



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

**REPORT**

**FISHERIES REFUGIA SITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING:  
CORON SITE**

**PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES**

**1 DECEMBER 2021**

Prepared by  
**NATIONAL FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE  
PHILIPPINES**

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**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**



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Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center  
Training Department  
P.O.Box 97, Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan, Thailand  
Tel: (66) 2 425 6100  
Fax: (66) 2 425 6110  
<https://fisheries-refugia.org> and  
<https://seafdec.or.th>

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1. The Meeting started with the usual preliminaries. After the acknowledgement and introduction of participants, the overview of the meeting was discussed briefly by Mr. Noel C. Barut, National Technical Adviser of the Fisheries Refugia Project in the Philippines.
2. The meeting aimed at updating the stakeholders of the project progress and forthcoming activities as well as the review and presentation of the national guidelines for the establishment of fisheries refugia and refugia management plan for the site.
3. During the preliminaries, Mr. Valeriano Borja gave the opening remarks. He likewise acknowledged and thanked the management committee members who were present despite the difficulties of conducting face-to-face meetings due to the COVID19 pandemic. This is the very first meeting conducted in the site after the onset of COVID 19 pandemic in March 2020. Mr. Barut presided the said meeting. The agenda of the meeting is attached as **Annex A**.

#### **Updating of the Fisheries Profile**

4. Mr. Barut, inquired if the LGU have updated data on the list of fishing boats, registered fisherfolks, and census of population. The municipality has no updated data on the concerns inquiry.

#### **Boundary Delineation of the Fisheries Refugia**

5. Mr. Borja presented the results of the fish eggs and larvae surveys in Coron. The meeting confirmed the boundaries of the fisheries refugia in Coron based on the presentation of Mr. Borja where the location of the spawning area of the fish in Coron Bay. Mr. Gevela and Mr. Daniel Javier, Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC), also informed the meeting of the existing MPAs in the fisheries refugia covering the coastal waters of barangays Lajala, Tagumpay, Banuang Daan, Bintuan and Guadalupe. The site committee agreed for the inclusions of the barangays mentioned in the proposed map of the fisheries refugia.

#### **Presentation of National Guidelines for the Establishment of Fisheries Refugia**

6. The National Technical Adviser, presented the updated draft of the National Guidelines on the establishment and Operations of fisheries refugia with inputs from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and BFAR, members of the National Fisheries Refugia Committee and also from members of the National Scientific and Technical Committee (NSTC).

#### **Refugia Management Plan**

7. The draft management plan for Coron fisheries refugia was presented to the committee by Mr. Barut. Mr. Gevela suggested to incorporate the proposed fisheries refugia management plan as a section in the existing CRM of the MPAs in the municipality. The site committee members also requested a copy of the said plan for their review.

#### **Establishment of Volunteer Teams**

8. The Meeting identified the focal government agencies in Coron as well as the offices under the Municipality of the Coron for the selection of the members of the volunteer teams for law enforcement, Information, Education, Communication Campaign team and livelihood team. They will also identify the training needs of the volunteer teams. The meeting agreed the following as the focal government agencies LGU offices:
  - Bantay Dagat (MFARMC), PNP Maritime and PCG for the Enforcement Team.
  - Coron School of Fisheries (Academe) for the Public Education Team; and
  - PFPI and MAO for Livelihood Team in terms of proposal making.

## Other Matters and Way Forward

### 9. Revision of Committee Membership

- 9.1. The revision of the membership was suggested by Mr. Gevela concerning the availability of the offices that was previously given membership. The site committee agreed to the membership revision and cited that they will forward the matter to the office of the mayor immediately. The new proposed members of the site committee are attached as **ANNEX C**.

## Closing Remarks

10. During the closing ceremonies, the SB on Environment and Fisheries Hon. Philip Andrew Astor acknowledged the participants of the meeting. He expressed optimism to be able to see more progress on the next meeting especially on the revision of the proposed members of the fisheries refugia management committee. On behalf of the Mayor, SB Astor also acknowledged the project team for the continued support in Coron through this project and thanked the institute for providing IEC materials that would greatly benefit the fisherfolk in the municipality especially in the establishment of Bantay Coron (Coron Bantay Dagat).
11. The National Scientific and Technical Focal Person likewise expressed his appreciation to the active participation of the fisheries *refugia* committee members and looks forward to a more fruitful collaboration with the Coron Local officials and the Community. He then declared the adjournment of the meeting.

## ANNEX 1

## FISHERIES REFUGIA SITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – Coron Site

Sunlight Resort Hotel

1 December 2021

## Program of Activities

Time	Agenda
12:00 NN	<b>Lunch and Registration</b>
1:00 PM	<b>Preliminaries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Welcome Remarks</b> <b>Geronimo Gevela</b> LGU Focal Person, <i>Refugia</i> Project</li> <li><b>Noel C. Barut</b> National Coordinator, <i>Refugia</i> Project, NFRDI</li> </ul>
1:30 PM	<b>Adoption of the Provisional Agenda</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revision of Coron Refugia Site Management Committee Members</li> <li>2. Validation of Fisheries Refugia Profile</li> <li>3. Presentation of National Guidelines for the Establishment of Fisheries Refugia</li> <li>4. Refugia Management Plan</li> <li>5. Establishment of Volunteer Teams</li> </ol>
2:00 PM	Validation of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Profile
2:40 PM	<b>Presentation of National Guidelines for the Establishment of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i></b>
3:00 PM	<b><i>Refugia</i> Management Plan</b>
3:20 PM	<b>Establishment of Volunteer Teams</b>
3:40 PM	<b>Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Office</b>
	<b>Other Matters and Way Forward</b>

4:45	<b>Closing Remarks – Adjournment</b> <b>Site Com Member</b> LGU Coron <b>Noel Barut</b> National Technical Adviser, <i>Refugia</i> Project
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**FISHERIES REFUGIA SITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – Coron Site****Sunlight Resort Hotel****1 December 2021****MEETING MINUTES****MEMBERS****Present:**

<b>Local Government Unit (LGU)</b>	
Mayor	Hon. Mario T. Reyes (Represented by: Mr. Geronimo Gevela)
SB Chair - Agriculture and Fisheries	Hon. Philip Andrew A. Astor (Member)
Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO)	Mr. Geronimo Gevela (Member)
MPDC – LGU	Engr. Michael Fababier (Member)
BFAR – Provincial Fisheries Office	Mr. Rey Templonuevo (represented by Ms. Josephine D. Arceo)
Philippine National Police Maritime	PSSg Santiago C. Miraveles (represented by Pat Mikko Jay Gammad)
Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic	Mr. Daniel Javier (Member)
Resources Management Council (MFARMC)	
Palawan Council for Sustainable	Ms. Ma. Christina D. Rodriguez (Member)
Development Staff (District Manager)	
Academe Representative	Dr. Benjamin E. Ablaza (represented by Mr. Genesis Escobin)
FISHRight	Ms. Vivien B. Facunla (represented by Mr. Mr. Jomel Baobao)

**Absent:**

Vice Mayor
ABC President
MLGOO, DILG

Community Environment and Natural- Resources Office (CENRO-DENR)
Philippine Coast Guard

**Guests:**

Academe	Mr. Erlo D. Urate
FishRight	Mr. Mark Anthony H. Jabines
FishRight	Ms. Jem Escalon
National Scientific and Technical Focal Person	Mr. Valeriano M. Borja
National Technical Coordinator/Consultant	Mr. Noel C. Barut

**Secretariat:**

Science Research Specialist I	Ms. Raziel V. Ares
Science Research Analyst	Ms. Lilibeth C. Abina

**Photo Documentation Team:**

Training Specialist III	Ms. Norvida Gatdula
Media Production Assistant I	Ms. Marianne Sarmiento



**FISHERIES REFUGIA SITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – Coron Site**

**Sunlight Resort Hotel**

**1 December 2021**

**Photo Documentation**

