

**FAO/GEF REBYC II-CTI PROJECT
STRATEGIES FOR TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT
SAMAR SEA-WIDE ORIENTATION / CONSULTATION**

1. The Orientation/Consultation started at 1000H on June 5, 2013 at the Conference Room, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Regional Fisheries Training Center (RFTC) VIII, Samar State University (SSU) – Mercedes Campus , Catbalogan City.
2. In attendance were 72 participants representing different groups of stakeholders from areas along Samar Sea. The occasion was intended to inform and consult the general stakeholders regarding the project. It also served as the launching of REBYC-II CTI pilot project in Samar Sea.

OPENING PROGRAM

3. To formally start the program, invocation and singing the National Anthem was lead by Mr. Ronnie O. Romero and Ms. Ma. Urfelie Maliper, respectively.
4. Mr. Juan P. Meniano, Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (PAFC) Coordinator and TWG member introduced the participants representing the various groups of stakeholders. The list of participants is shown in APPENDIX I.
5. Mr. Norberto T. Berida, Co-Chair of Project Technical Working Group (TWG) and Regional Training Center Director of BFAR-RFTC8, welcomed the participants and wished for the success of the activity. He acknowledged a good representation of the various sectors and stakeholders from Samar Sea as he encouraged them to actively participate in the discussions.
6. Regional Director Juan D. Albaladejo, BFAR-RFO 8, in his message cited increase capture fisheries production in 2013, particularly for sardines and tunas, which the national government has focused management of these fisheries. He also alluded to projects in Region 8 both with local and foreign partners, bottoms-up planning budget from national government, International Foundation for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Project and ECOFISH (US Aid funding) and other activities of government like the FishR to administer fisherfolk registration thru internet or web registration. He recognized that the REBYC II-CTI Project is fundamentally based on ecosystem approach for fisheries management and seeks

to improve the fisheries Samar Sea. He solicited support and cooperation as the above projects ultimately benefit fishermen and their local communities.

7. The newly Elected Board Member of Samar, Hon. Allan T. Diyomangay, who is also the Vice Chairman of Agriculture Committee of the province of Samar, highlighted the need to manage fishery resources to ensure local and national fish supply. He specifically cited coastal areas like Sta. Margarita and Tarangnan that are potentially tourist destinations and areas for investment when habitats and coastal areas are well managed and protected. He enjoined the stakeholders to take their shared responsibility in ensuring these resources can be safeguarded for the future.

OVERVIEW OF REBYC II CTI PROJECT

8. Dr. Jonathan O. Dickson, the National Project Coordinator, presented the background and overview of the project. He emphasized to the stakeholders to consider the project as their own and work for their interest and that their participation and cooperation are important to attain its objectives. He explained the related issues, objectives, strategies and coverage of the project. He emphasized that the current project is a follow to the REBYC I project which seek to reduce impact of trawl fisheries on biodiversity/ ecosystem, bycatch and quality of fish catch and sustainability of fishery resources.
9. The interim NTO, Mr. Rafael V. Ramiscal, further highlighted the forerunner REBYC I project that focused on technology particularly on the JTED and different techniques to reduce the bycatch or the juveniles of commercially important species that resulted to identifying of JTED design that can reduce rejects and trashfish by 38%-42%.
10. He also presented the components of the projects and expected outputs and indicators, highlighting that the ultimate goal and objective after 4 years or end of the project is to have bycatch policy on trawl fisheries management plan. Recalling previous informal discussions during the TWG meetings/workshop, he related that the project could also intend to initiate formulation of an overall Samar Sea Fisheries Management Program.
11. Prof. Renato C. Diocton, Head of Marine Research, Samar State University, provided insights on trawl catch/bycatch assessment and fish larvae survey that have been proposed under the project. He explained that these studies are important input in the formulation of trawl fisheries and associated bycatch

management plan, further noting that these are also essential for the formulation of fisheries ordinances by coastal municipalities along Samar Sea. He also presented the proposed methodology, work activities and the suggested sampling sites for the whole project and also the output to be generated such as species diversity index, GSI, cataloguing and inventory of gears and provide scientific data on the biology of species.

12. He also discussed the general objectives of these activities to develop institutional capability of regional fisheries manpower in resource assessment, management and development; and to generate reliable data for the formulation of local policies, management and conservation of marine resources.
13. The interim NTO also presented the summary of training/ workshop on the inventory of trawls and other fishing boats and gears participated in by Municipal Agriculture Officers (MAOs) and respective Fisheries/Agriculture Technicians (ATs) coming from 10 coastal municipalities. Only the Municipality of Almagro of the 11 cities/municipalities bordering Samar Sea was not able to send its representative. Researchers of SSU-College of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Mercedes Campus also participated to complement the LGUs in the conduct of the inventory. The training inventory included a test run of the actual inventory in Barangay Guinsurungan, Catbalogan City where municipal modified Danish Seine was the dominant type of fishing method.
14. Mr. Efren V. Hilario, the project staff in-charge of fishing ground and habitat mapping presented information on areas to be prioritized based on initial recommendation in previous TWG workshop as well as information/data to be collected. He explained that after confirmation of this consultation regarding the general areas to be covered, actual survey activities will be coordinated with local communities.

OPEN FORUM/ DISCUSSION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The following were transpired during the open forum:

15. Small scale fishermen are requesting medium scale commercial boats to stop operations/ encroaching municipal waters and BFAR to facilitate registration of fishing boats to reduce cost, especially boat registration fees with Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

The comment highlights policy issues and resource use conflicts where the area is practically closed to active fishing gears like trawl, modified Danish seine and ringnets but is not the case in reality and current situation. It was commented that the project should serve as a platform for innovation / experiments and undertake steps forward to resolve the issues in order to improve management of fisheries in the area. It was also informed that BFAR through its regional offices is collaborating with MARINA through mobile registration program to facilitate the easy access on fishing registration in the area.

Clarification on sampling from the population in administering inventory forms

16. It was explained that based on the preliminary figures which indicate more than 14,000 boats in the 11 cities/municipalities and that administering the technically detailed forms may not be practical due to financial and time consideration. As discussed in the workshop, it was however necessary to generate enumerated list of all boats/gears and if possible a list of the boat owners. This will provide information as to the total number of boats in Samar Sea.
17. With regard to administering inventory forms (which include technical details of boats gears and operation and in consideration to the number by type of gear) , it was agreed that all commercial trawls and modified Danish seines will be covered; all municipal trawl when number at municipal/city is not more than 50 and 50% when number is more than 100; and 100-150 for other municipal fishing boats/gears (~10-20%).

How will the project deal with degraded areas (sea grass beds and coral reefs) like areas in Napalisan and Caparangasan, Gandara.

18. It was explained that objectives of zoning include protection and rehabilitation of critical areas by implementing appropriate measures like MPA/fish sanctuary or fish refugia and closed areas. Actual assessment of these areas under this project will serve as baseline at which the progress or impact of the project will be measured upon.

Commercial trawl operators have no fishing ground with the informally designated fishing highway not being recognized at present. How can this project relate to this issue?

19. The issues on access to fishing ground especially for commercial fisheries including trawls highlight the general policy/regulation which practically closed Samar Sea to commercial and active fishing gears. Given the current situation contrary to the regulation and no regulation at all in terms of effort, the project intends to apply, under a pilot & experimental basis, a management system or plan based on EAF, that considers innovative and workable approaches that balance sustaining the resource, protecting the environment and needs/concerns of resource users / stakeholders. It was explained that everybody's cooperation is necessary to demonstrate to policy makers that such system may work for the common good of the fisheries and communities along Samar that may instigate revision or institutionalizing current policies, otherwise drastic measures like closure of commercial and other active fishing gears including trawl from the area can be imminent.

There was also the view that perhaps the area can be managed by close fishing during spawning season/months and strict to limit the effort to use the resources for the benefit of other fisheries that can be replicated in other coastal fishing areas if the system works.

It was also noted that under RA 8550 (Philippine Fisheries Code) commercial fishing is permitted beyond 10 km from shore but in consultation with FARMC. It was also clarified that JTED was introduced to reduce juveniles and rejects from trawl catch and presently not a legal basis to operate within municipal waters.

It was also further noted that BFAR through its regional office and RFTC livelihood programs in providing substitute/alternative and eco-friendly fishing methods like bottom longline and fish aggregating device or payao.

20. It was recommended that a meeting/consultation with local executives/legislators (Congressmen, Governor, Mayors, etc.) should be conducted to get their views and guidance (resolution) in this regard. It was agreed that this consultation should be organized following TWG-project activities review about end of September or within October to be able to provide feedback to the local executive regarding progress of the project.

Sustainability BFAR programs at local level due to local executives term/period and different priorities.

21. It was commented that preference for BFAR to take responsibility for enforcement over local law enforcement, however existing legal basis provides for LGUs responsibility in municipal waters.

On the need to stop dynamite fishing

22. The consultation recognized that destructive fishing like dynamite which is destructive should be the priority and that more effort should be taken by BFAR, LGUs and other concerned agencies.

23. Hon. Salvador T. Cruz, Board Member, Province of Samar delivered the closing remark highlighting that illegal fishing using dynamite fishing is a real problem among small fishers. He inferred that the lack of information or awareness (on issues relevant to sustaining the fisheries and their responsibilities as fishermen) are important aspect to address. He also pointed out that there is an urgent need to stop destructive methods, regulate active fishing methods and provide alternative livelihood to affected fishermen. He concluded that most important is for everyone to take responsibility on protecting our environment and fishery resources.

24. The consultation was officially closed at about 1600H.

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

APPENDIX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	DESIGNATION/OFFICE
1. Simon Conejos	Agriculture Technologists/Catbalogan City
2. Rodolfo S. Ybañez	Commercial Trawl Operator/Catbalogan City
3. Apolinario J. Catarus	Commercial Trawl Operator/ Calbayog City
4. Joel Ocenar	Commercial Trawl Operator/ Catbalogan City
5. Dionisio Balili	CFARMC/ Calbayog City
6. Alejandro F. Bitbit	Municipal Agriculturist/Zumarraga, Samar
7. Aaron D. Garcia	Research Assistant/ Samar State University
8. Gerardo M. Malinao	Chairman/ GIOS – Samar Federation, Inc.
9. Aldrin S. Boroc	Research Assistant/ Samar State University
10. Norberto C. De Atras	Research Assistant/ Samar State University
11. Andres M. Castillo	Research Assistant/ Samar State University
12. Maridel O. Bulawit	Brgy Chairman/Brgy. Burabod, Sta. Margarita, Samar
13. Daniel S. Daguman	Asst. City Agriculturist/ Catbalogan City
14. Constantino C. Ginay	Agriculture Technologists/ Sta. Margarita, Samar
15. Marcelo C. Camarines, Jr.	Chairman,MAFC/ Burabod, Sta. Margarita, Samar
16. Elvie G. Calamayo	Aqua II/ City Agriculture Office/ Calbayog City
17. Joper C. Canarco	Chairman/MFARMC/Sta. Margarita Samar
18. Bobby F. Calcurus	Fishing Operator/ Sta. Margarita Samar
19. Fernando M. Minata	Fishing Operator/ Sta. Margarita Samar
20. Marlon D. Leguidleguid	Research Assistant/ Samar State University
21. Rosita J. Gelilang	Agricultural Technologists/ Tarangnan, Samar
22. Cecilio N. Talagon	Program Coordinator/ SAC Calbayog City
23. Arnel Matilla	Fishing Operator/ Catbalogan City
24. Joey Cabonete	Fishing Operator/ Catbalogan City
25. Ruel Centino	Fishing Operator/ Zumarraga
26. Danny Rueda	Fishing Operator/ Catbalogan City
27. Juanito P. Basal	Chairman/Old MAAPAYAG, Catbalogan City
28. Roger Alid	Fishing Operator/ Zumarraga
29. Rogelio Leyte	MAO/ Tagapul-an, Samar
30. Trinidad C. Olaje	MAO/ Tarangan, Samar
31. Ma. Urfelie Maliper	MAO/ Pagsanghan, Samar
32. Tomas Albuera	Chairman, MFARMC/ Gandara, Samar
33. Quintin R. Guindatuan	Agricultural Technologists/ Gandara, Samar
34. Juan D. Albaladejo	Regional Director/ BFAR-RFU 8
35. Jonathan O. Dickson	Chief/BFAR-CFD
36. Benjo Caumay	Masterfisherman/ Catbalogan City
37. Eugene Jalayahay	Fishing Operator/ Catbalogan City
38. Saturnino L. Moreno	Technical Staff/ BAFR-RFTC 8
39. Ernesto A. Costo	Municipal Fishery Coordinator/ Zumarraga, Samar
40. Engr. Rolando P. Ay-ay	Provincial Fishery Officer/BFAR- Samar Province

41. Edgardo M. Guya	Aqua. II/ CAO/Catbalogan City
42. Angelica T. Realino	Sr. Agriculturist/ CAO/ Calbayog City
43. Alan A. Diumangay	Board Member/ Samar Province
44. Argie L. Muncada	Agricultural Technologists/ Sto. Nino, Samar
45. Crisanto Amparado	Technical Staff/ BFAR-RFTC 8
46. Renaro J. Fuentes	MCRMO/ Daram, Samar
47. Mark. Bacarra	Technical Staff/ BFAR-RFTC 8
48. Martin C. Ventulan	Technical Staff/ BFAR-RFTC 8
49. Irma C. Nagpacan	Technical Staff/ BFAR-RFTC 8
50. Jethro C. Tizon	Technical Staff/ BFAR-RFTC 8
51. Imelda L. Jarem	Technical Staff/ BFAR-RFTC 8
52. Servando Cadion	Aquaculturist II/ BFAR-RFTC 8
53. Norberto T. Berida	Center Director/ BFAR-RFTC 8
54. Myrna B. Ramos	Technical Staff/ BFAR-Quezon City
55. Rafael V. Ramiscal	Interim NTO/ BFAR-Quezon City
56. Ronnie O. Romero	Aquaculturist I/ NFRDI – Quezon City
57. Efren Hilario	Aquaculturist II/ BFAR – Quezon City
58. Napoleon SJ. Lamarca	Aquaculturist II/ BFAR – Quezon City
59. Juan P. Meniano	PAFC Coordinator/ Samar Province
60. Marcos A. Sabido	Agricultural Technologists/MAO/Calbayog City
61. Salvador T. Cruz	Board Member/ Samar Province
62. Adelfa S. Gabejan	MAO/Gandara, Samar
63. Renato O. Diocton	SSN, Professor/ Samar State University-Mercedes Campus
64. Jessie M. Bacarra	BFAR – RFTC 8
65. Nestor V. Placiente	BFAR – RFTC 8
66. Vilma C. Alaga	BFAR – RFTC 8
67. Ma. Myrna C. Lucero	BFAR – RFTC 8
68. Leodelyn A. Conejos	BFAR – RFTC 8
69. Alfredo Acerdin	BFAR – RFTC 8
70. Danilo T. Coronel	BFAR – RFTC 8
71. Lester Caspo	BFAR – RFTC 8
72. Jimmy Pascodino	BFAR-RFU 8, Tacloban City

Samar Sea Wide Orientation / Consultation	 (GCP/RAS/269/GFF)	BFAR-RFTC8, SSU-MC, Catbalogan City 05 July 2013
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APPENDIX II. Samar Sea-Wide Stakeholders Consultation Program and Agenda.

0830-0930H	Registration	Project Staff and Secretariat
0930-1000H	Opening Program	
	Invocation / National Anthem	Secretariat
	Introduction of Participants	Juan P. Meniano, Jr. PAFC Coordinator
	Welcome Remarks	Norberto T. Berida Training Center Director, RFTC8
	Message	Dr. Juan Albaladejo, Jr. Regional Director, BFAR-RFO8
	Photo ops	
1000-1030	Snacks	
1030-1130H	REBYC II-CTI Project Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues • Objectives • Components • Project management / arrangements • Involvements 	Dr. Jonathan O. Dickson Project National Coordinator
1130-1200H	Project National Activities	Rafael V. Ramiscal
1200-1300H	Lunch break	
1330-1400H	Pilot site (Samar Sea) project implementation and TWG plan	TWG Chair
1400-1500H	Open Forum Closing	

APPENDIX III. PICTURES



Registration of participants and Photo ops



Main Speakers: Regional Director John D. Albadejo, Dr. Jonathan Dickson, Mr. Rafael V. Ramiscal and Prof. Renato C. Diocton (from left to right).



Open forum during the Samar Sea-Wide Consultation