



**Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

REPORT

ICHTHYOPLANKTON SURVEY – CORON SITE

**PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES
17-20 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Upon the arrival on the first day, a courtesy call to the Municipal Mayor of Coron, Hon. Marjo T. Reyes was conducted together with the Municipal Agriculturist, Mr. Geronimo Gevela. Moreover, we discussed the purpose of the visit to the Municipal Mayor and discussed the establishment of the executive order organizing the Refugia Site Management Committee in Coron and the upcoming EAFM Training in the site on October 2019. After the courtesy call to the Municipal Mayor, we conducted a courtesy visit to the BFAR-PFO in Northern Palawan and met with Mr. Rey Templonuevo where we discussed the upcoming Law Enforcement Training in the area which he will be taking part to give a lecture on Fishing Boat Licensing, etc.
- 2) After the meeting at the Municipal Hall, we also meet the technical enumerators assigned in the area.
- 3) After the courtesy call in the morning, we conducted an Ichthyoplankton Survey at Coron Bay during the afternoon. We collected water samples for Phytoplankton Count and Fish Egg and Larvae from two out of seven stations.
- 4) On the second day, we continued the Ichthyoplankton Survey in the Coron Bay and collected samples for four stations therefore having six out of seven stations finished. Also, we updated the coordinates of the stations included in the proposed Refugia Site in the area.
- 5) During the third day, as a part of our activity and celebration of the 56th Fish Conservation Week, we conducted a short IEC-Lecture at the Bolinao School of Fisheries to give IEC materials such as leaflets and RA 10654 booklets for the school. During the visit, we conducted a courtesy call to the school administrator, Dr. Benjamin Ablaza together with the two representative members of Coron Refugia Site Management Committee, Mr. Genesis Escobin and Mr. Paul Ardel Abrea. The short IEC-Lecture was participated by 60 Grade-9 students. Mr. Noel Barut gave an Overview of the Fisheries Refugia Project while Mr. Valeriano M. Borja gave a lecture on the Overview of the Harmful Algal Blooms in the Philippines. After the lectures, a short quiz game was conducted wherein students participated enthusiastically. The IEC-Lecture activity lasted for the whole morning on that day.
- 6) After conducting the IEC-Lecture, the Ichthyoplankton Survey was continued for the last station as well as the two sampling sites added by the Coron Refugia Site Management Committee wherein fishers have confirmed seeing a high number of Lutjanidae species. Lastly, a sampling on the fish landing stationed within Coron market was also conducted together with the technical enumerators.

