheries laws to help restore the abundance of our ocean.

DA-BFAR RO2 places 2nd in BASIL Project Implementation

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Inland Fisheries Technology Center recognized the fisheries bureau here as the 2nd place top performing region and 2nd place best in presentation in the attainment of the objectives of Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) Project for the first semester of the year 2022.

During the BASIL Project Midyear Review and Planning Workshop last June 13-15, Project Leader Ms. Apple B. Usquiza presented the region's implementation of activities and targets aligned with BASIL which include the retrieval of invasive alien

species, continuous production trial of ayungin in support to enhancement of indigenous species, conduct of training, validation of possible BASIL sites, and dispersal and monitoring of previous BASIL area.

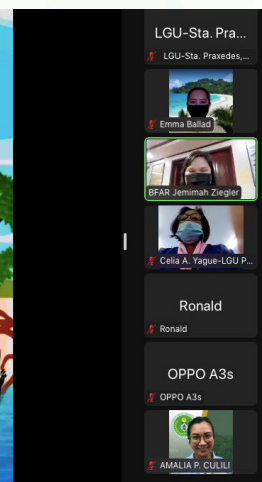
"The implementation of the project became possible because of the participation, cooperation, contribution of time and effort that we have been practicing in the region. So we share this recognition with all of you," Usquiza said.

Launched in 2017, the BASIL is a five-year project that aims to rehabilitate major lakes and river systems across the country.



DA BFAR2 AIMS TO ACE MMK SEARCH FOR CY 2022

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) Regional Director Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion urged coastal local government units to join this year's search for the Masagana at Malinis na Karagatan (MMK) as he announces the official start of the annual quest for the most outstanding coastal municipalities in Region 02. This came after the orientation on the said award-giving program conducted thru virtual platform today, April 25, 2022.



RD Encarnacion stressed that; coastal LGU participants must take their chances this year to show their best on the search and take home the crown.

Meantime, Dr. Emma L. Ballad, MMK Regional Focal Person said that they should emulate the experiences of past winners like Gonzaga wherein, they put their cash reward into good use by providing financial assistance to the 10 organized fisherfolk organizations supported by the local government.

The LGU Sta. Ana thru its Municipal Agriculturist Mr. Richard Alibania said that they are motivated to join the

search because the cash prize they received were able to help the local fisherfolk survive the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic wherein most fishers were left unemployed during the tough times.

The MMK otherwise known as the National Search for Outstanding Coastal Community aims to identify coastal municipalities that have exemplary initiatives and accomplishments in the effort to curb illegal fishing; observe ecosystem approach to fisheries resource management measures such as off-fishing season and ban on the collection of endangered species;

have established, formulated and adopted Marine Protected Area (MPA) or Fisheries Management Area; have kept coastal waters clean of domestic solid and/ or liquid waste, garbage or industrial effluence flowing to the sea as a result of innovative waste management or other programs; and lastly, have a successful mangrove protection and rehabilitation program"

The activity was attended by representatives from coastal LGUs, Jennifer Tattao (PFO-Cagayan), Emerson Tattao (PFO-Isabela) and MMK Technical Working Group and Secretariat.

DA-BFAR RO2 hands over cash award to 2021 MMK Regional winner



like fishing gears and improvement of their fish market. Moreover, it will serve as an additional budget for the fisherfolk in Uyugan.

The MMK is the banner program of the DA-BFAR that aims to promote fisheries protection and conservation, centers on the significance of sustainably managing our fisheries and aquatic resources, and promotes stakeholder engagement to the cause of resource protection and conservation.

PFO Ritchie Rivera handed over the 2 million pesos worthh cheque to Mayor Jonathan Enrique Nanud, Jr. of Uyugan, Batanes for winning the 2021 MMK Regional Search. Also present were Municipal Agriculturist Rolly Cabugao and Municipal Treasurer Henedina Hisona.

Recognizing the outstanding initiatives and contributions of coastal municipalities to sustainable fisheries development, the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 2 (DA-BFAR RO2), through Provincial Fishery Officer Ritchie Rivera, formally handed over a cheque worth P2-million pesos as prize to the Local Government Unit of Uyugan, Batanes for being hailed

as winner of the 2021 Regional Search for Outstanding Coastal Community Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK).

The cheque was received by Mayor Jonathan Enrique Nanud, Municipal Agriculturist Rolly Cabugao, and Municipal Treasurer Henedina Hisona.

Mayor Nanud said that the cash prize will be used for various fishery projects

The competition has five general criteria, namely: absence of illegal fishing, observance of fishing closed season, establishment of protected marine sanctuaries, clean coastal waters without domestic and industrial wastes, and effective mangrove protection and rehabilitation program.

Uyugan is the regional nominee to the National MMK Search. (JKC)

FMA 1 ROLLS OUT EAFM PLAN TO PROTECT PHILIPPINE WATERS

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Key players of the Fisheries Management Area (FMA) Northern Pacific Seaboard assembled on March 29, 2022 for the third leg of the series of sessions on the crafting of a comprehensive and holistic management plan that will serve as guide book on the implementation of conservation measures and sustainable utilization of off-shore resources along Philippine Waters.

Participants of the planning workshop worked on Goals, Objective Setting and Management Actions covering three key principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) specifically, ecological well-being, human well-being and good governance.

The productive fusion of minds from all sectors during break-out sessions was reflected in the outputs of each principle.

RD Angel B. Encarnacion, chairperson of the management board applauds



the three groups for their active participation and recognizes their efforts as vital inputs to the FMA plan once approved; it will form part of a general plan for the Philippine Rise.

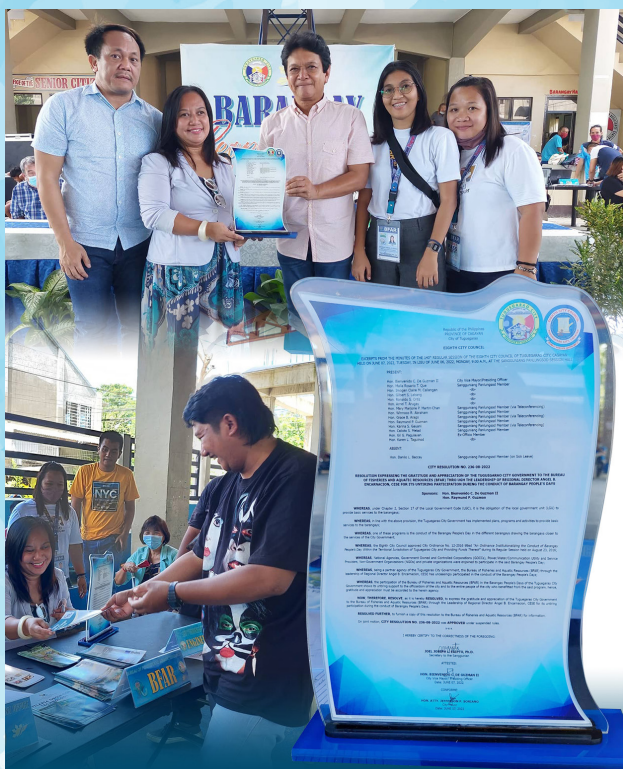
Meantime, Atty. Arsenio Bañares emphasized the value of a bottom-up approach in the planning process to give importance to the role of fishing communities who are dependent on

aquatic resources as their main source of livelihood.

He added that the EAFM plan will be flexible in nature and evolving since it will undergo regular refinements and updating to address priority issues.

A Management Board meeting is scheduled on April 19, 2022 using a blended format to fine tune all outputs from the previous planning sessions. (AS)

Tuguegarao City mayor lauds BFAR's support to Barangay People's Day



Outgoing City Mayor Atty. Jefferson Soriano lauded Dr. Angel Encarnacion, Regional Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Director and other regional line agencies and non-government organizations for their incessant support to one of his pet projects during his term as Local Chief Executive.

He expressed his utmost gratitude to all heads of agencies and representatives for making the humbling activity a successful one.

As of today, June 24, 2022 there were already 112 Barangay People's Day conducted and served 111, 282 constituents from the 49 barangays in the city.

Since its inception in 2016, said activity proved as an effective means in bringing various government interventions and services to the general public right to their doorsteps.

Created through the City Resolution No. 236 -08-2022, it served as a one-stop shop in accessing government services from national agencies, Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, power/water/Communication services, non-government organizations and private institutions. (AS)

Beached dolphin found in Aparri



On March 24, 2022 at 4 'clock in the afternoon, a beached dolphin was found on the shoreline of Barangay Linao in Aparri, Cagayan.

A fisher and barangay police officer, who first saw the marine mammal, immediately informed Brgy. Captain

Danilo Pallago, PCG, BFAR-FPLEG, LGU-Aparri, and BFAR Regional Office about the find for necropsy and proper disposal.

The carcass was brought to the barangay hall and examined by Veterinarians Dr. Jefferson Soriano

of BFAR RO2 and Dr. Julie Anne Jimenez of LGU- Aparri.

They identified the animal as male Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), weighing about 150-200 kilograms and was 2.72 meters long. The dolphin has no signs of physical injuries caused by human related activities except for cookie cutter shark bites and scars in the different areas of the body. Internal examination of the organs revealed no significant findings except for the lungs that was filled with foamy fluid indicative that water entered into the lungs.

Thereafter, Dr. Soriano conducted a short briefing to the PCG and Barangay Officials on how to respond during live stranding incidents and explained the importance of the laws governing marine mammals.

On the other hand, BFAR RO2 Director Dr. Angel Encarnacion acknowledged the effort of the team for the immediate response and urged everyone to report to the bureau and concerned local government unit any incident with the same manner for rescue and assistance. (By Jazer Anne Tattao/ Jemimah Keren)

DA-BFAR 2 JOINS DUTERTE LEGACY CARAVAN

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan— It's a fulfilled day for the clients who visited the booth of the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office 02 (DA-BFAR RO2) as they joyfully joined in the agency's interactive game dubbed "BFAR Henyo" and Fish Trivia contest during the bureau's participation to the PNP-led Duterte Legacy Caravan at the Police Regional Office 2, Camp Adduru, Caggay, Tuguegarao City, on April 27, 2022.

The DA-BFAR RO2 together with other government agencies joined the Duterte Legacy Caravan of Services thru Convergence of all Government Agencies with the theme "Pagkakaisa ng Mamamayan at Pamahaalan Tungo sa Pagbangon, Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran".



The Duterte Caravan, launched in September 2021, aims to showcase and promote the programs, policies and legacies of President Rodrigo Duterte. Moreover, the caravan displayed the convergence of all government agencies, which serves as a one-stop shop for services offered to the public.

With the goal of bringing fishery services to the public, DA-BFAR RO2 provided technical assistance and distributed information, education and communication (IEC) materials to more than 150 clients who availed the free services. (JKC/AS)



BUWAN NG MAGSASAKA AT MANGINGISDA DA- BFAR 2 OPENS 33rd FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK MONTH CELEBRATION

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Today, May 6, 2022, the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region Office No. 2 (DA-BFAR RO2) kicked-off the celebration of the 33rd Farmers and Fisherfolk Month, since its inception by virtue of Proclamation no. 33 on March 21, 1989 by then President Corazon Aquino to recognize the many invaluable contributions of farmers and fishermen to nation building.

Anchored on the theme “Modernisasyon at Industriyalisasyon tungo sa Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita”, DA-BFAR RO2 employees headed by Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion started the event through a fun walk around the regional government center followed by an opening ceremony at the MIS Hall. This year’s Mangingisdang Direktor, Mr. Rodolfo Medrano and other former fisherfolk directors also joined the fun walk.

In his welcome message, RD Encarnacion emphasized the role of DA-BFAR in transforming the lives of our fisherfolk and recognized the importance of farmers and fisherfolk, without whom, DA or BFAR would not have been established.

RD Encarnacion led the installation of Mr. Rodolfo Y. Medrano, a fisherfolk from San Isidro, Isabela as the 15th Mangingisdang Direktor for DA-BFAR Region 02. He will assume the roles and duties of Mangingisdang Direktor for the whole month of May.

Medrano expressed his gratitude to DA-BFAR RO2 for the warm welcome he

received and said that the opportunity to be the Mangingisdang Direktor comes with great responsibility, but he pledged to fulfill his duties and to support the upcoming activities for the month-long celebration.

Meantime, the Local Government Unit of Sta. Ana was recognized as the Second Most Outstanding Coastal Community during the Regional Search for Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK), in which they received a check prize worth 1,000,000.00 Php. The municipality of Uyugan, Batanes is this year’s regional winner and Region 02’s official entry to the MMK National Level.

Alongside these activities, the bureau recognized Mrs. Corazon Hipolito, Administrative Assistant I, with a loyalty award for her 40 years of dedicated and invaluable service as employee of DA-BFAR RO2. Meanwhile, plaque of appreciation and ring were awarded to Mr. Venchito Villarao, Former Provincial Fishery Officer of Cagayan, and Dr. Severina Bueno, Former

Division Chief of FPSSD, as they retired from the government service.

Further, Department of Trade and Industry Region 2 Assistant Regional Director Winston T. Singun graced the event as guest speaker and recognized the vital contribution of the agri-fisheries sector as the country’s economic backbone. He emphasized that the agency, with the help of the key players in agriculture and fisheries industry, envisions that there should be a shift from agriculture and subsistence fishing to an agribusiness-driven sector. Agribusiness will drive the push towards modernization and industrialization of agri-fisheries sector.

On the other hand, DA-BFAR 02 took a baby step to achieve this vision as it also launched today the Aqua Business Center to showcase and promote high-quality produce of local fisherfolk and SMSEs and help them introduce their products to a wider market.(JKC/AS)



Mr. Rodolfo Y. Medrano accepted the symbolic “key” for being the 15th Mangingisdang Direktor of DA-BFAR 2. Joining him during the key of responsibility turn-over ceremony were RD Angel Encarnacion and past FRD Sixto N. Trinidad (2010), and Mr. Alexander Agra (2014), who also served as National Fisherfolk Director in 2018.

Mr. Rodolfo Y. Medrano: Fisherfolk Regional Director

This year's Fisherfolk Regional Director is Mr. Rodolfo Y. Medrano, 68 who lives in Camarag, San Isidro, Isabela.

Medrano finished his bachelor's degree in agricultural education at the Cagayan State University in Piat, Cagayan in 1975.

His professional engagement begun when he worked at the National Irrigation Administration and was even awarded as one of the top ten Water Resource Facility Technicians in 1990. He started his political career as one of the members of the policy-making body Sangguniang Bayan in 1992 till 1998 and decided to run for Vice Mayor, won the local slate and served the people of San Isidro for three years.

He continued as a public servant after leaving the political arena. In 2003, he served as one of the Board of Directors of the Isabela Electric Cooperative ISELCO till 2012.

Since 2010, Medrano ventured into fish farming on the grow-out culture of Tilapia. As an aquaculture enthusiast and a budding "fishpreneur", he actively participates in BFAR-led

activities and technical fora to further enhance his knowledge and skills in fish farming. In his own way, his enterprise contributes towards the development of the town's local economy.

At present, he is the president of the San Isidro Farmers and Fisheries Cooperative and concurrently the Panlalawigan Alyansa Ng mga Lokal na Organisasyon at Samahan (PALOS) Isabela Chapter President.

Medrano will assume the role and position of fisherfolk regional director for the whole month of May, in line with the celebration of Farmers and Fisherfolk Month.

His installation is mandated under the Department of Agriculture Special Order No. 88. This move is intended to "further dramatize and popularize



Mr. Rodolfo Y. Medrano is the 15th Mangingisdang Direktor. He is the President of the San Isidro Farmers and Fisheries Cooperative and PALOS Isabela Chapter.

fisherfolk empowerment and participation as government partners and draw awareness on the vital role of farmers and fisherfolk as backbone in the government's poverty alleviation program".(AS)

PHOTO NEWS



DA-BFAR Region 2 led the simultaneous Clean-up Drive activities in four coastal municipalities in Cagayan—Aparri, Claveria, Gonzaga, and Sta. Ana—on May 19-20, 2022, as part of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month and World Oceans Month Celebration this May.

The Coastal Clean-up and Scubasurero team, composed of more than 200 individuals from DA-BFAR RO2, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, Philippine Coast Guard, LGU personnel, Taggat Sur Fisherfolk Association, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, Boat Owners, Nor Este Rider's Association Riders, and San Jose Fisherfolk Association participated in the said activity.

The activity was in line with the observance of the National Month of the Ocean, which highlights the importance of conservation, protection, and sustainable management of the country's coastal and marine resources.

The Philippines' Month of the Ocean is celebrated annually in May under Presidential Proclamation No. 57.



DA-BFAR RO2 wraps up 2022 Farmers and Fisherfolk Month

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan— The 2022 Farmers and Fisherfolk Month celebration culminated with the first-ever Red Tilapia Cooking Contest on June 2, 2022 at the DA-BFAR RO2 grounds, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City .

A joint project of the DA-BFAR Regional Office 02 headed by Director Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion and the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), said cooking contest aims to promote the utilization of Red Tilapia as alternative to other commercially-important aquaculture species available to Filipino consumers.

Among the 30 recipes presented during the cooking contest, two authentic dishes stood out and won the judges' distinct taste buds. The entries from Isabela Province's "Grilled Red Tilapia Rolls with eggplant cream" and BFAR's "Pinataro nga Umali-affi" received the Most Authentic Dish Award.

The Cooking Contest was participated by five teams composed of Rural Improvement Club members from the municipalities of Tuao and Peñablanca in Cagayan; Cabatuan in Isabela; and Diffun in Quirino. A team from DA-BFAR RO2 also joined the competition.

The members of the panel of judges were: Former DA-BFAR RO2 Regional Director Dr. Jovita P. Ayson; Ms. Rosemarie Martin, Board of Director, DA-MPCI; restaurateurs Dr. Raul S. Ting and Ms. Mary Leni Combate; and Prof. Lourdes Judy Luyun, Hotel Administrator/Professor at Cagayan State University.

Dr. Evelyn C. Ame, Chief of the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Center Division and Red Tilapia Project Leader believes that through the Cooking Contest, the wide acceptance of Red Tilapia as additional aquaculture species and

food fish will increase not only in the Region but to other fish-consuming communities.

Dr. Ame also stressed that with the help of fisheries stakeholders on the promotion of the fish in a wider market will attract more potential investors to venture in growing Red Tilapia using different farming systems.

Meantime, RD Encarnacion in his message said that the culture of Red Tilapia in fishponds is now on its technology demonstration phase and soon will be ready for adoption by fish farmers.



Below are the winners of the cooking contest.

1st PLACE

Irene Cortez, Hannah Flor Limpiada, and Floresma Domingo of Isabela Province

2nd PLACE

Melody Zartha B. del Rosario, Kristine Pascual, and Ma. Rowena P. Cusipag of DA-BFAR RO2

3rd PLACE

Lorena Juan, Edelia Canay, and Ma. Kristina Tolentino of Tuao, Cagayan

Consolation prizes: Yolanda Casil, Lorna Tamayao, and Alma Quilang of Penablanca, Cagayan; Alma Saure, Expedita delos Trinos, and Marites Ancheta of Quirino Province

Further, as part of the closing program, DA-BFAR RO2 recognized the Civil Service Examination and Bar passers as well as its media partners and the efforts of the 2022 Fisherfolk Regional Director Mr. Rodolfo Medrano as he participated in the numerous activities and served as the direct liaison between fisherfolk and DA-BFAR during the month-long celebration.

FRD Medrano extended his gratitude to DA-BFAR for his experiences as FRD and his exposures provided glimpse on the operation of the bureau as a government arm.

During his stint as FRD for a month, he recognized the important role of fisherfolk associations in the fisheries



Former Regional Director Jovita P. Ayson, graced the Closing Ceremony as Keynote Speaker. In her talk she laid down possible strategies that can be adopted for the expansion of the fishing industry in Cagayan Valley region. Ayson served as head of BFAR 2 for 16 years.

industry and their presence will be stronger if they form a cooperative.

On the other hand, Dr. Ayson, as keynote speaker reiterated that the expansion in the Fishing Industry will need the realization of fishing technologies and innovation as well as the creation of cooperatives- fisherfolk joining together in the creation of Aquaculture Cooperatives to create Salting and Canning Industry with the assistance of Government thru the Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

“Cagayan is strategically located for Fish Trade with our neighboring Countries like Taiwan, Japan, China,

Vietnam, and the US. This is an added incentive for Cagayanos to grow and expand our Agriculture Industry. Our Asian neighbors and Western Countries had been using technologies already,” she said.

In his closing message, RD Encarnacion expressed his appreciation to every farmer and fisherfolk in the region because they are the anchor of the agency’s programs and activities. He also called for continuous support to the programs and activities—paying tribute to the fisherfolk and giving assistance and support to attain the goal of increasing the fish production of the region. (JKC/AS)



DR. EVELYN C. AME:

Agent of Change in Fisheries Development

by: Aileen A. Silva



The phrase “small but terrible” can best describe one remarkable woman who created big waves of change in the realm of research and development (R&D) to accelerate the inclusive growth of the fisheries sector. She might be deprived of height, but the lack of it is greatly compensated by the amount of passion she pours in to her work as a researcher and a game changer in the R&D playing field.

Conducting research is a significant component in planning and formulation of policies for the successful implementation of any program towards the achievement of agency goals and objectives.

Research results are vital instruments in determining areas that needs further improvement to come up with holistic approach to achieve efficient and effective delivery of service to the clientele.

In her 40 years (33 years as permanent) as a public servant with the fisheries bureau, Dr. Evelyn C. Ame’s name became a byword through her notable undertakings in the field of research.

To date, her name is associated with two major endeavors of the Bureau of Fisheries Aquatic Resources region 02 – the Oplan Sagip Ludong and the Eel Conservation Programs.

Oplan Sagip Ludong

In October 2010, upon the directive of DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, the Oplan Sagip Ludong (OSL) program was launched. It

aims to foster conservation and protection measures to save Ludong (*Cestraeus sp.*) from the brink of impending extinction. Dubbed as the most expensive fish in the country, the fish is also considered as a cultural icon among Cagayanos.

With a high commanding price ranging from 5,000.000 – 6,000.00 pesos a kilo, this catadromous (lives in freshwater, spawns in the sea) fish serves as source of lucrative income among fishers during its annual spawning season. The high economic value of ludong might be a blessing to a number of fishers who are lured to catch the fish just to satisfy the insatiable demand from the elites but is also a curse to the ecology since catching escalated to unsustainable level leading Ludong fish population from the brink of extinction.

As head of the inter-agency OSL task force, Dr. Ame has crafted multi-pronged approaches that are designed to bring back abundance of the fish which will in turn ensures continues source of income among fishers.

Dr. Ame and a team of fisheries experts ventured on various research endeavors barring the dearth of information about the fish and developed their own science to explore peculiarities of this elusive species in order to achieve the objectives of the project.

Research undertakings on Ludong includes, study of its reproductive biology, profiling of fishers, exploratory fishing and habitat characterization

in its suspected niche and recently, a study on the growth performance of mullet both in Hapa and pond.

Her research works in collaboration with partner agencies such as the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) and the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) later became the scientific basis and reference in the issuance of BFAR Administrative Circular (BAC) 247 declaring Closed Season for fishing Ludong from its migratory path during spawning season from October 1 to November 15 of the year.

Prior to this, the OSL team conducted information & awareness campaign in barangay level and lobbied at the municipal and provincial offices up to national institutions to seek support towards the creation of legal basis towards the conservation and protection of Ludong which will eventually encourage increase-repopulation of the fish in its natural habitat.

Eel Fisheries

Simultaneous with the implementation of the Ludong project, the issue on elvers (eel fry) also created a big noise in the market. Elver gathering has long been a thriving industry particularly along estuarine areas like along the mouth of Cagayan River.

Market movement of eel encouraged enterprising townfolk to act as consolidators. They buy live elvers at P2,500.00 a kilo then ship these to Manila for export among eel consuming countries like Japan, Korea, Hong kong and China.

Big demand in the East Asian counties escalated as brought about by the Fukushima disaster that hit Japan prompted importers to look for elvers where the Philippines was not spared.

The increase in demand resulted to a sharp rise in the local market. Standing price of elvers started from 2,500.00 a kilo and gradually went up to 40,000.00 from 2009-2012. This brought gathering frenzy where almost all coastal towns in Northern Cagayan got involved in the trade that even school children and tricycle drivers were lured into catching elvers.

Following this turn of events and knowing that eel population in the wild, along with



by-catch, can possibly collapse with the indiscriminate gathering of eel fry, Dr. Ame conducted research on the "Status of Elver Fisheries in Cagayan Province" to create a baseline information on the commodity. Result of the research was used as one of the rationalization on the passage of Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 242 which provisions implies banning on the export of elvers less than 15 cm in length.

The law has deterred irresponsible gathering of elvers and discouraged investors in putting up elver growing/culture facility in order to meet prescribed size for export.

Being the National Coordinator for Eel Fisheries Program, through networking, she was able to get foreign support from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), an international non-government organization which primarily works on conservation and protection of eel population. In 2021, the ZSL has already completed its project in region 02 and was able to establish Eel Sanctuaries in the provinces of Cagayan and, Quirino to ensure sustainability of eel resources in these areas.

Even before this collaborative endeavor, Dr. Ame has already initiated resource enhancement programs such as elver dispersal in riverine systems to increase population in the wild.

These initiatives of Dr. Ame will eventually promote sustainable livelihood of eel fry gatherers and will save the million dollar industry from the brink of collapse.

The Art of Multi-Tasking

At that time when BFAR region 02 has only limited technical work force, Dr. Ame also performs other tasks like being the lead person in handling Freshwater Prawn (Ulang) and Seaweeds.

One of the initiatives she made is the revival of the Ulang Hatchery in Sillawit, Cauayan City (now defunct). This move enabled availability of Ulang post-larvae to meet PL requirements of Ulang farmers in region 02.

She also introduced the use of artificial seawater to solve problem on lack of seawater source in the area since production site is not located along the coast.

In seaweeds, Dr. Ame has made efforts in conducting verification trials on the propagation of seaweed (*Gracilaria sp.*) in non-traditional areas led to the availability of seaweed in Claveria and Gonzaga towns, apart from Buguey where species of *gracilaria* grows naturally and abundantly.

Apart from this, in the coastal town of Claveria, women fisherfolk gather seaweeds



and sell them in the market for basic subsistence. While in Gonzaga, siganid growers use seaweeds to supplement feed requirement of the fish. In this way, fishers were able to save 30 % on feed cost.

These expansion areas also supply raw materials for the seaweed processors (RIC) in Gonzaga. This is hugely important given the difficulty in transporting seaweed out from the traditional producer.

GAD Focal Person

As an emblem of an empowered woman in fisheries in her own right, and GAD focal person of the bureau, Dr. Ame initiated activities that fosters gender sensitive environment in the workplace.

Being the chief of the training arm of BFAR region 2, her unit initiates capability building activities among women groups like the rural improvement club (RICs) which aims to empower women and encourage them to contribute to the local economy as entrepreneurs.

Division Head

As part of the management team of the agency, Dr. Ame also heads the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Center Division and acts as manager of the Regional Fisheries Research and Development Center (RFRDC). The BFAR, being the head of the research network in region 02, consolidates and reviews all fisheries-related papers before they will be given green light for publication.

Her task in the agency does not end in managerial functions. She is also considered as the agency's ambassadress in R & D since she takes charge in collaborating with local and international research institutions like Kochi University in Japan, South East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture,

Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST- PCAARRD), DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) and BFAR-National Fisheries and Research Development Institute (BFAR-NFRDI). She also collaborates with academic institutions to back her studies on various high-value and flagship conservation species in the region.

Her research works are popular in the science community and were also featured in science journals such as the Kuroshio Science Journal, published by Kochi University in Japan.

Up Close and Personal

Dr. Ame's expertise in the field was backed by her degree in Bachelor of Science in Fisheries at the University of Philippines Diliman. To improve her craft, she also took up masteral degree in Resource Management at the Cagayan State University.

In 2006, she was already a doctoral degree holder in Fisheries Technology which she earned from Ilo-ilo State College.

To her family, Ebeng as she is fondly called by her relatives and friends is a doting mother to four successful professionals, affectionate granny to three grandchildren and was a good wife to her late husband and equally brilliant Dr. Rey Ame, who was also a researcher.

Ebeng's great motivation in life is to make significant contribution in nation building through her chosen craft in research and development. Exploring potential researchable areas and new frontiers in fisheries is one of her passion at work.

With these unparalleled accomplishments she has made towards the development of the fisheries industry, Dr. Ame is indeed one of the exceptional women in fisheries and a strong pillar that shaped BFAR Region 02 into what it is today.

PHOTO NEWS



The Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, together with BFAR RO2 and LGU Claveria, conducted a pre-feasibility study on the proposed site of Provincial Fishery Port in Taggat, Claveria, Cagayan on April 18-22, 2022. Topographic and Hydrographic survey were conducted in two locations: Community Fish Landing Center in Taggat Sur and Lagoon in Taggat Norte. Moreover, focus group discussions with fisherfolk in the area were facilitated to gather more insights into the project. Simultaneously, a proposed site located in Bagu, Abulug was also surveyed for revalidation.

PHOTO NEWS

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 2 (DA-BFAR RO2) Director Dr. Angel Encarnacion and DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) Director Dr. Junel Soriano inked a Memorandum of Agreement last March 25, 2022 at the RDMIC Building of DA-BAR in Diliman, Quezon City.

DA-BFAR RO2 and DA-BAR entered into an agreement to jointly implement the project on evaluation of community-based cage culture of Siganids (*Siganus spp.*) in Divilacan, Isabela. With the agreement, DA-BFAR RO2 as the implementing agency, will determine the economic viability of rearing siganids in marine cages and promote awareness on the grow-out technology of siganids in marine cages, while DA-BAR will fund the project.

Project leader Dr. Evelyn Ame and other key officials also witnessed the event.



PHOTO NEWS



DA-BFAR RO2 OIC-Regional Director Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion and Provincial Fishery Officer of Cagayan Mrs. Jennifer T. Tattao led the distribution of 46, 000 pieces tilapia fingerlings in Brgy Pussian, Dalaog, San Esteban, Alcala, Cagayan as part of the Barangyanihan Caravan spearheaded by the Philippine National Police Cagayan and Alcala sub-station in support to President Rodrigo Duterte's Legacy on Barangyanihan Caravan Towards National Recovery.

DA-BFAR holds Provincial Fishery Officers' Management Committee Meeting

The Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) held its first in-person PFO Management Committee Meeting on June 13, 2022 at Hotel Jen in Pasay City.

DA-BFAR Region 2 Provincial Fishery Officers Mrs. Jennifer T. Tattao, Mr. Emerson S. Tattao, Mr. Leo S. Palolan, Mr. Christopher B. Casco attended the said meeting to present the milestones of Region 2 in Capture Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Law Enforcement.



PHOTO NEWS



Finance and Admin Division personnel of the DA- BFAR Regional Office 02 joined the DA-BFAR Luzon Cluster in attending the three-day Financial Management Training on May 24-27, to help them understand financial concepts and updates on relevant laws that will enable them to manage the bureau's fiscal resources better.

Participants believed that everybody should be equipped with financial literacy as a life skill for good financial well-being.

With this training, the finance team is now prepared to improve the implementation of accounting rules and procedures based on the set of financial policies for government institutions.

PHOTO NEWS

On March 8, 2022, DA-BFAR RO2 Regional Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Service (RFIQS) hosted a meeting on the Inspection Procedures of Incoming and Outgoing Fish/Fisheries Products in the Regional Boundaries. The meeting conducted via online platform was attended by the Fisheries Quarantine Section - Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division of BFAR Central Office.

Topics tackled were forms and procedures of boarder inspection of live aquatic animals for export; fresh/frozen/chilled fish and fishery products; and disposition of endangered & prohibited aquatic animals.

Moreover, the session covered forms and procedures of Local Transport Permit (LTP) Issuance in the region and Provincial Fishery Offices; FQS Checklist and Satisfaction Survey; Pre-shipment Inspection; and Collecting Samples Workshop.



PHOTO NEWS



The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office 2 officially welcomes the appointment of its Regional Director, Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion.

Prior to his appointment as Regional Director, RD Encarnacion served as Agriculture Center Chief II from 2017-2022 and as a Career Scientist I since 2020. He is also a Career Executive Service Eligible (CESE) conferred by the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) on 2020 and was designated as the OIC-Regional Director since August 2021. Moreover, he was hailed as one of the outstanding government workers by CSC as he received the 2021 Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award.

One who rose from the ranks, RD Encarnacion is on his 22nd year in the government service.



4 newly promoted DA-BFAR RO2 personnel take oath of office

Four newly promoted staff of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 2 (DA-BFAR RO2) took their oath of office today, June 13, 2022 after the flag-raising ceremony at the MIS Hall.

DA-BFAR RO2 Director Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion administered the oath taking ceremony which was witnessed by Division Chiefs, Section Heads, and other BFAR employees.

The newly promoted employees are the following:

- Dr. Aeron D. Mayor – Senior Aquaculturist
- Ms. Gemma N. Libunao – Senior Aquaculturist
- Ms. Ma. Fatima B. Laeno – Aquaculturist I
- Mr. Jeffrey U. Angoluan – Fishing Regulations Officer I

In his message, RD Encarnacion expressed his utmost congratulatory to the employees as he encouraged them to continue giving their best in their line of work.

“As what Jesus said, ‘should anyone press you into a service for a mile, go with him for two miles’. That’s precisely the call for all of us government employees. To the newly promoted staff, you truly deserve it and it’s a blessing to be promoted, then be a blessing to others too,” RD Encarnacion said.

The Regional Human Resource Merit Promotion and Selection Board (RHRMPSB) evaluated the qualifications of the appointee based on the merit and fitness/qualifications standard set by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).



BFAR 2 Chief leads oath taking of newly promoted Agricultural Center Chief

Today, June 27, 2022, Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion officiated the sworn in of Dr. Emma L. Ballard for the position of Agricultural Center Chief II from Senior Fishing Regulations Officer.

At present, Dr. Ballard is designated as the Officer in Charge of the Fisheries Administrative and Finance Division and the concurrent Executive Assistant of the Regional Director.

Apart from these, she also heads the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Services and involved in the implementation of various banner programs like the Fisheries Management Area1, Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (Search for Outstanding Coastal Communities).

She joined government service in April 2005 as a Training Specialist at the Regional Fisheries Training Center, the former training arm of DA-BFAR regions 1, 2 and CAR based in Aparri, Cagayan until it was merged to the regional office in 2015.

The oath taking ceremony was witnessed by DA-BFAR RO2 staff during the Flag Raising Rites.

Congratulations!
to our new **LAWYER!**
ATTY. RONALDO R. LIBUNAO, DPA

We are proud of you!
From your DA-BFAR RO2 Family!

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
REGION 2

Humpback Whale



<https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/g201306/flipper-of-humpback-whale/>

The adult humpback whale is bigger and heavier than a city bus. Still, this colossal mammal is remarkably agile when diving and turning. How can the humpback whale be so nimble? Part of the secret lies in the bumps on its flippers.

Consider: Most whales and other cetaceans have flippers with smooth leading edges. However, the humpback whale is different. It has uniquely large bumps (called tubercles) on the leading edge of its flippers. As the humpback swims, water flows over the bumps and breaks up into a multitude of vortices. The bumps channel the water flow and create turbulence. This “tubercle effect” provides the whale with more lift, allowing it to tilt its flippers at a high angle without stalling. At high angles these bumps also reduce drag—an important benefit for the humpback’s long flippers, each being about one third of the whale’s body length.

Researchers are applying this concept to make more-efficient boat rudders, water turbines, windmills, and helicopter rotor blades.

<https://kealakai.byuh.edu/creature-feature-humpback-whales>



Red Tilapia Rolls with Eggplant Cream

Ingredients:

500g Red Tilapia Fillet
 3/4 cup Vegetable oil
 5 pcs Garlic (minced)
 5 tbsp Breadcrumbs
 3 pcs Tomato
 2 stalks Lemongrass
 100g Butter
 3 pcs Eggplant
 2 tsp Calamansi Juice
 1 pinch Salt
 1 pinch Black Pepper

Procedure:

1. Remove scales, internal organs of fish, wash thoroughly and drain.
2. Spread butter on fish, sprinkle with garlic, salt and pepper. Roll up each fillet beginning at narrow end. Sprinkle with bread crumbs.
3. Grill or bake until fish flakes poke easily with fork.
4. Puree the sweet potato.
5. Grill seasoned tomato wedges.
6. Infuse lemongrass in butter.
7. Roast eggplant directly over flame and peel. Put in a blender together with garlic, calamansi juice, vegetable oil, puree until smooth consistency. Season with salt and pepper.
8. Arrange into serving plate.

