



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

**REPORT**

**BFAR/USAID FISH RIGHT STRATEGIC PLANNING PROGRAM WORKSHOP**

**PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES**

**9 JANUARY 2020**

Prepared by  
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Venue: Puerto Princesa

The Strategic Planning Workshop was organized by the PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. the lead partner implementer of the BFAR/USAID Fish Right Program in Calamianes Island Group, one of the project sites in the Philippines. The activity was held at the Palawan State University (PSU) Hostel, Tinguiban, Puerto Princesa City last January 9, 2020.

The workshop aimed to find opportunities to collaborate with various national agencies and other key Institutions to attain synergy of results. The invited representatives from the above-mentioned Government Agencies shared their plans and programs for the year 2020. Mr. Barut presented the priority activities of the Fisheries Refugia project for the year 2020. After each presentation, comments and clarifications followed. The FISH RIGHT Program also shared their 2020 plans and programs after the invited participants have finished their presentations. There was a lengthy discussion because not all plans and issues presented were accepted by the participants. Especially on the issues on financial matters. The FISH RIGHT Program was open for collaboration but identified partners should finance their participations to the FISH RIGHT Program activities. The representatives from the Academe explained that before they could participate in any activities of other projects, there should be a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the President of the University between the University and the project partner. The supposed breakout workshop did not happen because of the long discussions that resulted to lack of time for the breakout workshop as some members of the organizing team has to take the last flight back to Manila at around 6:00 in the evening. The Workshop participants agreed that the minutes of the discussions will be provided to the participants for comments before it will be finalized. (more information is available at the URL: [https://www.crc.uri.edu/stories\\_page/usaaid-philippines-fish-right-announcement/](https://www.crc.uri.edu/stories_page/usaaid-philippines-fish-right-announcement/))

The Workshop closed at around 5PM.