

1M ELVERS TO SUSTAIN FISHERS LIVELIHOOD

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries Bureau here led the seeding of 1,137,000 elvers belonging to the Anguilla family in the Cagayan River and its tributaries along the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya to ensure food security and sustainability of livelihood of fishing communities who are dependent on the resource.

Said stock enhancement activity is a component of the Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL), a five-year plan that covers 13 major lakes and river systems across the country. Dubbed as the country's largest river, the Cagayan

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Stock Enhancement Activities - To replenish the depleting stocks of Anguillid Eels in the wild. The bureau spearheads seeding of elvers in communal bodies of water in BASIL project areas in the region.

Kauna-unahang harvest field day sa Rizal, Cagayan ginanap



Another emblem on the lucrative potential of engaging in fish farming as alternative source of family income as attested by the couple John Paul and Janet of Rizal, Cagayan.

Gaddangao, Rizal, Cagayan – Ginanap kamakailan ang kauna-unahang harvest field day sa barangay Gaddangao, bayan ng Rizal, Cagayan sa pangunguna nila Regional Director Angel Encarnacion at Vice Mayor Brenda Ruma na siyang kumatawan mula sa lokal na pamahalaan ng naturang bayan.

Sa ginawang harvest field day, ibinahagi ng mag-asawang John Paul at Janet Simon ang kanilang karanasan

sa pag-aalaga ng tilapia bago pa sila nagkaroon nang pormal na pagsasanay mula sa DA-BFAR RO2. Batay sa kanilang salaysay, pinapakain lang nila araw-araw ang mga isda na walang sinusundang pamamaraan. Bukod dito, hindi rin sila gumagawa ng talaan sa mga ginagawa nila sa palaisdaan. "Noong una po, wala kaming alam, pero sa pamamagitan ng tulong ng BFAR at LGU Rizal, nagkaroon ng site validation at nakapasa ang aming area

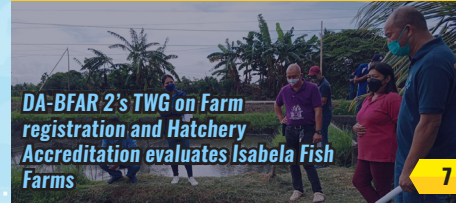
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KALAP is a semestral newsletter of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office No. 02. The publication is a compilation of news and feature articles released by the Bureau during the given period.

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Message

ANGEL B. ENCARNACION, DMSc., CESE
Regional Director



As we draw the curtain on this semester, I am immensely proud and deeply inspired by the remarkable accomplishments we've achieved in the realm of fisheries development. Each one of you has played an instrumental role in our success, and it's with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication and hard work.

Throughout this semester, our collective efforts have not only brought innovation but also pushed the boundaries of what's possible in the sphere of fisheries development. Our commitment to sustainable practices, technological advancements, and proactive approaches has yielded impressive results, making a tangible impact on both the industry and the fishing community at large.

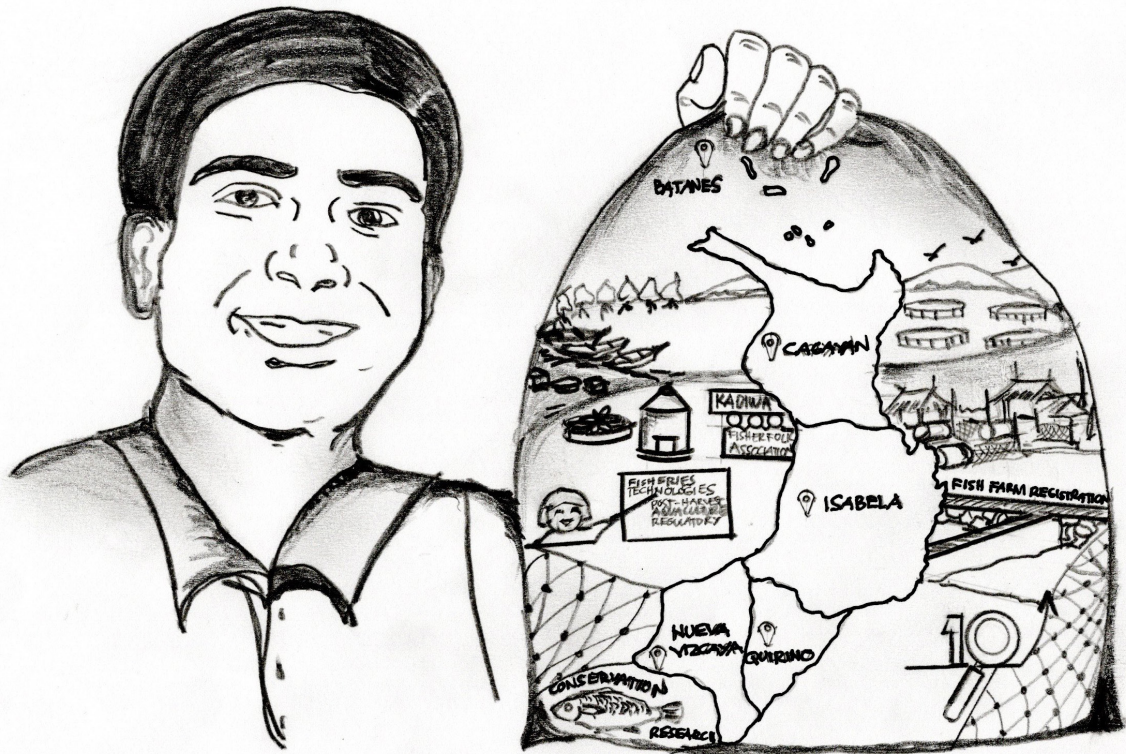
The strides we've taken—be it in the implementation of environmentally conscious methods, the introduction of cutting-edge technologies, or the educational initiatives aimed at empowering local communities—have set new standards and inspired others in the field.

To our partner stakeholders, the local government units, fishing communities from various sectors, the academe and the general public, we have reached this far because of your incessant supports to the Bureau.

As we reflect on this semester's accomplishments through this publication, let this be a testament to our capability as a team. Let's use this as a stepping stone to reach even greater heights in the semesters to come. There are still challenges to conquer and goals to achieve, and I have no doubt that together, we will continue to excel, innovate, and make a positive impact.

Once again, thank you for your exceptional contributions, hard work, and unwavering dedication. Let's celebrate our achievements and look forward to the promising opportunities that lie ahead.

Wishing you all a well-deserved break and looking forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm!



Cartoon by: Gedielyn Paje

AQUACULTURE: THE CRADLE OF FISHERIES PRODUCTION

In an era of growing global population and increasing demand for protein-rich food sources, the role of fisheries in feeding the world cannot be overstated. Fisheries not only provide a vital source of nutrition but also support livelihoods for millions of people worldwide. However, the sustainability of our oceans and the future of fisheries are at stake due to overfishing, climate change, and habitat destruction.

Numbers don't lie. In Region 02, production in capture fisheries showed a downward trend. Statistics revealed that since 2015, the commercial sector alone recorded 11, 504.18 MT and dropped significantly at 3, 920.66 MT in 2022 (Regional Fisheries Profile, 2023).

To address this pressing issue, the government turned

to aquaculture to augment shortage in fisheries production. Aquaculture, often referred to as "aquafarming," is a dynamic and rapidly growing industry that plays a pivotal role in meeting the world's escalating demand for fish. As global populations continue to expand, the strain on natural fisheries has become increasingly unsustainable. In this context, aquaculture even in the Philippines has emerged as a vital cradle for fisheries production, offering solutions to many of the challenges faced by traditional fishing practices.

The new administration challenged the fisheries sector to achieve a ten percent increase in production at all cost. With the president as the concurrent Secretary of the state's agriculture department, the Bureau must exhaust all possible means to meet this demand.

To date, the DA-BFAR Cagayan Valley strengthened its initiatives towards the development of aquaculture in the region. Several strides were initiated by the Bureau with the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division as major key player in the implementation of programs and projects alongside with the Provincial Fishery Offices of Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Efforts such as massive promotion of fisheries technologies, intensification of farm registrations, rehabilitation of farms and production facilities, capability-building trainings and among other initiatives geared to boost aquaculture production are just few measures undertaken by DA-BFAR region 02 to ensure food security and adherence to the principles of responsible aquaculture.



Multi-Species Freshwater Hatchery Towards Increase Fish Production - The city government of Santiago City led by Local Chief Executive Alyssa Shenna P. Tan firms up support to increase fish production through the operation of fry production facility.

DA-BFAR 2 launches Multi-Species Freshwater Hatchery in Santiago City

SANTIAGO CITY, Isabela- Earlier today, the DA-BFAR Region 2 in collaboration with the City Government of Santiago leads the inauguration of the 10-Million pesos Multi-Species Freshwater Hatchery Project located at Gunot Seed Farm, Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela.

DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion and City Mayor Atty. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan graced the event with the presence of DA-BFAR Isabela Provincial Fishery Officer Emerson S. Tattao Jr.; City Agriculturist Engr. Dominador L. Fernandez Jr., representative of the Isabela Provincial Agriculture Office Joal B. Tagueg; City officials, Barangay Captains, fishpond and hatchery operators in the city.

The facility houses six units of concrete rectangular twin tanks for tilapia and hito, and six circular tanks for freshwater prawn. The hatchery complex also features a 1.4 hectares earthen pond composed of eleven breeding compartments, four conditioning ponds, and five nursery ponds that will be utilized for pond-hapa-based method to maximize production.

The facility can hold 10,000 tilapia breeders, 1,000 catfish breeders, and 5,000 ulang breeders, and is projected to produce 3 to 4 million pieces of tilapia fingerlings, 150,000 pieces of catfish fingerlings, and 115,200 pieces of freshwater prawn post-larvae annually.

“DA-BFAR will always be here to provide technical support to the local government units. We are glad that the inauguration happened during the celebration of the 59th Fish Conservation Week anchored with a theme: Pagkain ng Bansa Siguruhin, Likas-Kayang Produksyon ng Isda Isulong Natin! This is also part of our effort to increase our production to ensure food security in Region 2. We still have so much to do and we are thankful for the initiative of our local government units to construct their own hatcheries. And I would like to honor the City of Santiago for being the first city in the region to have its own hatchery.” Dir. Encarnacion said.

“With this multi-species freshwater hatchery, we hope that we can increase the production in aquaculture. We are now boosting aquaculture sector to compensate the decreasing production in capture fisheries both municipal

and commercial sectors due to climate change, alleged over fishing, socio-economic and political factors among others thus, aquaculture is our hope,” he added.

The new aquaculture infrastructure aim to help solve the shortage of fingerlings in the locality. The facility will produce and distribute good-quality seeds to cater to fish growers not only in the city but the entire province of Isabela.

“To our beneficiaries, the Santiagueño who has backyard fishponds ($\leq 1,000$ m²) will receive 5,000 pieces of quality fingerlings. Being the first in the city to construct a hatchery, we are also expressing our deepest thanks to DA-BFAR for granting us the PhP10-Million budget for this project. The city government has allocated PhP7-Million as our counterpart so, this project amounted to PhP17-Million in total. The city government is committing its full support and cooperation to maintain this project,” said City Mayor Tan.

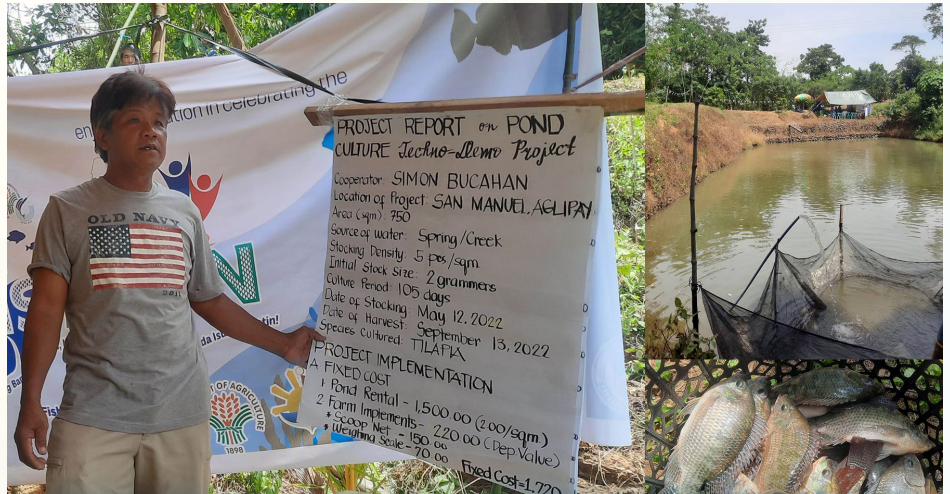
Aside from the new hatchery, the event also featured the technologies of the City Agriculture Seed Farm. (Vea Jay Ujano, PFO Isabela)

Harvest field days in Quirino emblem of successful fish culture

The establishment of the Technology-demonstration project on Tilapia pond grow-out culture in suitable production sites is one of the Bureau's livelihood assistance programs not only as a strategy to boost fish production in the region but as a means to generate jobs among fisherfolk.

Mr. Simon Bucahan, a farmer who once failed in his previous ventures in fish farming, is one of the recipients of techno-demo projects provided by the Bureau in the landlocked province of Quirino.

The Bureau's key implementing division, the Fisheries Production and Support Services division headed by Atty. Ronaldo R. Libunao witnessed the promising result of the said aquaculture project. The project yielded an average of 250 grams a piece or 3-4 pieces a kilo of marketable-sized tilapia, which is an indication of good farming practices.



Mr. Simon Bucahan presented the pond culture techno demo project and its cost-return analysis, stressing the project's core findings and possible benefits for fish producers.

"Insardeng ku idi iti nagtaraken gapu ta naawanak ti namnama gapu iti pannakalugik, madik met laeng ipagarup nga mapili ti DA-BFAR daytuy site ko kas Techno-demo site para iti panagtaraken iti Tilapia. Agyamanak iti ahensya iti panangpasublida ti namnama iti pusok", (I already stopped from culturing Tilapia

because of my unfortunate experience in the past, I went broke from my previous ventures. I wasn't expecting that, DA-BFAR chose my farm as techno-demo site of which I am grateful for giving me hope to succeed). (With reports from Jessi mie Tac-an, PFO-Quirino

DA-BFAR 2 equips fish farmers on feed formulation as cost-saving measure



Organic Aquaculture Regional Focal Person Ms. Rhodamel Soriano and Mr. Alvin Abedes gave a hands-on demonstration of how to formulate fish feeds using readily available local raw materials, such as rice bran, cassava flour, copra meal, fish meal, duckweed, and molasses.

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries Bureau here equips local fish farmers in the Cagayan Valley Region on how to produce feed meal using cheap and indigenous materials for the grow-out culture of tilapia to save on cost in commercially available feeds that covers a big portion of expense in fish farming.

Earlier, the Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Division in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Cauayan City,

Isabela spearheaded the conduct of training on Organic Aquaculture and Feed Formulation on August 4-5, 2022.

The activity aims to capacitate the participants on basic principles of organic aquaculture in line with the mandate of Department of Agriculture to produce safe and healthier food products pursuant to the provisions of RA10068 otherwise known as "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010".

The act aims to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, further protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, and save on imported farm inputs.

Further, technical experts urged participants on the identification and utilization of available raw materials to produce formulated feeds to support the growing aquaculture industry in the region.

Ms. Rhodamel Soriano and Mr. Alvin Abedes discussed and demonstrated formulation of feeds using available raw materials found in the locality such as rice bran, cassava flour, copra meal, fishmeal, duckweed and molasses which was followed by return demonstration of participants.

The two day training was attended by 24 individuals composed of fisherfolk, LGU technicians and agribusiness students (Rhodamel Soriano, FPSSD/FIS)

Mix culture of Tilapia and Ulang to increase fish production in the highlands of Nueva Vizcaya

AMBAGUIO, Nueva Vizcaya -- In an effort to accelerate fish production and achieve fish sufficiency through aquaculture, the DA-BFAR 2 thru the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division and its production farms located in strategic parts of the region promotes the polyculture of compatible aquaculture species like Tilapia and Freshwater Prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) or "Ulang" to maximize production areas and at the same time increase income of fish farmers.



One of the technology demonstration projects on the polyculture of Tilapia and Ulang is located in the mountainous Brgy. Labang, Ambaguio, Nueva Vizcaya. The area was identified as one of the suitable aquaculture sites for the polyculture technology for different freshwater species to culture due to the presence of spring and free-flowing water source that comes from the mountain.

Recently, a harvest field day was conducted to showcase the successful turnout of the polyculture project last September 28, 2022. Mr. Nestor B. Dupingay, project co-operator shared his farming experience from project inception to its operation during the simple ceremony.

His property sits in a far-flung location with a water area of 600 square meters where it was stocked with 3,000 pieces Ulang Post Larvae and Tilapia

fingerlings following the ratio of 40% Ulang; and 60% Tilapia.

During the partial harvest, the co-operator reaped a total of 366 kilograms comprising 41 kilograms of Ulang and 325 kilograms of Tilapia which yielded a Return of Investment of 88.20%. Harvested stocks were sold to the community nearby the project site.

The cooperater expressed his gratitude to the Bureau thru its Provincial Fishery Office in Nueva Vizcaya headed by Mr. Leo Palolan.

"Gapu daytoy ah nasursuruk a kas maysa nga fisherfolk iti ili nga Ambaguio ket nagadu unay nga nasursuruk nga kastoy gayam iti agtaraken iti ikan, namnamaen u nga daytoy nga nasursuruk nga haan ko la nga sulsulwen nu ketdi iwaras ko tapnu dakami amin dttoy ket agpaadu ta adu iti mailako mi ken haan

kamin nga bumaba pay nga mapan jay Bayombong ta mapan kami la gumatang, atleast nga adda ditoyen mismu ayan min isu aggayamanak un unay kanyayu amin nga mangidadaulo iti BFAR Region 02, haan laeng nga siyak ti natulungan yu nu ketdi amin kami dttoy nga komunidad". he said. (With all my learning acquired from the trainings conducted by DA-BFAR, I will not just keep it to myself, so that someday, we will all be producers of fish in this mountainous part of the province. There is no need for us to go in the low land just to buy fish. With this, I am thankful to the agency for introducing this kind of project in our area).

Said activity was attended by representatives from the LGU-Ambaguio; DA-BFAR 2 staff from FPSSD; barangay officials and other members of the community. #(with reports from Christian Lopez-FLDT, Nueva Vizcaya)

1M Elvers to sustain fishers...

River Basin is included in the priority areas for rehabilitation.

This year, the Bureau through its Provincial Fisheries Offices in coordination with local government units in known eel habitats, stocked glass eels in the region. Recently, four municipalities in Cagayan were seeded with 151,600 elvers; selected riverine systems in 12 municipalities in Isabela were stocked with 667,

140 glass eels; while rivers and creeks in 5 municipalities in the province of Quirino and 2 municipalities of Nueva Vizcaya were seeded with 227,400 and 90,960 elvers respectively.

As part of the BASIL program, the Bureau's effort to rehabilitate the Cagayan River and its riverine systems started in 2017 wherein seeding of indigenous and non-invasive commercially viable species like eels was regularly done. Cleanup activities

along the banks of the river are also being done to keep the pristine condition of the resource.

Apart from increasing fish production of inland freshwater resources, the BASIL program also aims to provide livelihood among communities who relies from fishing as main source of income. (Aileen Silva)

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DA-BFAR 2's TWG on Farm registration and Hatchery Accreditation evaluates Isabela Fish Farms



The DA-BFAR Region 2 Technical Working Group (TWG) on Farm Registration and Hatchery Accreditation conducts an evaluation of Ms. Vivian Taniza's fish farm.

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan -- On July 21, 2022 the DA-BFAR R02 Technical Working Group (TWG) on Farm Registration and Hatchery Accreditation evaluates fish farms in San Mateo, Isabela as part of its functions.

Earlier, the TWG convened to set and review the Revised Implementing Guidelines on Registration and

Accreditation of Tilapia Hatcheries in the region which aims to protect and maintain the supply of quality tilapia fingerlings produced from reputable hatcheries for grow-out farms in the Cagayan Valley Region as defined by Section 57 of RA 8550 (as amended by RA 10654), known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

The evaluation team headed by Atty. Ronaldo Libunao, Chief of the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division assessed the fish farms of top fingerling producers in Isabela owned by Mr. Arnel Santiago and Vivian Taniza if they are compliant with the documentary requirements set by the TWG.

Evaluation criteria includes expertise, location, lay-out and design, facilities, sanitation, water management, fish health management, traceability and record keeping, labor policies, social aspects, first aid measures and subsequent requirements such as blueprint of sketch plan, and copy of certificates of registration and permits.

Other members of the evaluation team are Mr. Emerson Tattao (PFO-Isabela), Dr. Emma Ballad (RFIQS), Dr. Jefferson Soriano, (RFLD), Ms. Rhodamel Soriano (Aquaculture Section) and Mr. Romeo Mahinay (CVROSFR).

The Bureau through its fingerling production facilities encourages fish farmers to use quality fingerlings for a better yield and reduce aquaculture losses. (Rhodamel. Soriano, FPSSD/FIS)

Kauna-unahang harvest field day sa Rizal...

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na 500 square meters. Nagkaroon kami ng training sa Claveria, Cagayan, sinundan ng pond preparation, at pagdadala ng mga fingerlings nila FLDT Tiffany Anne Cabulay at ibang staff ng ahensiya. Dalawang beses sa isang buwan nila kami pinupuntahan para sa tamang pagpapakain ng feeds at kaukulang mga pagsusulat ng aming mga obserbasyon sa bawat araw ukol sa mga isda. Lahat ng ito ay libre, na ang kapalit ay ang sipag at tiyaga sa pagpi-fishpond".

May kabuuang 2,500 fingerlings ang inilagay sa 500 square meters noong buwan ng Hunyo nitong taon. Sa aktuwal at huling pagsusuri, tatlong piraso kada kilo na may 238 timbang ang isang tilapia. Tinatayang nasa 80% ang survival rate nito at 40.3% naman sa tinatawag na return of investment.

Ang tilapia-grow-out culture in pond ay isa sa mga programang isinusulong ng kawanihan sa pamamagitan ng Provincial Fisheries Office ng Cagayan na pinangungunahan ni PFO Jennifer Tattao. Kabilang sa mga tulong ng DA-BFAR maliban sa mga farm inputs ang pagbibigay ng tulong teknikal upang maging matagumpay ang pag-aalaga ng isda sa palaisdaan.

Sa mensahe ni BFAR RD Encarnacion, kaniyang binigyang diin na laging handang tumulong ang kanyang tanggapan para sa mga pangangailangan ng mga mangingisda anumang oras. Aniya, "madami pa ang pagtutulungang proyekto ng LGU Rizal at ang BFAR rehiyon dos".

Samantala, ayon naman kay Vice Mayor Brenda Ruma, sana magtuluy-tuloy ang ganitong mga proyekto upang

dumami ang kanilang co-operators sa pagpi-fishpond dahil hindi lamang ito alternatibong pangkabuhayan kundi malaki itong tulong lalo na sa suplay ng pagkain sa hapag kainan ng bawat pamilya sa Rizal.

Sa ginawang open forum, malugod na sumagot ang hepe ng Fisheries production division na si Atty. Ronaldo Libunao at Municipal Agriculturist Engr. Juanito Guzman sa mga katanungang may kaugnayan sa wastong teknolohiya nang pag-aalaga ng isda. Aniya ng dalawa, mahalagang magkaroon ng tamang kaalaman ang sinumang nagnanais mag-alaga ng tilapia gamit ang mga isinusulong ng ahensiya na teknolohiya. (Mildred Alan)

DA-BFAR R02 joins the longest Malaga Grill Kick-off



DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director, Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion, and Buguey Municipal Mayor, Hon. Licerio M. Antiporda III, capture a moment of historical significance as they pose for posterity beside the grandeur of the longest grilled malaga during the 1st Malaga and Guraman Festival in the municipality of Buguey, Cagayan. This photograph captures these distinguished leaders' collaborative behavior and represents the colorful celebration of local culture and gastronomy that defines the essence of Buguey's rich past.

In its bid to make an imprint in the Guinness Book of Record, the Local Government Unit of Buguey (LGU-Buguey) staged its very first Malaga and Guraman Festival under the leadership of Mayor Licerio M. Antiporda III from July 23 to 26 2022, which was graced by DA-BFAR-R02 Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion and attended by other major stakeholders.

One of the highlights during the said four-day festivity was the longest Malaga grilling event that took place on the 26th day along the shoreline of

barangay Centro, obtaining a record of 2, 070 kg of malaga (*Siganus sp.*) grilled using an improvised 350-Meter long bamboo griller.

According to Mayor Antiporda III, the endeavor aimed to showcase the successful malaga aquaculture production using fishcage technology in the municipality and its unveiling contribution to the province and the region as a whole. He also pointed out the need for establishing hatchery to sustain their production to at least twice a year, in an effort to contribute to the government's food security

program, thereby serving as part of the precursors to the region's economic success.

Meanwhile, RD Encarnacion lauded the efforts of LGU for spearheading the said celebration, emphasizing not only the importance of its inception, but also the significant contribution of aquaculture technology (e.g. fishcage farming of malaga) and other fisheries interventions in providing such livelihoods or sources of income. The bureau distributes malaga fingerlings to backyard fishcage operators as part of the aquaculture development enhancement program, conducts trainings, renders technical assistance to operators and monitors water quality of the Buguey Lagoon to ensure production of quality and safe malaga.

The longest malaga grill was just one of the activities conducted during the celebration of Malaga and Guraman Festival which includes a number of activities, not to mention the medical missions, fishery games (Bangkarera and Bangkaton), and Malaga and Guraman cookfest that participated by the public. (Nielvin Cansejo, RFIQS)

DA- BFAR R02 awards project in celebration of the Nutrition Month

In observance of the 48th Nutrition Month, the National Nutrition Council Region II and partner Regional Nutrition Council (RNC) member-institutions in coordination with the Provincial Government of Quirino launched the Nutrition Month celebration with the theme "New Normal na Nutrition Sama-samang Gawan ng Solusyon" in Cabarroguis, Quirino Province on July 4, 2022.

This year's theme calls for strengthened nutrition interventions and solidarity towards nutrition improvement as the country shifts towards living with the COVID-19 virus. The theme signifies the key role of nutrition in building resilience from pandemic to endemic paradigm.

During the activity, RD Angel B. Encarnacion awarded a complete

package of Fish Processing paraphernalia and equipment as Technology Demonstration Project on Post-harvest fisheries to RIC Villa Hermosa Sur of Maddela and RIC Ricarte Sur Diffun, Quirino. The project aims to capacitate women fisherfolk associations or organizations to adopt new and updated processing technologies while providing alternative livelihood that is sustainable and viable in the locality and promoting food safety and nutrition through the production of healthy and safe fish and fishery products.

To increase inland municipal fisheries production, fishing gears such as gillnets, cast nets, and hook and lines were also awarded to registered fishers of the municipalities of Diffun, Aglipay, and Maddela, Quirino, to support food security and promote



proper nutrition in the locality through fish consumption.

The event was attended by local media members, LGU staff, barangay nutrition scholars, representatives from the provincial government headed by Governor Dakila Carlo "Dax" Cua, other nutrition workers, and guests. (Heidi Revilloza, Alternate RTAN)



Fisherfolk beneficiaries from Isabela receive certificates of award for Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boats, which will help them improve their livelihoods and boost the local fishing industry.

DA-BFAR 2 awards fishery projects to Isabela fisherfolk

CITY OF ILAGAN, Isabela | On July 28, 2022, the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office No. 2 (DA-BFAR RO2) thru its Provincial Fisheries Office in Isabela awarded a total of 25 units of motorized and non-motorized FRP boats, and 24 units gill nets worth Php 1.23 million to Isabela fisherfolk during today’s awarding ceremony held at the Capitol Compound in this city.

Isabela Provincial Fisheries Officer, Emerson S. Tattao Jr, said that the projects aim to increase production particularly in capture fisheries, and to generate income for the fisherfolk-beneficiaries.

“We are giving livelihood assistance to our fisherfolk such as FRP boats and

gill nets in the province of Isabela since 2019. As of today, we have distributed 254 units of FRP boats particularly in inland areas. The province covers 33 inland municipalities and four coastal towns,” Tattao said.

“We ask our recipients to maintain and give importance to this project. We hope to see a conclusive result, an increase in production and improvement in their income,” he added.

Further, Tattao also acknowledged the efforts and expressed his gratitude to the Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units of Isabela specifically its Agriculture Offices for the unending support to the fisheries sector.

Ms. Marites E. Frogoso, Provincial Agriculturist of Isabela, then emphasized the One DA Program, since the Bureau is under the umbrella of the agriculture department.

“In order to attain and surpass the targets in production for both agriculture and fisheries industry, we must all harmonize our programs and projects because we are family. We have only one goal and that is to sustain food for humanity. If one would rise, all must be lifted,” Ms. Frogoso added.

The projects were given as recovery assistance to fisherfolk who were affected by the previous typhoons that hit the province. (Vea Jay Rubio/Velinda Calubaquib, PFO-Isabela)

PHOTO NEWS



LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE. About 50,000 pieces Tilapia fingerlings were distributed to fishpond owners in the municipality of Nagtipunan, Quirino as part of the province-wide activities of the 59th Fish Conservation Week celebration. Said fingerlings distribution is one of the livelihood assistance programs of the fisheries Bureau.

Meantime, fisheries services of the DA-BFAR 2 thru the Provincial Fishery Office are open to the public. To avail technical assistance, please visit our offices located at the Capitol Grounds in Cabarroguis and in San Isidro, Diffun.



93 Dinapigue fisherfolk receive fuel subsidy

CITY OF ILAGAN, Isabela | The Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 2 through its Provincial Fisheries Office in Isabela facilitated the distribution of fuel discount cards to 93 marginalized fisherfolk and fishers belonging to the indigenous people’s group in the coastal municipality of Dinapigue, Isabela on August 17, 2022.

Based on the guidelines set by the DA, identified recipients of the fuel discount cards are entitled to receive an allocated value of fuel worth Php 3,000.00 for each fisherfolk.

Meantime, DA-BFAR 2 stressed that qualified recipients must be registered fisherfolk with motorized bancas three gross tons or below and with environmental-friendly fishing gears.

Illigan Sangbay, 57, off-shore fisher for 42 years and a member of the Dumagat tribe said that, “Malaking tulong itong pagbibigay ninyo sa amin ng discount card lalo na at napakamahal ng diesel at gasolina dito sa Dinapigue. Sa ngayon ay nasa 82 pesos kada litro. Ang ginagamit namin na panghuli ay troll line, multiple hand line, at long line. Umaabot nang 40-50 kilos ang huli kapag sinwerte at 30-35 kalimitan ang huli sa mga ordinaryong pagkakataon.”

Further, Isabela Provincial Fishery Officer Emerson Tattao Jr. and technical staff also conducted an orientation on fisherfolk cooperative development for Dinapigue fisherfolks”. Mr. Wilfredo Fajardo, Senior Management Specialist from BFAR Central Office serves as a resource person during the said activity. The organized cooperative of Dinapigue Pacific Fisherfolk Marketing Cooperative will attend a pre-registration seminar to be steered by the Cooperative Development Authority. The bureau will provide assistance to the group in processing the documentary requirements needed for registration. | Vea Jay Rubio, Angelito Misador – PFO Isabela

PHOTO NEWS

FUEL DISCOUNT PROGRAM CARAVAN. The DA-BFAR R02 thru its Provincial Fisheries Office- Cagayan in collaboration with Local Government Units of Cagayan and accredited fintech Universal Storefront Services Corporation (USSC) led the conduct of a fuel discount program caravan last September 16-22, 2022 in the following municipalities: Buguey; Pamplona; Ballesteros; Abulug; Claveria; Sanchez Mira; Sta. Praxedes; Lallo; Tuguegarao; Aparri; Sta. Ana and Gonzaga, Cagayan. A total of 1,593 out of 1,946 target fuel discount cards or 81.86% were distributed during the said caravan.

Said program aims to alleviate the effects of the escalating fuel price in the world market and the global economic crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meantime, Ms. Jennifer Tattao, Provincial Fishery Officer-Cagayan said that beneficiaries who were not able to attend the said caravan can still claim their fuel discount card through the participating USSC branches as walk-in clients but should first coordinate with their respective municipalities for their claim stub.



DA-BFAR 2 awards fishery projects to women fisherfolk in Aparri, Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries Bureau here has awarded post-harvest equipment among women-members of the Dodan Fisherfolk Association as livelihood assistance to fisherfolk in the coastal barangay of Dodan, Aparri, Cagayan during the two-day hands-on workshop on Fish Trading which aims to capacitate women-fisherfolk on selling fresh and quality fish in the market on July 8, 2022.

Fisheries experts on Post-Harvest taught participants on basic principles in fish handling and food safety. Ms. Glennys Llanto, resource speaker, shared important tips on how to improve the quality of fishery products before it reaches consumers' households for consumption.

Fish trading business and selling fish in season is one of the major sources of income among women in barangay Dodan.

Technical Staff from the Provincial Fisheries Office of Cagayan and



the Post-Harvest and Marketing Division facilitated the distribution of the following set of post-harvest paraphernalia: three fish crates; stand-alone fish stall; two ice box coolers; digital weighing scale; ice crusher, upright freezer; two styrofoam box, 20 pieces plastic apron and 10 rubber boots.

Meantime, Ms. Felicitas M. Paraggua, Assistant Provincial Fishery Officer of Cagayan said that as of this writing, the following technology demonstration

projects on post-harvest were already conducted in the province: Fish Smoking (Sta. Teresita); Value - Adding (Tuao); and Fish Trading in the coastal municipalities of Aparri and Ballesteros.

Other attendees were barangay officials headed by Dodan Barangay Captain Nemecio Furagganan, PFO Cagayan Staff and other members of Dodan Fisherfolk Association. (Aileen Silva)

Bangus features in the highlands of Quirino



Ms. Analiza Acosta skillfully debones a bangus as one of her products.

Two years ago, the global pandemic almost crippled everyone and left majority of people unemployed and economic activities were put to a halt. But one remarkable woman did not succumb to this ill-fated epoch.

Ms. Analiza Acosta, one of the active fish processors of the municipality of Aglipay who saw fish processing as a way to divert the health turmoil into a feasible economic opportunity. Armed with a positive mind and will-full spirit, Analiza started a small business in her community. She is one of the members of the Rural Improvement Club of San Leonardo, which is a recipient of the technology-demonstration cum livelihood project.

"Idi pandemic nga nangrugi amin daytuy nga gagar ku nga agprocess iti lames nangruna iti bangus. Gapu ta awan pagsapulan gapu iti COVID restrictions, napanunut ku iti agaramid kas iti kadagiti ar-aramidek itattan nga bangus sisig, boneless bangus, bangus siomai ken dadduma pay. Dakkel ti

naitulong iti training kanyak ta isu iti nagbalin nga motibasyon ko nga mangpadas dagitoy nga teknolohiya uray makuna nga adda kami dito kabanbantayan" (It all begun during the pandemic when it deterred us from earning for a living due to COVID restrictions. I thought of the possibility of turning my knowledge and skills on fish processing technology I acquired during one of the trainings I attended conducted by DA-BFAR into a promising alternative source of livelihood. I tried to make bangus sisig, boneless bangus, bangus siomai, among others, even if we are in a mountainous area"), said Analiza.

Located at the northeastern part of Cagayan Valley Region, Quirino is a landlocked province. People living in landlocked and mountainous areas are susceptible for the prevalence of iodine deficiency-related diseases. In order to address this condition, the fisheries Bureau regularly conducts capacity-building and skills training on fish processing among women-fisherfolk. (Jesimie Tac-an, PFO Quirino)



Nueva Vizcaya women-fisherfolk sees fish processing as promising side job

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The members of the DA-Agricultural Technological Institute (DA-ATI) formed association - Hatid ng ATI Na Dunong Oportunidad at Gabay (HANDOG) Program beneficiaries in barangay Ibung, Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya eyes fish processing as a lucrative alternative source of income.

This came after the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources thru the Post-harvest and Marketing Division in coordination with the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Division equipped the participants with necessary knowledge and skills in

fish processing technology on value-adding on July 20-21, 2022.

Participants were taught on the basic principles in fish handling, Good Manufacturing Practices - Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (GMP-SSOP) to ensure that processed fisheries-products are safe for human consumption.

DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director, Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion said that the Bureau is promoting the consumption of fisheries-products in elevated or mountainous areas like Nueva Vizcaya to reduce the prevalence of iodine-deficiency syndrome and other related diseases.

Participants to the said hands-on training were taught on how to prepare various value-added products such as fish ball, fish tocino, fish nuggets, fish roll, fish embutido and breaded fish sticks.

The association also received complete post-harvest paraphernalia as livelihood assistance from the Bureau.

Meantime, the Bureau also awarded various post-harvest equipment to the members of the Rural Improvement Club of barangay Dubba in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya after attending a two-day training on fish processing on July 22-23, 2022. (Divina delos Santos, FPHMD)

RED TILAPIA SIZZLES IN A COOKING ACTIVITY IN CAMALANIUGAN, CAGAYAN

CAMALANIUGAN, Cagayan (August 9-10, 2022) -- This town's grounds was literally painted with red as the DA-BFAR 2 through the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Division trains 30 women-fisherfolk on how to prepare value-added products that can be developed using Red Tilapia as raw material.

This move is to further popularize the utilization of Red Tilapia as alternative fish which is relatively cheaper compared to other colored marine fishes like Red Snapper (Maya-maya) and Grouper (Lapu-lapu).

Said hands-on fish processing workshop is one of the promotional activities under the Red Tilapia Research and Development Program

funded by the DA- Bureau of Agricultural Research.

Among the value-added products prepared were fish tocino, fish nuggets, fish ball, fish rolls, fish sticks and embutido.

Arlene Cabanting, 49, housewife, mother and street food vendor says that the activity introduced her new ways on how to cook fish. "Magagamit ko nang husto ang mga napag-aralan ko dito sa training. Maaari kong idagdag sa aking mga paninda ang mga napag-aralan kong iluto gaya ng fish nuggets, fish balls, at fish sticks. Bukod sa mura kumpara sa karne, masustansiya pa at mainam sa kalusugan ng mga mamimili" (I can use my new learning to diversify my products. Apart from its cheaper

compared to pork-based products, developed products from fish are good for the health of my customers)", said Arlene.

Meantime, Municipal Mayor Isidro Cabaddu extended his gratitude to the Bureau for choosing their town as recipient of the capability-training for his constituents. He urged participants to share their learnings with their neighbors so that they too can turn it into an income-generating activity and support their family needs.

The activity was attended by staff from the Municipal Agriculturist Office headed by Municipal Agriculturist Rodel Pasaraba, DA-BFAR 2 post-harvest experts, representative from the Cagayan Provincial Fishery Office and other women-fisherfolk. (Aileen Silva)

DA-BFAR 2 holds Cooking Contest to promote health benefits of Red Tilapia

Today, September 21, 2022, the DA- BFAR 2 thru the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Center held the Red Tilapia Cooking Contest to promote the utilization of this emerging “aquaculture darling” in the region.

Dr. Evelyn C. Ame, project leader on Red Tilapia, said that the cooking contest is just one of the promotional activities covered by the Red Tilapia Research and Development Project of the Bureau to further popularize the said species as a prospective aquaculture species.

Funded by the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research, said cooking activity was participated by four partner academic institutions: Cagayan State University-Andrews Campus, Isabela State University-Echague Campus, Quirino State University-Diffun and Nueva Vizcaya State University-Bayombong.

The Cagayan State University's entry, composed of faculty members from the College of Hospitality Management



Enthusiastic participants in the Red Tilapia Cooking Contest showcase their culinary prowess as they skillfully prepare their recipes, highlighting the versatile and delicious qualities of red tilapia as the main ingredient.

bagged first place and received a cash award of P15, 000.00. Second place went to Quirino State University with cash award of P12,000.00. Meantime, the Nueva Vizcaya State University placed third and received P10, 000.00. Lastly, the Isabela State University was given a consolation prize of P5,000. 00.

DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director, Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion, in his message calls for the support of all stakeholders to promote the culture of Red Tilapia as means to increase fish production and expand its market not only locally but in other fish-consuming areas.

The members of the panel of judges were: Ms. Marnelie G. Subong, Focal Person for Fisheries Research and Development Programs, DA-BAR; Atty. Orlyne T. Trinidad, faculty member, University of Saint Louis Tuguegarao; Dr. Isagani P. Angeles, Jr., Dean Institute of Fisheries Freshwater Fisheries Center, Isabela State University-Echague; Dr. Kingford N. Tan, nutrition and wellness specialist and Ms. Gene V. Baquiran from the Philippine Information Agency Regional Office 2. (Aileen Silva)



Steamed Red Tilapia Roulade, Sauteed Spinach with Ginger and Chive Sauce



Pan-Fried Red Tilapia with Potato Allumettes and Sauce Tzatziki



Red Tilapia Pineapple Ginger Honey Dip Sauce



DA-BFAR 2: Rice Eel “Kiwet”, Pest No More

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The once we thought pest, Rice Eel (*Monopterus albus*) locally known as “Kiwet” will soon invade our kitchens as the DA-BFAR 2 thru the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Division holds the first Rice Eel Cooking Contest to promote the fish as a commercially-important fish available among consumers on September 22, 2022.

Said activity aims to showcase various recipes that can be developed from “Kiwet” aside from the traditional way of preparation for a wider acceptance among the non-eel-consuming population.

Dr. Evelyn C. Ame, National Eel Coordinator said that “The Philippines is a major exporter of live Eel fish including the Asian Swamp Eel (Kiwet) in eel-consuming countries like China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. The Cooking Contest is just one way of encouraging Filipinos to appreciate this resource as an addition to the commercially-available commodities in the market.

DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion in his message said that the cooking contest is the Bureau’s way to change the misconception of consumers on Rice Eels as menacing and undesirable to local markets. He is optimistic that consumers will find products developed from “Kiwet” available in the markets of region 2.

Of the five participating entries, the team from the Rural Improvement

Club members from the municipality of Cabatuan, Isabela bagged first place and received a cash prize of P15, 000 for coming up with a Chinese-inspired recipe dubbed “Golden Ingot Rice Eel”. Second place went to the Handog Beneficiaries of Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya for their unique blend of vegan-fish dish entry “Cheesy Cabbage Roll” and received a cash prize of P12,000. The Rural Improvement Club of Liwayway, Diffun, Quirino placed third and was given P10, 000 cash prize for their mouthwatering “Crispy Kiwet” recipe. Consolation prizes of 5,000 were given to the Dodan Fisherfolk Association of Aparri for their delectable version of “Ginataang Kiwet” and to the Rural Improvement Club of Barancuag, Tuao, Cagayan for their delicious entry “Bottled Adobo Spicy Kiwet”.

Meantime, Dr. Esterlita Calanoga, retired professor of the Cagayan State University-Aparri Campus said that she’s not fond of eel fish, but

she lauded participants for creating recipes uniquely packaged to attract consumers of all ages. She also stressed key points that she advocates, that in order to live longer, one must have “good food, good exercise and good sleep” to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

The panel of judges were: Ms. Marnelie G. Subong, Focal Person for Fisheries Research and Development Programs, DA-BAR; Atty. Orlyne T. Trinidad, faculty member, University of Saint Louis Tuguegarao; Dr. Kingford N. Tan, Nutrition and Wellness specialist; Ms. Marites O. Quilang, Trainor and Assessor in Cookery for NC II, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; Teresa O. Campos, Radio Anchor, Radyo Pilipinas; Dr. Esterlita Calanoga, Fish Processing Technology Expert and retired professor of the Cagayan State University- Aparri Campus and Dr. Emmanuel Acluba, former Chief Cagayan Valley Medical Center. (Aileen Silva)



Creamy Buttered Kiwet



Cheesy Rice Eel Cabbage Roll

BFAR 2 leads post-harvest skills training in Quezon, Isabela

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan -- The DA-BFAR 02 through its Fisheries Post-harvest and Marketing Division and Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Division spearheaded the conduct of skills training on Value-Added Fish Processing Technology for Bagong Pag-asa Ako OFW ng Quezon, recipient of techno-demo project in Quezon, Isabela on July 27-28, 2022.

The two-day training aims to capacitate women-fisherfolk associations or organizations to adopt new and updated fish processing technologies.

The participants learned basic principles on proper fish handling, Good Manufacturing Practices, Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure and value-adding technologies developed by the Bureau.

Various value-added products from tilapia were produced as output of said hands-on training which include;



Participants from Quezon, Isabela, proudly show their assortment of value-added fish recipes, meticulously produced during the Fish Value-Adding Training.

fish ball, fish roll, fish burger, fish skin chicharon, fish nuggets, fish embutido, and breaded fish sticks.

After completing the training, the Bureau awarded a complete package of Fish Processing paraphernalia and equipment as livelihood assistance from the Bureau.

The training was successfully done in coordination with the local

government unit of Quezon and the Provincial Fishery Office – Isabela. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries and OJT students of Agribusiness from ISU-Roxas Campus also attended said activity.

As of this writing, the Bureau has implemented 24 out of 26 targeted technology demonstration projects on post-harvest or 92.3% accomplished its target for the year. (Heidi Revilloza)

PHOTO NEWS



Ms. Helailina Alberto

MARKETING ASSISTANCE TO FISHERFOLK. Helialina Alberto, 58, mother of 10 and a fish processor from the coastal barangay of Paddaya, Aparri, Cagayan is one of the 65 active members and the marketing officer of the Paddaya Women's Association. Formed in 2006, the association is engaged in fish processing activities as an additional source of income for its members.

Aling Lina is a regular exhibitor/fish trader being invited by the DA-BFAR 2 thru the Fisheries Post-harvest and Marketing Division (FPHMD) headed by Ms. Gemma N. Libunao. The FPHMD supervises the operation of the Seafood KADIWA ni Ani at Kita outlet located at the regional office grounds. As a form of marketing assistance to fisheries entrepreneurs, various processed products are also displayed at the Aquabusiness Center to showcase fresh and processed fisheries commodities.

"Gapu iti tulong ti DA-BFAR kadakami nga miyembro ti Paddaya Women Association ket pimintas met ti panagsapul mi iti paglakuanmi kadagiti produkto mi. Babaen iti Seafoods KADIWA, immadu dagiti parokyanos mi nga aggang kadagiti naduma дума nga lako mi ken naiyasidegmi dagitoy produktomi kadagiti aggang", (with the assistance of the DA-BFAR to our association in looking for a market of our fisheries products, our sales improved. Through the Seafood KADIWA, our market expanded and our network also grew. It also helped us bring- in processed fisheries commodities to a wider market), Aling Lina said during a recent exhibit in time for the annual observance of Fish Conservation Week.

DA-BFAR 2 Intensifies Campaign on Food Safety to Public Market Workers



TUGUEGARAO CIY, Cagayan – To intensify its information drive and advocacy campaign on the importance of food safety among imported frozen fisheries products, the fisheries Bureau here orients fish workers and public market supervisors in Cagayan province on Fisheries Administrative Order Nos. 195, 259 and other food safety protocols for fisheries products.

Earlier, the Bureau launched its awareness and advocacy movements on the FAO 195 which establishes the rules and regulations governing importation of fresh/chilled fisheries and aquatic products to inform the market vendors on the prohibited imported frozen/chilled products from being sold in the local markets or any platform as the order focuses on the Institutional Buyers (IBs) only.

The FAO do not encourage imported fishes such as pampano, whole round squid, salmon heads and salmon belly from being sold in wet markets and “talipapas” due to food safety reasons. As stipulated in the provision, importation of these products is not prohibited; however, these should only reach the IBs such as canneries,

restaurants and fish processing plants as stipulated in the order. This is to ensure that imported products will not compete with the local production.

Meantime, DA-BFAR 2 Chief Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion announced that the Bureau will use the “education vs. apprehension” approach as campaign strategy.

“We need to inform our LGU-counterparts, the fisherfolk who are involved in marketing and trading of imported fisheries products covered by the FAO before apprehending them and ensure that everyone is informed and updated on the content of the FAO through series of orientations in different parts of the region”, says Encarnacion.

Important tips on the proper handling of fish and fishery products were imparted to the participants of said activity by Postharvest Expert Glennys R. Llanto.

Meantime, Dr. Emma L. Ballard, head of the Regional Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Section lectured on the salient points of FAO 195 and 259 series of 2018 which establishes Rules

and Regulations on the Importation of Frozen Fish and Fishery/Aquatic Products for Wet Markets During Closed and Off-Fishing Seasons or During the Occurrence of Calamities.

Relevant and pressing issues that might arise in the implementation of the provisions of the FAO were discussed and came up with possible solutions to address them.

Further, Dr. Ballard sought support from LGU-partners to help the Bureau in its awareness campaign activities in their respective areas to protect the welfare of small-scale “fishpreneurs”.

Also present in the orientation were Atty. Arsenio S. Bañares, Chief of the Fisheries Management and Regulatory Enforcement Division, Mr. Sherwin D. Buguina, Head of the Fisheries Law Enforcement Group, Dr. Jefferson K. Soriano, Food Safety Focal Person, Ms. Jennifer T. Tattaog, Provincial Fishery Officer -Cagayan and other DA-BFAR 2 Staff.

Similar activity will also be conducted in the provinces of Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. (Aileen Silva)

DA-BFAR 2 trains partner fisheries law enforcers

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Twenty-five local fisherfolk, barangay officials and representatives from law enforcement agencies in Sta. Ana, Cagayan completed the three-day training as deputy fish wardens (DFW) spearheaded by the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office here.

The participants will serve as partners of the Bureau in the enforcement of fisheries laws, rules and regulations in their locality.

After completing the DFW course, they will be issued identification cards which will authorize them to apprehend fishery law violators within their jurisdiction.

Requested by the Local Government Unit of Sta. Ana, Cagayan, the three-



day basic DFW course includes modules on Coastal Resource Management; Role of Bantay Dagat in the implementation of Fishery

Laws, Rules and Regulations; Legal; Operational and Technical aspects.

Said training will also be replicated in other areas in the Region. (Gerald Kerby Lumauan)

DA - BFAR 2 Joins the Nation in the Observance of Food Safety Week



DA-BFAR RO2 personnel conduct an advocacy campaign to fish vendors of major wet markets in the region to promote food safety.

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Personnel of the DA- BFAR 2 conducted inspection of major wet markets in the Region as part of the Bureau's observance of the Food Safety Week from October 24-28, 2022.

Anchored on the theme: "Sapat at Ligtas na Pagkain, Ating Adhikain, sa Hapag ng Bawat Pamilyang Pilipino, Ating Siguruhin", the food safety week

was created through Presidential Proclamation No. 160 signed by then President Joseph E. Estrada on August 6, 1999 which aims to instill awareness on the importance of food safety in order to reduce prevalence of food poisoning and other foodborne illness which in some cases may cause even death.

Further, the Bureau spearheaded the conduct of awareness and advocacy

campaign on Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195 which establishes the rules and regulations governing importation of fresh/chilled and frozen fishery and aquatic products to inform the market vendors on the prohibited imported frozen/chilled fisheries products from being sold in the local markets.

Imported fishes such as pampano, whole round squid, salmon head and salmon belly are among the fisheries and aquatic products that are barred from the local markets and "talipapas".

Meantime, Dr. Jefferson Soriano, Focal Person on food safety programs stressed that importation of these frozen products is not prohibited; however, these should only reach canneries, restaurants and fish processing plants equipped with cold storage facilities to ensure the quality of fisheries commodities for safe human consumption as stated in the FAO.

The advocacy campaign on food safety was a joint activity of the Regional Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Unit, Regional Fisheries Laboratory Division and the Fisheries Protection and Law Enforcement Group. (Aileen Silva)

DA-BFAR 2 - LGU leads disposal of seized rare and threatened shark



SANCHEZ MIRA, Cagayan – Law enforcement officers of the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources with the assistance of the Local Government Unit of Sanchez Mira spearheaded the disposal of Red Sea Shark or Wedgefish’s (*Rhynchobatus sp.*) carcass following the apprehension of local fishers who were caught in possession of rare and threatened species of shark cited in the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix II list.

The team confiscated two pieces Wedgefish weighing about 40 kilograms each. Said fish is valued at Php 3,000 in the local market.

According to reports, wedgefsh species are third most threatened family of chondrichthyan (Shark) fishes globally because of lack of global management and high value of fins in the international market.

On August 16, 2022, Chrushev De Peralta, officer of the Fisheries Protection and Law Enforcement Group received a call from LGU Sanchez Mira for the apprehension of local poachers found fishing along its municipal water in barangay Marzan and allegedly carrying with them endangered and prohibited fish species caught using long line or a fishing gear locally known as “patilmon”. Long line is a kind of fishing gear that is used to catch

bottom-dwelling fishes including sharks and rays.

The violators were issued a Notice of Violation for violating Sections 86 (Unauthorized Fishing) of the Republic Act 10654 b which states “It shall be unlawful for any person not listed in the registry of municipal fisherfolk to engage in any commercial fishing activity in municipal waters” and Section 102 (b) or the Fishing or Taking of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species that are listed in Appendix II and III of CITES.

Based on reports of apprehending officers, the fishing boat used by violators with side marking of F/b BALONG is operated and owned by Mr. Marlon Trisinio of Macanaya, Aparri, Cagayan.

The FPLEG team already filed the case to the DA-BFAR 2 Adjudication Committee for proper disposition. Further, the violators were given five days to settle administrative compromise with the committee.

As defined in the Fisheries Code, violators of Sections 86 and 102 have administrative fine of Php 5,000 and Php 300,000 to 3 million, respectively. (Aileen Silva)

Coastal Villagers, local rescuers save stranded dolphin in Aparri, Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – On July 27, 2022 at around 10:00 in the morning, coastal residents of barangay Dodan in Aparri, Cagayan rescued a pod of dolphin trapped in a fishing net owned by Domingo Sumer, local fisher in the area.

The stranding incident was reported by PLT Jun-Jun D. Torio, Deputy Chief of Police, Philippine National Police (PNP) - Aparri upon receiving information from PNP intelligence to the DA-BFAR 2 Cagayan Provincial Fisheries Office (PFO).

Assistant PFO Fhelie Paraggua and Technical Staff trained on Marine Mammal Stranding and Rescue Operations immediately responded to the said incident.



Rescuers ensured that the six dolphins spotted in the area are safe as they swam away from the shore.

Meantime, PLT Torio, claimed that their office also received similar reports of sea turtle (Pawikan) stranded along the shore of barangay Paddaya.

Dr. Jefferson Soriano, focal person of DA-BFAR 2 Marine Mammal Stranding

and Rescue Operations Task Force said that “Marine mammals can strand for a variety of reasons such as entanglement in fishing gear, unusual weather or oceanographic events, earthquakes among others”. (With reports from Jefferson Soriano, RFLD/ Felecitas Paraggua, PFO-Cagayan/PLT Jun-Jun Torio, PNP)

Local fisher rescue stranded Dolphin along the coast of Buguey, Cagayan

BUGUEY, Cagayan – A stranded juvenile Dolphin (Pantropical Spotted Dolphin) was rescued by Randy Lunato, 45, a local fisher, along the shoreline of the municipality of Buguey, Cagayan on September 20, 2022, at dawn, while on his way to go fishing.

Lunato spotted the Dolphin half-buried in the sand. He immediately reported the stranding incident to the Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries office of LGU Buguey and to the DA-BFAR 2 Marine Mammal Rescue Team.

The LGU personnel together with the rescue team from BFAR safely transferred the stranded dolphin to the Buguey Brackishwater Technology Outreach Station located in barangay Minanga for rehabilitation and recovery.



Meantime, Dr. Jefferson Soriano, Focal Person on Marine Mammal Stranding and Rescue Operation, said that his team already administered appropriate medical procedures to determine the cause of the stranding.

“The juvenile dolphin is still in its weak state till today (September 22, 2022). It needs intensive care and regular medical attention because it refuses to eat”, said Soriano. (with reports from Jazer Anne Tattao, RFLD)

Dead whale found along the coast of Sanchez Mira, Cagayan as Typhoon “Maymay” beats the province



SANCHEZ MIRA, Cagayan – An adult male Pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*) was found dead along the coast of Brgy. Magatan in this town around 6:30 in the morning of October 12, 2022 by a fisherfolk amidst the heavy rains brought by tropical depression “Maymay”.

Said stranding incident was immediately reported by Mr. Ridel

Cabulisan, LGU personnel to the nearest DA-BFAR 2 farm facility for appropriate action. Ms. Madelyn Rubio, Farm Manager of Claveria Brackishwater Technology Outreach Station located in Pata East, Claveria with Ms. Maria Odessa Silvestre, Fisheries Livelihood Development Technician assigned in the area headed to the stranding site to assess the condition of the marine mammal.

Based on the necropsy conducted by the Marine Mammal Stranding and Rescue Operation Task Force headed by Dr. Jefferson Soriano of the 2.10 - meter pygmy whale, major findings show the presence of foamy fluid in the animal’s throat up to the lungs, empty stomach which contains heavy loads of parasites though its internal organs were intact and showed no internal bleeding.

Likewise, samples were collected and will be submitted for further examination to the Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network (PMMSN) Laboratory.

Further, Soriano said that “whales and dolphins are mammals and can breathe air into their lungs, just like we do. They cannot breathe underwater like fish can as they do not have gills. They breathe through nostrils, called a blowhole, located right on top of their heads. The harsh weather may have added to the weakened state of the animal and eventually succumbed to death”. (With reports from Jazer Anne Tattao, RFLD)

DA-BFAR 2 expands BASIL project in Aglipay, Quirino province

AGLIPAY, Quirino – The fisheries Bureau here is bent to revive inland waters in the Region as it expands its coverage through the recent launching of the Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) project in barangay Rang-ayan, Aglipay, Quirino on September 14, 2022 in time with this year's observance of Fish Conservation Week.

DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion was represented by his Executive Assistant Dr. Emma L. Ballard and was joined by Ms. Apple Usquisa, BASIL Focal Person; Provincial Fishery Officer Mr. Christopher B. Casco. Also present is Mayor Jerry T. Agsalda, Sangguniang Bayan Jimmy Daquioag-Committee in Agriculture, Municipal Agriculture Office staff, barangay officials and members of the Rang-ayan Farmers and Fisherfolk Association.

The BASIL project aims to rejuvenate inland bodies of water that are usually found in landlocked and mountainous areas such as lakes and rivers.

With an area of seven hectares, the Rang-ayan Small Water Impounding Project is an addition to the 18 previously BASIL-identified sites around the region since its inception in 2015.



The recently launched BASIL project site will be managed by the Rang-ayan Farmers and Fisherfolk Association headed by Mr. Geoby Seculles. "We are grateful to the agency for considering Rang-ayan SWIP as the site for rehabilitation and enhancement under the BASIL project for CY 2022", said Seculles during the launching activity.

As a startup, around 7,000 pieces tilapia fingerlings and freshwater shrimp post-larvae were seeded at the project site. The association also received 400 pieces, tilapia breeders, as livelihood assistance. Attendees of the said activity also took part in the tree planting activity, wherein

50 pieces of fruit-bearing trees were planted along the banks of the SWIP to prevent soil erosion and flood mitigating measures during monsoon and heavy rains.

Prior to the launching, a series of activities were conducted like site validation and assessment of the SWIP. A capacity-building on the appropriate and sustainable management of the identified resource was also conducted. Other activities on habitat restoration including clearing of aquatic macrophytes and debris were also done. (with reports and photos from Apple Joy Usquisa, FMRED)

PHOTO NEWS



ASSESSMENT OF FRESHWATER SANCTUARIES. July 12, 2022, local resource managers convene to assess the state of the Freshwater Sanctuaries established in the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela and Quirino using the Freshwater Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) concept being used and adopted by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL)-Philippines, an international Non-Government Organization that specializes in resource management and conservation.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office 02 previously worked with ZSL on the management and conservation of Freshwater Eels (*Anguilla sp.*).

FMA Northern Seaboard holds workshop on CARE



TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan -- The Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of the Fisheries Management Area 1 (FMA I) convened on a two-day Hybrid Workshop on Comprehensive Assessment of Risks to Ecosystems (CARE) Analysis last July 6-7, 2022 held at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 2 MIS Hall.

The activity aimed to introduce the principles of CARE tool in assessing

the potential risks that may cause damages to the ecosystems in areas covered by FMA I. Dr. Jose Ingles and Ms. Jimely Flores, resource speakers from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) presented the overview and principles of the said tool. They also discussed the processes on how to rate the different risks within the ecosystem.

Said workshop was conducted in blended sessions (in-person and

virtually) and was attended by SAG permanent representatives and National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) focal analysts from regions CAR, 2, 3, 4A and 5.

At the end of the activity, the participants were able to prioritize the different risks on the demersal or near the bottom portion of the open sea ecosystem of both the Babuyan Channel and Northern Pacific Seaboard. They also rated the different attributes of the said ecosystem.

BFAR 2 Regional Director and FMA I Management Board Chair, Dr. Angel Encarnacion, on his message, expressed his gratitude to all the participants especially to the resource speakers for joining the activity. He also applauded the SAG for initiating efforts towards the realization of the objectives of the FMA.

Also present during the workshop were FMA I Focal Person, Atty. Arsenio Bañares and Alternate Focal Person, Dr. Emma Ballad. (Leon Antonio, NSAP)

FMA Northern Pacific Seaboard holds 6th MB Meeting

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Today, July 29, 2022, key players and implementing sectors of the Fisheries Management Area 1 (FMA1) assembled thru virtual platform for the 6th Management Board Meeting which was participated by representatives from FMA1 member-regions 2, 3, 4A, 5 and CAR.

The meeting agenda includes presentation of existing list of organized sectoral-groups within FMA 1; presentation of the Draft FMA1 Profile; updates on the Science Advisory Group (SAG) accomplishments; and update on the request to State Universities to waive admission examinations to fisheries scholars and children of fisherfolk; among others.

Meantime, Dr. Angel Encarnacion, FMA 1 lead-region Regional Director and concurrent MB Chairperson applauds

all sectors for their vital inputs which greatly contributed to the laudable accomplishments of the management body in working together to come up with a holistic Management Plan to be implemented along Philippine Waters covered by FMA Northern Seaboard.

As the group is on the third step in crafting the FMA1 Management Plan, he is confident that by last quarter of the year, a draft is expected to be out for critiquing and for further enhancement.

Further, he urged the body to expedite submission of all necessary information needed to complete the FMA1 Profile.

The management body also discussed issues with gray areas and came out with mutual agreements to look for doable and appropriate interventions to address them.

Meanwhile, FMA1 Co-chair Hon. Shierwin Taay, Local Chief Executive of Dingalan, Aurora cited the potential economic influx in the province once the proposed DA-funded fish port project is already in place. With the ongoing construction of road networks, he said that the fishery complex once completed will bring in economic opportunities not only in Central Luzon but also in other areas covered by the Northern Seaboard.

Conducted in a virtual platform, the meeting was graced by DENR 2 Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan as the PAMB representative; other sectoral representatives; FMA1-SAG Chair; and FMA1 secretariat.

The management body is scheduled to convene for its last quarter meeting tentatively scheduled on October 19-20, 2022 to be hosted by the DA-BFAR Cordillera Administrative Region. (Aileen Silva)

DA-BFAR 2 joins the world in the International Coastal Clean-up towards a cleaner and greener Earth

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion and staff joined Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan in support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office – led observance of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Drive along the bank of the PInacanauan de Tuguegarao, a major tributary of the Cagayan River on September 17, 2022.



The global restoration activity was adopted in the Philippines thru Presidential Decree no. 244 signed by then President Fidel V. Ramos declaring every third Saturday of September as International Coastal Cleanup Day.

With this year’s focus on “Fighting for trash-free Pilipinas, Ending the flow of trash at the source”, the ICC promises to bring cleanliness and purify nature as a whole. The advocacy and restoration activity also aims to raise awareness of the global concern on pollution and its ill effects not only on the environment but on all living organisms in co-existence with humans.

In his message, Dr. Encarnacion said that the Bureau is also celebrating Fish Conservation Week and that his office led several restoration activities such as cleanup drives to rejuvenate both inland and coastal resources region-wide.

Meantime, Dr. Bambalan, expressed her gratitude to the Bureau for its support towards the protection and conservation of God-given resources. She stressed that what we do in the upland will always affect the marine and aquatic organisms in the ocean and that taking good care of the environment is a shared responsibility of everyone.

Representatives from the inter-agency cleanup activity were able to collect and sorted various litter and waste fragments composed of non-biodegradable, biodegradable, hazardous, special wastes, recyclable materials, and the like. Distribution of information materials on proper waste management was also conducted by DENR personnel.

Said activity was participated by representatives from the city government of Tuguegarao, regional and law enforcement agencies, barangay officials, villagers, and other volunteers of the ICC site. (Aileen Silva)

PHOTO NEWS



PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES. Ivatan fishers took part in the celebration of this year’s annual observance of Fish Conservation Week by joining the region-wide simultaneous clean-up drive conducted in the coastal municipalities of Uyugan and Ivana on September 13, 2022, spearheaded by the fisheries Bureau thru its Provincial Fishery Office –Batanes headed by Dr. Ritchie A. Rivera.

The team collected various non-biodegradable waste that drifted back to the shore composed of soda bottles, plastics, tin cans, and other waste fragments. According to PFO Rivera, the increased volume of garbage collected was attributed to the series of typhoons that struck the island province.

The coastal municipality of Uyugan was the 2021 Regional Winner of the Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan or the Search for Most Outstanding Coastal Community.

They received two million pesos worth of fisheries projects as a reward. This year, the coastal town of Ivana placed second during the recently conducted MMK Regional Screening. The Bureau awarded one million pesos worth of fisheries projects as a prize. (With reports from Dr. Ritchie A. Rivera, PFO-Batanes)



DA-BFAR 2 OPENS 59TH FISH CONSERVATION WEEK CELEBRATION

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – On September 12, 2022, in observance of the 59th Fish Conservation Week, the DA-BFAR 2 joins the nation on the weeklong celebration which also coincides with the commemoration of the Maritime and Archipelagic Awareness Month as declared thru Proclamation No. 316, series of 2017 signed by then President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

The weeklong festivity was started with a fun walk around the Regional Government Center. Anchored on the theme “Pagkain ng Bansa Siguruhin, Likas Kayang Produksyon ng Isda Isulong Natin”, said activity was led by Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion, and with him were the eight contenders for the “FISHionista” Creative Costume Contest and DA-BFAR 2 workforce.

It was followed by an opening program to officially start the festivities. In his welcome message, RD Encarnacion explained that the Bureau is firming up programs and projects in the aquaculture sector to address the call to improve fish production and achieve fish sufficiency.

Further, he added that the Fisheries Management Area is another strategy that ensures the sustainable utilization of marine and aquatic resources using the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management principle.

Meantime, the fisheries Bureau paid tribute to the coastal municipalities of Gonzaga, Sta. Ana, Buguey, Cagayan and Barangay Local Government Unit of Divisoria Sur of Maddela, Qurino for their exemplary contributions towards

the development of the fisheries industry in the Region.

Winners of the Search for Most Outstanding Coastal Municipalities otherwise known as the Search for Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan were also recognized during the program. The coastal municipality of Gonzaga, Cagayan bags the most coveted award and will receive two million pesos worth of fisheries projects as reward. The coastal municipality of Ivana in Batanes placed second with one million worth of fisheries projects; while LGU Sta. Ana will be given 500 thousand pesos worth of fisheries projects for garnering third place.

Meantime, Loyalty Awards were also given to selected employees of the Bureau to recognize their years of services and Certificate of Recognition to those who finished their graduate studies.

A ceremonial dismantling of confiscated illegal fishing gadgets was also conducted to demonstrate the Bureau’s stance against illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing (IUUF) activities. Said activity was organized by the Fisheries Protection and Law Enforcement Group headed by Mr. Sherwin Buguina.



As one of the highlights of the program, Hon. Licerio M. Antiporda, Municipal Mayor of Buguey served as the Guest Speaker. In his virtual message, Mayor Antiporda calls for the protection and conservation of fisheries resources, “clearly this is to remind us that we need to conserve and manage our fisheries resources. For so long, commercial fishing vessels in the sea have dominated our fish supply. But, the effects of climate change and other fishery abuses, such as overfishing and non-observance of the closed season, our marine fisheries resources have been depleted which now requires us to import 60, 000 metric tons of fish just to meet our fish requirement”.

The Fisheries Administrative and Finance Division represented by Jennifer Reconoce took home the crown as Miss FISHionista and wowed the crowd with her creative costume.

Meantime, Ms. Christie Marie Pitogo, representative of the Office of the Regional Director and attached Units won the hearts of netizens for achieving 323 hits during the 30-minute voting period. (Aileen Silva)

DA-BFAR 2 teams up with academes to ensure science-based fisheries management

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - The fisheries bureau here collaborated with the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center through Dr. Neil Andrew Bascos to study *Sardinella hualiensis* caught along the coastline of Cagayan province. The proteomic profiles of *S. hualiensis* will be studied to determine its similarities and differences with the more popular *S. tawilis* at the phenotypic / protein level. The characterization will provide information on the possible bases for their survival in freshwater and marine environments.



Further, the office is also in collaboration with the University of Santo Tomas - Research Center for Natural and Applied Sciences for the Project TroPaYan (Ecology of Cercarial Production in Tropical Freshwater Ecosystems: Host-Parasite Connections of Trematodes in the

Cagayan River) and WEAVE FPAs (Watershed Ecology: Assessment of Valuable Ecosystems in Freshwater Protected Areas under the leadership of Dr. Jonathan Carlos Briones and Mr. Elfrizson Peralta, respectively. These projects are seen to provide significant inputs in the management of freshwater ecosystems.

DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director Dr. Angel Encarnacion, a scientist himself, welcomes these projects as he promotes science-based fisheries management. He enjoins other state universities and colleges and research institutions to conduct researches in Cagayan Valley as results will provide guidance to resource managers and policy makers in the region.

DA-BFAR RO2 staff attend three-day workshop for “Project TroPaYan”



TUGUEGARAO, Cagayan – Representatives from DA- BFAR 2 Nielvin Cansejo and Jazer Anne Tattao of the Regional Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Services and Regional Fisheries Laboratory Division attended the three-day workshop on “The Ecology of Cercarial Production in Tropical

Ecosystems,” hosted by the University of Santo Tomas, College of Science, on August 3-5, 2022 at the UST Central Laboratory, Manila and DA-NFRDI Conference Hall, Quezon City.

Participants were engaged to a variety of lectures and hands-on activities on

cercarial detection and morphology, led by Dr. Misako Urabe, a renowned parasitologist whose research interests include cercarial trematodes in snails. A presentation about eDNA analysis for cercarial quantitation was presented by Ms. Janelle Laura Gacad a PhD student focusing on environmental science at the University of Shiga Prefecture.

The said workshop was attended by 16 participants from various collaborating research institutions which includes the UST as the lead institutional agency, DA-BFAR R02, USP, DA-NFRDI was designed as part of the target activities of the DOST-JSPS joint funded project “Project TroPaYan” in order to provide participants with technical knowledge on cercarial parasites that typically lives in snails found in freshwater ecosystems. (Nielvin Cansejo/Jazer Anne Tattao)

DA-BFAR 2 employees participate in international distant-learning workshop



TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Selected technical staff of the fisheries Bureau here participated in an “Online Technical Training on Modern Fishery Technologies (Technical Level) for Southeast Asian Countries from July 19 to September 16, 2022 hosted by the South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SCSFRI) of the Chinese Academy of Fisheries Sciences (CAFS) under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), People’s Republic of China.

Conducted in a virtual platform, said training has registered around 60 delegates from participating countries like Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The 60-day training workshops aim to share the development priorities, key technological advances, green models, development experience and lessons of modern fishery industry among China and the participating countries for the common goals of sustainability and resilience of regional fishery

sector, under the contexts of global COVID-19 pandemic; climate changes and food security.

Five technical staffs who are involved in fishery management, technical extension, fishery cooperatives, scientific research, fishing and farming activities represented the DA-BFAR 2 as official delegates to the said distant-training.

Meantime, Ms. Jackielyn R. Carpio of the Regional Fisheries Laboratory Division (RFLD) delivered the Opening Speech as representative of the participants during the first day of the training session on July 19, 2022.

Delegates from Region 02 are Bernard Bañarez (Aquaponics), Donna Angeline Mecate (Mudcrab Aquaculture); and staff from the Provincial Fisheries Offices Velinda Calubaquib (Isabela) and Shanen Fritz Manegdeg (Cagayan).

Participants to the online training are required to attend the daily sessions from Monday-Saturday from 9:30-12 NN; 2:3-5:00 PM Beijing time. (Jackie Carpio)

DA-BFAR 2 Staff participates in Orientation on Anti-Violence against Women and Children

Staff of the DA-BFAR regional office participated in an orientation on Republic Act 9262 or otherwise known as the “Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004” to highlight the Bureau’s support to the Philippine Commission on Women 18-day campaign to end violence against women and children which was started on November 25, 2022.

Atty. Ronaldo R. Libunao, Chief of the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division served as Resource Speaker during the briefing. In his lecture, he discussed the evolution, development, effectiveness, relevant laws and other salient provisions of the law that aims to protect women and children against domestic violence.



Atty. Ronaldo R. Libunao provides a comprehensive discourse on the prohibitions and penalties outlined in RA 9262, widely recognized as the “Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004.”

As an agency that fosters a gender responsive and VAW-free working

environment, the DA-BFAR regularly conducts orientation on GAD and VAWC-related orientations to its staff.

The agency promotes the culture of compassion and instills the value of caring one another. (Aileen Silva)

147 Aspiring Fisheries Scholars in Region 2 Join Nationwide Qualifying Exam

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – The fisheries Bureau here recorded 147 hopefuls who took the challenge to pass the National Qualifying Examination for the Fisheries Scholarship Program (FSP) offered by the Bureau as educational assistance for incoming college students who are willing to pursue fisheries course last November 12, 2022 in six designated testing centers in the Region.

Regional FSP Coordinator, Atty. Ronaldo R. Libunao and Chief of the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division in coordination with Provincial Fishery Officers facilitated the recruitment process.

Out from the 225 signed up to take the examination earlier, 147 aspiring fisheries scholars made it to the

screening process conducted in the following testing centers: Provincial Fishery Office, Basco, Batanes; Cagayan State University, Aparri, Cagayan; DA-BFAR Regional Office 2, Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Salinungan Stand Alone Hall, San Mateo, Isabela; Nueva Vizcaya State University, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya and Maddela Comprehensive Hall, Maddela, Quirino respectively.

Qualified examinees will vie for the 26 slots allocated for region 02.

The FSP has three categories namely; 1) Fisherfolk Children Educational Grant (FSP-FCEG), wherein children of registered fisherfolk are prioritized; 2) Fisheries Industry Leaders Grant (FSP-FILG) for students who are top performers in their class; and 3)

Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), the new addition to the scholarship grant which is offered to students who are members of the indigenous peoples group.

For the 1st semester of the academic year 2023-2024, the FSP-beneficiaries from the three categories (20-FCEG; 3 – IP; 3-FILG) will be receiving scholarship privileges such as monthly stipend, book allowance, thesis/special problem support, OJT/Practicum support, graduation support among others.

As of this writing, BFAR 2 has produced 96 graduates, and recorded 88 on-going students as FSP student-beneficiaries. (Aileen Silva)

19 FSP Scholars ink Scholarship Contract with DA- BFAR 2

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – On July 14, 2022, nineteen incoming college students from the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela who took the Qualifying Examination on the Fisheries Scholarship Program (FSP) last November 6, 2021 secured their Contract of Scholarship with the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office 2 during the Orientation and Contract Signing activity organized by the Bureau.

Established in August 29, 1979, thru the Special Order No. 201 under the Ministry of Natural Resources issued by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos, the FSP aims to provide full educational assistance to qualified high school graduates who are interested to pursue fisheries degree

in FSP-recognized institutions in the country.

The FSP has three categories namely; 1) Fisherfolk Children Educational Grant (FSP-FCEG), wherein children of registered fisherfolk are prioritized; 2) Fisheries Industry Leaders Grant (FSP-FILG) for students who are top performers in their class; and 3) Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), the new addition to the scholarship grant which is offered to students who are members of the indigenous peoples group.

For the 1st semester of the academic year 2022-2023, 26 FSP-beneficiaries from the three categories (20-FCEG; 3 – IP; 3-FILG) will be receiving scholarship privileges as stated in the contract.

Scholarship privileges include monthly stipend, book allowance, thesis/special problem support, OJT/Practicum support, graduation support among others.

As of this writing, BFAR 2 has recorded 96 graduates, 62 on-going students and 26 newcomers as FSP recipients.

Atty. Ronaldo Libunao, Regional FSP Coordinator spearheaded the contract signing and was accompanied by Dr. Emma Ballad as representative of Regional Director Angel Encarnacion. Also present during the activity were BFAR 2 & FSP Staff, Provincial Fishery Officers Mr. Emerson Tattao (Isabela); Ms. Jennifer Tattao (Cagayan); and the FSP student-beneficiaries who were escorted by their parents. (Aileen Silva)

DA-BFAR 2 , LGU-Abulug Holds Ground Breaking Ceremony for Fishery Research Center in Abulug, Cagayan

Today, November 7, 2022, the DA-BFAR 2 and the local government of Abulug, Cagayan led the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 30 Million pesos worth- Fishery Research Center in Barangay Centro, Abulug, Cagayan.

The project was sponsored by Hon. Samantha Louise V. Alfonso, Representative of the Second Congressional District of Cagayan through House Bill No. 2255 which was enacted into law as Republic Act No. 11400 or known as "An Act Establishing a Fisheries Research Center", aims to improve the fisheries industry not only in Abulug but all the municipalities in the district.

Once operational, the facility with an area of 7, 594 square meters will focus in exploring researchable areas on fisheries commodities such as tilapia, mudcrab, eel and other high value



species, and eventually will cater as training center on hatchery operations in the Region.

The ground breaking activity was graced by Regional Director Angel B.

Encarnacion and other DA-BFAR 2 key officials, local government officials headed by Local Chief Executive Jesus Emmanuel P. Vargas, fisherfolk and other guests.

DA-BFAR 2 Supports National Bamboo Month 2022



DA-BFAR 2 Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion and staff joined the inter-agency bamboo planting activity in support to the observance of the Philippine Bamboo Month and World Bamboo Day with the nationwide simultaneous Bamboo Planting held at the DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Lannig, Solana, Cagayan.

Anchored on the theme: "Industriyang Kawayan para sa paglago ng Ekonomiya at Kalikasan", said activity was created thru Proclamation No. 1401 declaring every September as bamboo awareness month signed by then President Rodrigo Duterte.

Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry headed by Regional

Director Leah Pulido Ocampo and Co-chaired by Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the bamboo planting activity aims to raise awareness on the importance of bamboo as a material on the production of various goods especially in construction business.

Key officials from the regional line agencies encouraged the citizenry to promote the programs and activities aligned to the government's advocacy. Likewise, they emphasized the ecological importance of this emerging "green gold" as mitigating measure to combat against the threats of climate change.

The Bureau is regularly conducting tree planting activities using bamboo as planting material along inland water resources as a component of its restoration program Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa and even joins other agencies, local government units and other similar initiatives towards environmental protection and conservation efforts. (Aileen Silva)

DA- BFAR 2 holds Fisheries R & D In-House Review for CY 2022



- Characterization of Fishing Gears and Fish Species Caught at Magat River along Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya – Mr. Ventura Chinaman, NVSU-Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

- Socio-economic Profile of Gamet Gatherers in Cagayan – Ms. Glycinea de Peralta, CSU-Aparri, Cagayan

- Antibacterial, Antifungal and Cytotoxicity Activity of Selected Wild Mushroom – Ms. Glover Jean R. Villanueva, ISU- Echague, Isabela

- Climate Change Vulnerability of Eel Fishery in Aparri, Cagayan – Ms. T. Tattao, DA-BFAR , PFO-Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – Researchers and resource managers from the fisheries Bureau here and partner State Universities across the region convened for the annual Fisheries Research and Development In-House Review to evaluate scientific papers and studies that can contribute towards the development of the fisheries sector on October 4-5, 2022.

Fourteen papers were featured during the review which was assessed by Dr. Casiano H. Choresca, Jr. together with Dr. Maria Theresa M. Mutia and Dr. Frolan A. Aya, among the country's top caliber fisheries experts and scientists from the DA- National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI) and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)-Aquaculture Department.

Meantime, Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion in his opening message, encouraged researchers to submit their works for reviews and accept constructive criticisms to make their studies worthy for publishing in scientific journals such as The Philippine Journal of Fisheries (TPJF) run by the DA-NFRDI.

As highlight of the activity, the study entitled: "Stocks Status and Marketing of Nematopalaemon tenuipes caught in Aparri Cagayan: A case of Gentleman's Agreement Management Strategy"garnered the BEST PAPER

Award; "Effects of Freshwater Fish Sanctuaries ,Fish Diversity, Catch and Household Income of Fisherfolk in Baggao, Cagayan, Philippines " placed second; third place went to "Climate Change Vulnerability of Eel Fishery in Gonzaga, Cagayan"; while the study on " Climate Change Vulnerability of Eel Fishery in Aparri, Cagayan bagged fourth place ; and the paper presented by Mr. Nielvin Cansejo entitled " Evaluation of the Phytochemical Components and Antimicrobial property of Gracilaria edulis Extracts Against Selected Aquaculture Pathogenic Bacteria awarded fifth place.

The following titles were presented during the review:

- Evaluation of the Phytochemical Components and Antimicrobial Property of Gracilaria edulis Extracts Against Selected Aquaculture Pathogenic Bacteria - Mr. Nielvin R. Cansejo, DA-BFAR 2/CSU-Aparri, Cagayan

- Culture Practices and Value Chain Analysis of Mudcrab in Sta. Teresita, Cagayan – Ms. Sophia Lei Manzano, CSU-Aparri, Cagayan

- Spawning of Japanese Weather Loach(Misgurnus anguillicaudatus) Using Various Inducing Agents – Mr. Ventura Chinaman, NVSU-Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

Jennifer Cagayan

- Assessment of Microbiological Content of Oyster Collected from Depuration Facility of Buguey, Cagayan – Ms. Jerica Sebu, RFLD, DA-BFAR 2

- Climate Change Vulnerability of Eel Fishery in Gonzaga, Cagayan – Ms. Aileen P. Prudencio, DA-BFAR 2

- Effects of Freshwater Fish Sanctuaries ,Fish Diversity, Catch and Household Income of Fisherfolk in Baggao, Cagayan, Philippines – Mr. Gerico Gibe, FMRED, DA-BFAR 2

- Stocks Status and Marketing of Nematopalaemon tenuipes caught in Aparri Cagayan: A case of Gentleman's Agreement Management Strategy – Ms. Fatima B. Laeno, RFTFCD, DA-BFAR 2

- Climate Change Vulnerability of Eel Fishery in Sta. Ana, Cagayan – Ms. Nathaly Pinera, ABTOS-DA-BFAR 2

- Climate Change Vulnerability of Eel Fishery in Pamplona, Cagayan – Ms. Sharon I. Celino – RFTFCD, DA-BFAR 2

- A Comparison: Farming Practices and Interventions of Technology Demonstration cum Livelihood Projects on Tilapia in Pond, Semi-Intensive Culture in the Province of Isabela – Mr. Wilmer Battad, PFO-Isabela, DA-BFAR 2

CAPACITATING FELLOW GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS

As part of its technical assistance to various national government agencies, selected personnel from Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Regional Office No. 2 were invited to serve as resource speakers by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Office No. 2 on October 27 held in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

PIA Regional Director Angely Lubo-Mercado has discussed the topic "Development Communications" to BFAR employees under the Fishery Information Section and designated employee-contributors.

During her lecture, Mercado lauded the FIS team for producing good stories posted on the agency's official Facebook page.

She said that as government communicators, there is a need to strengthen the information dissemination efforts to reach more people and consequently increasing the following on Facebook platform.

"Bad news sells. As government communicators, our goal is to overcome the bias. We need to dominate the information environment by providing good stories of our programs and services to include success stories of our beneficiaries," Mercado said.

For his part, Mark Djeron Tumabao, social media manager and news editor



PIA Regional Director Angely Lubo-Mercado shares her insights and expertise on development communication while PIA 2's Social Media Manager and News Editor Mr. Mark Djeron Tumabao, shares effective social media management and strategies to boost to reach of social media accounts.

of PIA, has facilitated the workshop proper where participants engaged in creating infomercial, social media content, and devcomm article.

Prior the workshop, Tumabao shared a brief lecture on social media management particularly on the technical know-how in managing their Facebook pages, and how to create good contents that can easily entice readers' attention.

Tumabao discussed on how to best interpret and understand the graphs, figures and other relevant information under the Meta Business Suites which according to him, is very useful to

increase the reach of their Facebook page.

"Kapag gumagawa tayo ng social media contents, gawin natin itong engaging. Halimbawa, huwag lang natin basta sabihin na masarap ang isang mansanas sa kanila. Ang gusto nilang malaman ay kung bakit mo nasabing masarap ito, anong makukuha nila mula rito kung kakainin nila ito, etc," shared Tumabao.

On the other hand, Mercado encouraged the participants to avail the various services of PIA. (PIA R2)

PHOTO NEWS



DETERRING IUU Fishing. The Bureau's Fisheries Protection and Law Enforcement Group (FPLEG) conducts visibility deterrence seaborne patrol operation along Philippine waters of Sta. ana, Cagayan. The team reported that there are no Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing activities during the operation.

The group also assisted Coastal Resource Management Divers and personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the conduct of coral assessment and fish visual in Palaui Island, Sta. ana, Cagayan.

DA-BFAR 2 trains fisheries extension workers on infographics for data presentation

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan – In an effort to capacitate extension workers on infographics as means to communicate significant fisheries data to its clientele, the Bureau through the initiatives of the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division and FAD-Human Resource Development Unit conducted a two-day “Training Course on Basic Adobe Photoshop and Infographics Layouting” on October 18-19, 2022 held at the MIS Hall, DA-BFAR Regional Office.



Mr. Angelito Catolos, a multi-media specialist from the Cagayan Provincial Information Office, generously shares his knowledge of using Adobe Photoshop to create visually appealing infographics to the DA-BFAR Region O2 fisheries extension workers, enhancing their skills in visually communicating critical information.

Regional Director of DA-BFAR 2 Angel Encarnacion, in his message urged participants to take advantage of the Bureau’s capacity-building program in upgrading its human capital to become more effective in the delivery of fisheries services to the fisherfolk.

Further, he emphasized that fisheries data presented through infographics instead of text heavy contents will aid the management to expedite the decision and policy-making processes to address urgent and pressing issues in the fisheries sector.

Meanwhile, Atty. Ronaldo Libunao, Chief of the Fisheries Production and

Support Services Division encouraged extension workers to put their acquired new knowledge into good use in data presentation and convey vital fisheries information in a more visually appealing and contents that are easily understood by the fisherfolk.

Mr. Angelito Catolos, multi-media specialist from the Cagayan Provincial Information Office served as resource person during the two-day hands-on workshop which was participated by

representatives from divisions and sections of the agency.

To date, infographics are now widely used in communication as a powerful tool to allow people easily digest information through the use of visual data, charts and statistics. With the proper use of color, proportion, negative space, information can be transformed into memorable, attention-grabbing and even persuasive graphics. (Aileen Silva)

PHOTO NEWS



WELLNESS IN THE WORKPLACE. The DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office 2 personnel joined the country-wide simultaneous Online Zumba organized by the Civil Service Commission in support to the month-long celebration of the 122nd Philippine Civil Service Founding Anniversary.

The month of September was declared as the Civil Service Month pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1050, series of 1997.

Meantime, Commissioner Aileen Lourdes A. Lizada in her opening message urged all public servants in all fields to serve with patriotism, integrity and lead with excellence and selflessly to create positive change without expecting something in return.

Further, she emphasized the importance of fostering a healthy work environment and camaraderie among public servants.

The commission also recognized recipients of the Parangal sa Lingkod Bayani (PLB) including the late Kelly R. Villarao, Fishing Regulation Officer of DA-BFAR 2 for his selfless dedication as a public servant and for saving people during the massive flooding in Cagayan.

DA-BFAR 2 holds bloodletting “save a life” activity



Valley Medical Center (CVMC)-Blood bank facilitated the said bloodletting activity.

The Bureau regularly conducts bloodletting activities to maintain Blood Bank account in the health institution.

Miguel Carlo B. Follante, 22, Political Science student of the University of Saint Louis Tuguegarao and a student-intern assigned at the Adjudication Section, and also a first-time donor said that, “I am participating in this bloodletting activity to be able to help someone prolong his/her life. I believe that by doing this, I will be able to give “second life” to someone who will receive every drop of my precious blood”. (Aileen Silva)

Dedicated DA-BFAR Region O2 employees and interns enthusiastically participated in the bureau's bloodletting activity, demonstrating their dedication to the noble cause of donating blood.

Today October 3, 2022, the DA-BFAR 2 staff and volunteers participated in the bloodletting activity organized by the Bureau as a way to uphold its life-saving act and humanitarian obligation.

There were 22 staff and volunteers who registered for the said blood donation activity. Mr. Joel Yamogan, together with Mr. Jerico S. Edeza, Ms. Emilia Ancheta and Mr. Jervis Carlos, public health personnels from the Cagayan

DA-BFAR 2 Wraps Up CY 2022 in a Year-end Performance Review

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - The DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office 2 wrapped up calendar year 2022 through a Performance Review to evaluate the implementation of programs and projects completed for the year.

Cheyserr Perucho - Garcia, Planning Officer said that the Bureau has accomplished all its target which is attributed to the all-out support of implementing units in coordination with fisheries stakeholders.

Further, Regional Director Angel B. Encarnacion in his message said that the Bureau attained its targets by applying the three Cs specifically referring to collaboration, cooperation and complementation. The Bureau engaged in collaborative works with the local government units, state universities, private sectors and other partners in its project implementations.

Meantime, RD Encarnacion expressed his thanks to the Provincial Fishery Officers, project leaders and implementing units for their cooperation in the delivery of fisheries services to the fisherfolk.



Dr. Ritchie R. Rivera, Provincial Fisheries Officer of Batanes, presents the Accomplishment Report for the year 2022, highlighting the success and impact of various fisheries programs and projects in the province of Batanes.

Representatives of each provincial fishery offices presented their accomplishments for the year. During the review, designation of a focal person/unit for the implementation of programs relative to Deputy Fish Wardens, formulation of policies on the deployment of payao projects, reconciliation of fisheries data with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), were among the issues tackled and resolved during the activity.

Strategies on how to improve project implementation in crucial areas were also laid down to optimize use of government resources in the years to come.

The year-end activity was followed by a Thanksgiving Night to celebrate the Bureau's success for the year. To cap the event, RD Encarnacion left everyone with this meaningful message “Choose love, be grateful and create happy memories”. (Aileen Silva)

PHOTO NEWS



ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD. Ivatan fisherfolk now enjoy the fruits of their labor as Provincial Fishery Officer Ritchie A. Rivera together with local officials of the island municipality of Itbayat in Batanes led the Harvest Field Day of the two Technology Demonstration projects on Tilapia cage culture in Kavaywan Lake located in the area.

Tilapia farming using Fish Cage as culture system was introduced in Itbayat in 2016 to boost local fisheries production utilizing its vast freshwater resources such lakes and small farm reservoirs found in the island municipality. The fisheries Bureau through its Provincial Fishery Office awarded two units of Fishcages in Itbayat : a family-based operated which is headed by Mr. Juan Ibanez and the other one is operated and managed by the Rael Fisherfolk Association.

The cage projects yielded 312 kilograms after four months culture period and were sold to nearby communities.

“The remaining stocks will be harvested early January next year, since during these days, the seas are rough which deters our fisherfolk to engage in fishing in the high seas”, said Rivera.

The island province of Batanes is located along the typhoon belt in the Pacific, which makes it vulnerable to adverse weather conditions.

The project recipients were joined by PFO Rivera, Sangguniang Bayan Members Jonel Villa, Gershom Gato Sr., Edgar Garcia, Zenas Labrador, Cleo Gonzales, Dyan Garcia Gutierrez, and other fisherfolk during the harvest field day.

PHOTO NEWS

CLEAN AND GREEN ADVOCACY. The DA-BFAR RO2 in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Sta. Ana, Cagayan, Philippine Coastguard, PNP-Maritime, Navy, MFARMC, and fisherfolk associations led the Coastal Clean-up and Mangrove Planting in Sitio Pasiguit, Brgy. San Vicente, Sta. Cagayan as part of the activities during the celebration of the 59th Fish Conservation Week. Ten sacks of assorted rubbish composed of plastic litter; used fishing nets among others were collected during the said activity.

Meantime, five hundred pieces mangrove propagules were planted along the area. Mangroves are intermediate vegetation between land and sea that grow in oxygen deficient waterlogged soils which have hydrogen sulfide. They perform important ecological functions like nutrient cycling, hydrological regime, coastal protection, fish-fauna production, etc. Mangroves serve as buffer against strong surge and flood mitigating measure during typhoons and other catastrophic events. (With reports and photos from Cristy Ann Quinones, FMRED)



PHOTO NEWS

Isinagawa noong ika-15 ng Nobyembre 2022 ang Ceremonial Harvesting Activity ng kauna-unahang Red Tilapia in Ponds Project sa probinsya ng Quirino ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 02 katuwang ang Provincial Fishery Office.

Nakapagtala na ng mahigit kumulung na 60 kilos ng red tilapia si Mr. Romulo Guillermo ng San Antonio, Aglipay sa kanyang palaisdaan sa loob ng mahigit apat na buwang pag-aalaga.

Ang nasabing proyekto ay may layuning magbigay ng mas malawak pang impormasyon ukol sa kainaman ng pag-aalaga ng red tilapia.

Ang Red Tilapia (*Oreochromis spp.*) ay resulta ng pagpaparis ng dalawang uri ng tilapia, *O. niloticus* (Nile Tilapia) at *O. mossambicus* (Taiwanese Red Tilapia). Ang ganitong uri ng tilapia ay katulad sa pangkaraniwang tilapia na maaaring alagaan sa fishpond kabilang na rin ang fish cage.

Nagpaabot naman ng pasasalamat si Regional Director Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion sa patuloy na pagtanggap sa mga proyekto ng BFAR at pagsisilbing instrumento upang mas lalong maipaabot sa masa ang tungkulin at mga serbisyo nito.



PHOTO NEWS



OPLAN SAGIP LUDONG. DA-BFAR 2 law enforcement staff in collaboration with the local government units of Lal-lo, Camalaniugan and Aparri, Cagayan conducted awareness campaign on the full implementation of the Bureau's Administrative Circular No. 247 which establishes the Closed Season for Ludong. The BAC 247 prohibits the fishing of the indigenous fish from October 1 to November 15 of the year to allow gravid Ludong fish to repopulate.

The group also conducted information and awareness activities on prohibited and endangered species of Sharks and Rays cited in the list of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.

PHOTO NEWS

SEAFOOD KADIWA ON WHEELS. Fisherfolk Associations and fishery-based Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of Region 02 joins the Seafood Kadiwa on Wheels activity of BFAR in the different Provincial Fishery Office (PFO) of Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya by bringing their products to these provinces.

This is also a way for MSMEs engaged in fisheries to bring their products at reasonable price to other areas even in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. It's also an opportunity for them to meet and connect with other fisherfolk and organizations which are possible partners in the future.



PHOTO NEWS



MALINIS AT MASAGANANG KARAGATAN EVALUATION. Today, September 6, 2022 the Regional Technical Search Committee of the Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK), or the Search for Outstanding Coastal Community convenes to evaluate contenders competing for the Most Outstanding Coastal Community in Cagayan Valley. The coastal LGU that will top the evaluation process will represent Region 2 at the national level.

The MMK is a flagship conservation program of the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which aims to recognize initiatives of coastal communities on sustainable management practices and promotes community engagement of fisheries stakeholders towards well-managed fisheries and aquatic resources.

As the MMK Technical Search Committee set, the following criteria guide entries. The LGUs must have: 1) have exemplary initiatives and accomplishments in the effort to curb illegal fishing; 2) observe ecosystem approach fisheries resource management measures such as off-fishing season and ban on the collection of endangered species; 3) have established, formulated and adopted Marine Protected Area (MPA) or Fisheries Management Area; 4) 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 successful mangrove protection and rehabilitation program”.

The evaluation team chaired by the DA-BFAR 2, headed by Dr. Angel B. Encarnacion, and joined by representatives from Department of Agriculture (Mr. Sherwin C. Marunquin), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Engr. Ma. Salome Bonnit), Philippine Coastguard (CG, ENS Lamie A. Manlugay); Department of Interior and Local Government (Mr. Rambo Tambauan) and Atty. Arsenio S. Banares, Chief of the Fisheries Resource Management and Law Enforcement and Regulatory Division (FMRED) conducted the regional selection.

Said activity was facilitated by the Regional MMK Secretariat headed by Dr. Emma L. Ballard, MMK Focal Person.

PHOTO NEWS

CAPACITATING LAW ENFORCERS. In an effort to intensify its campaign against Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing Activities, the DA-BFAR 2 through the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordinating Division (RFTFCD), capacitates 15 law enforcement personnel from the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Maritime and local PNP stations, Philippine Coastguard and DA-BFAR 2 on how to determine illegally caught fisheries and aquatic commodities in an 8-days Fish Examiners Hands-on training held at the regional office.

A Fish Examiners License will be issued to participants who will pass the required technical knowledge and skills set by the Bureau’s Technical Working Group after completing the second phase of the training.



PHOTO NEWS

GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES LOOK OVER. On July 18-19, 2022, the DA-BFAR-RO2- Regional Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Section (RFIQS) inspection team conducted System Audit at R.M.L. Seafood Trading in Aparri, Cagayan.

The RIFQS implements the policies on biosecurity, quarantine and health certification for trade and transboundary movement of aquatic animals. It is also responsible for risk analysis on the importation of fish and fishery/aquatic products.

Mr. R-jay Torres, the lead inspector was accompanied by other Fish Inspection Officers namely; Apple Joy Usquisa, Jay-arre Usquisa and Evelyn Talla also conducted assessment of the Municipal fishing boats at Commercial Fish Landing Center in Centro 15, Aparri, Cagayan while Ms. Usquisa lead the inspection of the drying facility in Tallungan, Aparri, Cagayan.

The facility's entire process flow (from catching of raw material to drying and packing) was observed and inspected.

The System Audit Inspection was conducted in response to the request of the manager, Ms. Rosario M. Labbao to secure Good Manufacturing Practices –Sanitation Standard Operating Practices (GMP-SSOP) Certificate (Evelyn Talla, RFIQS)



PHOTO NEWS



TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION. Mr. Brayan Agnir, 39 and project cooperador was delighted as the DA-BFAR 2 and the Local Government Unit of Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan jointly led the Harvest Field Day of Techno- Demo Project on Semi-Intensive Tilapia Culture in Pond Technology cum Livelihood Project established in barangay Centro 1.

The Provincial Fishery Office of Cagayan together with the Fisheries Production and Support Services Division identified the cooperador. A pond area of 875 square meters was used as techno-demo and stocked with 4,375 pieces tilapia. The Bureau provided all the inputs like fingerlings, feeds, fertilizers and technical assistance.

“Pagyamanak unay ta maysaak kadagiti napili ken nairekomendar a kas techno-demo cooperador kadaytuy programa ti BFAR ken LGU a Tilapia Grow-out Techno-Demo. Dakkel a tulong para kanyak daytuy a programa ta manipud fingerlings agingga iti feeds nga pinagpakanku ket naited kanyak a libre. Iti pinagpatanor ti tilapia ket dakkel ti maitulongna iti pamilya lalo nu intay suruten dagiti umno a teknolohiya ti pinagtaraken, kas maysa nga ada fishpond na, dati haan ko iconconsider ti kalawa ti pagpupukak nu di ket basta pupukak lattan iti uray mano ribo a fingerlings ken tila adda iti ipakpakanku ko. Ti Napansin ko, narigat da a dumakkel. Babaen iti daytoy a demo nakitak a nadarasan a dumakkel dagiti tilapia, ta naisuro kanyak iti husto a wagas iti pinagtaraken iti tilapia. Isu dakayu a padak nga adda fishpond na dapat suroten tayu ti umno a teknolohiya nga isursuro iti BFAR ken iti opisina iti Municipal Agriculture. Saan tayo a tagi bassiten ti it-itedda a dispersal ta nakabasar daytoy iti rukod ti fishpond tayo” said Brayan Agnir.

Meantime, around 53 kilograms of tilapia was partially harvested during said activity. The expected harvest is 743 kilograms within four months culture period. If sold at PHP 120.00 per kilo minus the operating expenses, expected return on investment is around 40%. Proceeds of the techno-demo will be used as start-up capital of the cooperador for the next culture cycle. (Felecitas Paraggua, PFO-Cagayan)



DID YOU KNOW?

Coconut Crab



Named after its major diet which is mainly coconut, the Coconut Crab (*Birgus latro*) also called robber crab in the Philippines and locally known as tatus, umang or alimangong lupa, is a terrestrial hermit crab usually found in islands of the Philippines like Lango Island (east of Cebu City), Caluya Islands and Didyo Islands.

In Region 2, it is found in Batanes and Calayan Group of islands located in the Northern Philippines. A bustling tourist destination over the years, Batanes has become a favorite tropical getaway bucket list. Since the island is

Photo Credit: Wendy Cover/NOAA
<https://marinesanctuary.org/blog/sea-wonder-coconut-crab/>

famous for Coconut crab as food souvenirs, this contributes to the over-harvesting of Tatus.

To date, there is no known conservation measure for Coconut crab globally. Based on the report of Animal Diversity Web, Coconut crabs are currently listed as "data deficient" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), while it is marked "no special status" by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals from the threats of international trade.

In the Philippines, the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 208 cited the Coconut crab as threatened species. The FAO prohibits the taking, fishing, selling, buying, and possession of said threatened species. Section 102 of the Fisheries Code of 1998 as Amended by Republic Act 10654 also prohibits the unlawful possession of Coconut crab.

"Tatus has been part of the Ivatan's table, especially during special occasions and being served to Special Guests who frequent the province. However, records show that there's a significant decline of Tatus population in the wild. In order to arrest the continuous decline of Tatus, I am urging everyone to help us conserve the species so that the future generation can still taste this important Ivatan's commodity." – Ritchie A. Rivera, DPA, Provincial Fishery Officer- Batanes.

Photo Credit: Janos/iStock via Getty Images / Janos/iStock via Getty Images | <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/82033/10-ginormous-facts-about-coconut-crabs>



Pocherong Red Tilapia

Ingredients:

- 1 kg Red Tilapia
- 3-4 pcs Saba (Banana)
- 4 cloves Garlic (Minced)
- 1 pc Onion (Thinly sliced)
- 2 pcs Tomatoes
- 2 cups Water
- 2 cups Tomato Sauce
- 3 pcs Potatoes (medium size)
- 15 pcs Green beans
- 1 cup Hunt's Pork and Beans
- 3 heads Pechay
- 1 tbsp Sugar
- 2 tbsp Fish Sauce (Patis)
- 1/2 cup Cooking Oil
- Salt and Pepper

Procedure:

1. Season fish with salt and pepper, Marinate for few minutes. Set aside.
2. Fry bananas and potatoes in oil until golden brown over medium heat in a pan. Drain from oil and set aside.
3. Fry the fish on both sides until golden brown. Remove from pan and drain excess oil.
4. Sauté garlic, onion and tomatoes until onion becomes soft and fragrant. Toss in green beans and sauté for 1 to 2 minutes.
5. Pour in water and tomato sauce. Let it boil over medium to low heat. Season with sugar and fish sauce. Gently mix in and adjust taste with salt and pepper. Continue to simmer for additional 2 to 3 minutes.
6. Add 1 cup of Hunt's pork and beans and pechay. Let it simmer for 2 to 3 minutes. Add your fried fish slices, saba, potato slices and continue to cook for a few more minutes over low heat.
7. Turn off heat and transfer to the serving bowl.
8. Serve.

