

Inaugural Meeting of
the Technical Working
Group (TWG)



BFAR-RFTC8, SSU-MC,
Catbalogan City
26 June 2013

**FAO/GEF REBYC II-CTI PROJECT
STRATEGIES FOR TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT
INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF PILOT SITE PROJECT IN SAMAR SEA**

1. The meeting was held on June 26, 2013 at the Conference Room, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Fisheries Training Center (RFTC) 8; Samar State University- Mercedes Campus (SSU-MC), Catbalogan City at 0930-1630H. The meeting was organized to formally set up the TWG that will provide guidance in project planning, implementation and monitoring in pilot site (Samar Sea).
2. Participants were representatives of various stakeholders including lead national and local government agencies and units, local fisheries councils, the academe, fishing boats operators/fishermen other stakeholders that are relevant to the project. The list of participants is attached in Annex 1.

OPENING PROGRAM

3. The program started with invocation and singing the Philippine National Anthem.
4. Mr. Juan P. Meniano, Jr, Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (PAFC) Coordinator for the province of Samar introduced the participants.
5. Training Center Director Norberto T. Berida of BFAR-Regional Fisheries Training Center (RFTC8) welcomed the participants. He acknowledged that it is fortunate that Samar Sea has been identified as the pilot site for the REBYC II-CTI in the Philippines which can provide opportunities to improve management of the fisheries. He looked forward to the TWG working together for the benefit of sustaining the fisheries and dependent communities in Samar Sea.
6. Dr. Jonathan O. Dickson, Chief, Capture Fisheries Division and National Project Coordinator, thanked the participants for their effort in attending the meeting. He explained the challenges in the implementation of the project as he emphasized that attaining the objectives of the project can only be successful with the support and cooperation of stakeholders.
7. He highlighted the important role of the TWG in implementing the project activities Samar Sea and the extra work that members may have to contribute to the project. He recognized however that in rendering their services, the project may also find a way to support the members, even at least to cover travel cost when attending meetings and other relevant activities.
8. The NPC explained the background of the project. He recalled that REBYC I was global in scope and implemented by 12 tropical countries from various regions that

focused on introducing bycatch reduction devices. In the Philippines, the project worked on reducing/ minimizing catching juveniles of commercially important fish that resulted to the Fisheries Administrative Order 237 "Regulation on the use of Juvenile and Trashfish Excluder Device (JTED) in trawl fisheries in the Philippines." He added that the current REBYC II CTI project involves five (5) countries namely Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines as well as SEAFDEC which host the Regional Facilitating Unit of the project. The project will consider a mixture of policy, technical and other support measures to address issues in trawl fishing and associated bycatch and discards. He also mentioned food security as one of the main objectives of the project.

9. Mr. Rafael V. Ramiscal, the interim National Technical Officer, presented the project components and corresponding expected outputs. He emphasized that the ultimate objective of the project is to have a trawl fisheries and bycatch management plan. He then presented the national activities for 2013 and how these relate to the expected component outputs. He explained that these activities for year 1 (2013) mainly relate to putting up or initiating implementation systems/arrangements and processes like advisory groups, working groups and consultations as well as embarking research and collection of information as baseline for the preparation of management plan.

**TWG-MEMBERSHIP / ARRANGEMENTS / TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)
/SELECTION OF TWG CHAIR**

10. The NTO emphasized that this inaugural meeting was to formally constitute the TWG. He explained that lessons learned from REBYC I prompted the invitations to the proposed TWG members for REBYC II and expressing appreciation for those who were present and for having responded positively to the invitation. The meeting participants welcomed the composition of the TWG and considered that the official invitation from BFAR and the National Project Operations Unit would formally constitute the TWG.
11. After the presentations and discussions, the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the TWG was agreed as follows:
 - Formulate / review and monitor project activities / action plan
 - Review research/studies as basis for the selection of management measures and in the formulation of (trawl and its associated bycatch) fisheries management plan
 - Recommend strategies and activities as maybe necessary to carry out plans
 - Monitor and evaluate progress and impacts of project implementation (project activities, action & fisheries management)
 - Disseminate information to promote partnership / convergence and coordinate activities with relevant agencies
 - Conduct regular (quarterly) TWG meetings.

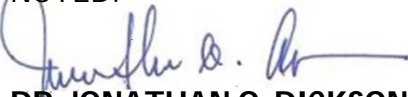
- Conduct stakeholder's consultation as maybe necessary.
12. The meeting elected Training Center Director Norberto T. Berida as the TWG Co-Chair. The National Project Coordinator as Co-Chair was also acknowledged as mandatory. PAFC Chairman Esteban M. Conchas (Ret. Col.) and Prof. Renato C. Diocion were also selected as Vice-Chairs.
 13. In order to facilitate project implementation and better representation, the TWG also recommended additional TWG members that included 1) Rev. Fr. Cesar Aculan, Social Action Center, CARITAS, Samar 2) Representative from the 1st Congressional District of Samar 3) Representative of the Catbalogan City Agriculture Office, and 4) Representative from the League of Municipalities of Samar. Official invitation in this regard will be sent by the NPC, including attendance to the TWG planning workshop on 3-4 July 2013 at the same venue.
 14. Noting that there have been similar initiatives in the past to manage the fisheries of Samar Sea and Maqueda Bay, the meeting requested to include in the agenda of the forthcoming workshop feedback from the Provincial Fishery Officer Engr. Rolando P. Ay-ay regarding the status of Samar Sea and Maqueda Bay Executive Management Council and the South Maqueda Bay Fisheries Network.
 15. The meeting was also briefed on the conduct of training/workshop fishing boat and gears that will start the following day with expected participation of Municipal Agriculture Officers and their respective technicians in charge of fisheries matters.
 16. The TWG also review and indorsed the draft agenda of the Samar-Sea Wide Stakeholders Consultation on July 5, 2013. The TWG members were requested to attend the Consultation.
 17. The meeting deferred the Agenda to Review of Project / TWG Work Agenda/ Timetable of Activities which will be taken up during TWG workshop on July 3-4, 2013.
 18. The meeting was adjourned at 1630H.

Prepared by :


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NOTED:


DR. JONATHAN O. DICKSON
 Chief, Capture Fisheries Division and
 National Project Coordinator, REBYC-II CTI


RAFAEL V. RAMISCAL
 Supervising Aquaculturist and
 Interim National Technical Officer

ANNEX I. ATTENDANCE AND MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

<p>Dr. Norberto T. Berida (CO-CHAIR) Chairman, TWG REBYC II-CTI Project in Samar Sea Email add: bfar_rftc8@yahoo.com CP No.: 0917-7057703</p>	<p>Col. Esteban M. Conchas (Ret.) (VICE-CHAIR) Chairman, PAFC Calbayog City CP No.: 0908-8656125</p>
<p>Dr. Jonathan O. Dickson (CO-CHAIR) National Project Coordinator REBYC II-CTI Project Samar Sea Email Add: Jod_Bfar@Yahoo.Com Contact No.: (02) 929-4296/ 0917-8588404</p>	<p>Prof. Renato P. Diocton (VICE-CHAIR) Co-Chairman, Head R & D Samar State University –MC Email add: rdiocton2002@yahoo.com CP No.: 0918-3800833</p>
<p>Dionisio A. Balili (Member) CFARMC, Chairman Calbayog City Email add: CP No.: 0905-3432706</p>	<p>Imelda S. Alvares / Maridel M. Bulawit (Member) Small Scale Trawl Operator and fish trader BrgyBurabod, Sta. Margarita, Samar</p>
<p>Rodolfo C. Ybañez (Member) President, Commercial Trawl Operator Catbalogan City</p>	<p>Engr. Rolando P. Ay-ay (Member) Provincial Fishery Officer BFAR, Catbalogan City Contact No.:</p>
<p>Engr. Guillermo Calderon (Member) Office of 2nd District Representative, Samar Email add: CP No.:</p>	<p>Juan P. Meniano, Jr. (Member) PAFC Coordinator, Provincial Office Email add: john_opasamar@yahoo.com CP No.: 0920-9682241</p>
<p>Angelina T. Realino (Member) Office of the City Agriculturist Calbayog City Email add: angelicarealino@yahoo.com CP No.: 0915-6159436</p>	<p>Marcos A. Sabido (Member) Office of City Agriculturist Calbayog City Email add: markfisheries@yahoo.com.ph CP No.: 0935-1854666</p>
<p>Rafael V. Ramiscal (Member) National Technical Officer REBYC II-CTI Project in Samar Sea Email add: rv_ram55@yahoo.com CP No.: 0917-5898799/ 0999-8847635</p>	<p>Napoleon Salvador J. Lamarca (Project Technical Staff) Email add: nsjlamarca@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Efren V. Hilario (Project Technical Staff) Email add: hilario_72@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Myrna B. Ramos (Project Technical Staff) Project Technical Staff Email Add: cfd53@yahoo.com.ph</p>

ANNEX II. MEETING PROGRAM AND AGENDA

FAO-GEF Project REBYC-II CTI
 Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management (GCP/RAS/269/GFF)
Technical Working Group (TWG) Inaugural Meeting
 RFTC8 Conference Room, Catbalogan City
 26 June 2013

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM / AGENDA

0830-0930H	Registration	Secretariat
0930-1000H	Opening Program	
	Invocation / National Anthem	Secretariat
	Introduction of Participants	Juan Meniano, Jr.
	Welcome Remarks	Norberto T. Berida Training Center Director, RFTC8
	Message	Engr. Rolando Ay-Ay, PFO-Samar
	Photo ops	
1000-1030	Snacks	
1030-1100H	REBYC II-CTI Project Overview	Jonathan O. Dickson, DFT Project National Coordinator Chief, Capture Fisheries Div., BFAR
1100-1130H	Project National Activities	Raffy V. Ramiscal BFAR/NMFDC
1130-1200H	TWG-Membership / Arrangements Terms of Reference (TOR) Selection of TWG Chair	JODickson/RVRamiscal
1200-1330H	Lunch break	
1330-1400H	Review of draft agenda, Samar-Sea Wide Stakeholders Consultation	Napoleon S.J. Lamarca
1400-1430H	Review of Project / TWG Work Agenda/ Timetable of Activities	Raffy V. Ramiscal
1430-1500H	Other matters	
1500-1530H	Snacks	
1530-1600H	Discussions / Open Forum	

ANNEX III. PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

