



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

REPORT

**INFORMATION-DRIVE FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES
IN FISHERIES REFUGIA SITES**

CORON, PANGAZINAN, ZAMBALES, PHILIPPINES

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INTRODUCTION

- 1) The information-drive was convened to specifically inform and educate the coastal communities on the establishment of the fisheries *refugia* in each municipalities. The objectives of the information-drive were to provide knowledge about the concepts of Fisheries *Refugia* site; to guide participants in understanding the importance of Fisheries *Refugia*; and to present data results of the Fish Eggs and Larvae Survey, and Fish Data Collection in Fish landing sites in each *refugia* sites. The three information-drive at the *Refugia* sites were all well attended. The participants were the fisherfolk from the coastal barangays identified by the LGU who are included in the proposed boundary of the fisheries *refugia* sites.

DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Number of participants by Gender

<i>Refugia</i> Site	Men	Women	Total
Bolinao, Pangasinan	119	19	138
Coron, Palawan	76	22	98
Masinloc, Zambales	132	36	168

- 2) The number of participants by gender is shown in table 1. A total of 138 fisherfolk participated the Information Drive of the Fisheries *Refugia* Project and was assisted by 2 members of the LGU headed by the MFARMC of Bolinao, Mr. Jesem Gabatin; 168 fisherfolk from Masinloc assisted by 5 members of the LGU headed by the Municipal Agriculturist of Masinloc, Mr. Elmar Pulido; and 105 fisherfolk assisted by 2 BFAR MIMAROPA Law Enforcers in Coron, Palawan. The lead facilitator for the information-drive activity was Mr. Noel C. Barut supported by Mr. Valeriano Borja - National Scientific and Technical Focal Point, Raziel Ares - Technical Project Assistant and Lilibeth Abina – Project Administrative Staff. The information-drive in the three sites were conducted last February 18-20, February 25-27, and March 3-5, 2020 for Bolinao, Masinloc and Coron, respectively. The program of activities was the same in the three *refugia* sites.
- 3) During the activity, National Technical Adviser for the Fisheries *Refugia* Project in the Philippines, Mr. Noel Barut, gave an introductory discussion about the Fisheries *Refugia* Concept followed by the presentation of the Results of Fish Data Collection in the Landing Sites by Mr. Valeriano Borja. After which, an open forum was conducted to address the questions and concerns of the fisherfolk regarding fisheries *refugia* and its implementation.
- 4) In general, the information-drive was successful. The participants were supportive and very cooperative in suggesting activities that will give them more knowledge in conserving and protecting the *refugia* site. One of the participants even voiced out that there concerns about the existing MPAs in the municipality. Most of the participants appreciated the discussion on the commonly important species in their area. Moreover, the additional knowledge they gained in learning the results of the fish eggs and larvae sampling which allowed them to comprehend the importance of protecting the spawning and nursery *refugia* of their priority species. Lastly, good thing the project acknowledged is the honesty of the fisherfolk and other participants coming from the different sectors of the community to learn and understand more about fisheries *refugia*. As part of the important activities that the project can provide the fisherfolk is to at least allocate some time for information dissemination in all activities of the project in the project sites in order to empower and share the significance of fisheries management in the economic opportunity and habitat protection of the municipality.

APPENDIX 1



Actual Photos during the Information-Drive Activity in Bolinao, Pangasinan

APPENDIX 2



Actual Photos during the Information-Drive Activity in Masinloc, Zambales

APPENDIX 3



Actual Photos during the Information-Drive Activity in Coron