



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

REPORT

**INITIAL REFUGIA SITE LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS
CONSULTATION WORKSHOP IN CORON, PALAWAN**

PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

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ACTIVITY REPORT

- 1) On the First day, the workshop starts around 10:00 in the morning and participated in by the representatives from LGU, BFAR-PFO, Philippines Coast Guard, Maritime Police, PCSD, Academe, & representative from fisherfolk. An opening program was conducted with a prayer followed by the singing of National Anthem. The welcome message was delivered by Mr. Rey Templonuevo, Officer-in-Charge of the Provincial Fisheries Office of Northern Palawan. After the welcome message, participants were requested to introduced themselves and followed by a Group Photo opportunity of participants attended the workshop.
- 2) Mr. Valeriano Borja, the National Scientific & Technical Focal Point for the Fisheries Refugia in the Philippines, discussed the Rationale and Mechanics of the Meeting. He emphasized that questions, reactions, and even recommendations are welcomed after every presentation and even in the course of the presentations.
- 3) After the rationale Mr. Barut, the Technical Adviser to the Philippines of the Fisheries Refugia Project presented a brief overview and background of the fisheries refugia project. He also presented the principles of Ecosystem Approach to fisheries, he explained that principles of EAF is that, Fisheries should be managed to limit their impact on the ecosystem to the extent possible; Ecological relationships between harvested, dependent and associated species should be maintained; Management measures should be compatible across the entire distribution of the resource; precautionary approach should be applied because the knowledge on ecosystems is incomplete; and Governance should ensure both human and ecosystem well-being and equity.
- 4) Mr. Barut also discussed the project goal of the Fisheries Refugia. It is to Improved integration of habitat and biodiversity conservation considerations in the management of fisheries in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand; Improved national management of the threats to fish stock and critical habitat linkages within fisheries *refugia*; *and*, Enhanced uptake of good practice in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the design and implementation of regional and national fisheries management systems. There is also Resource-Related Goal which is to increased resilience of regional Fish Stocks to the Effects of Fishing, and Institutional-Related Goal which aims to integrate the Fisheries and Habitat Management.
- 5) He also presented the specific objectives of the project which is to operate and expand the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for the improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Program for the South China Sea. Short & Long terms objectives was also mentioned in the presentation.
- 6) After the presentation of goals and objectives, a review on the existing data on fisheries in Coron, Palawan was presented and verified by the participants, a short workshop after the presentation was also conducted to update the existing information available. The data on the Calamianes known critical spawning & nursery areas was also presented. This data can be used as one of the references in choosing fish species & in establishing fisheries refugia in Coron.
- 7) A workshop on identification of target species and threats for the establishments of fisheries refugia was also conducted in the afternoon session, identification was group into three areas, mangrove, corals & seagrass. The tables below show the species & threats identified during the workshop.

Site/Area	Species	Fisheries Threats
Mangroves	Crabs, Shells, spawning shrimps, mullets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mangrove charcoal for commercial purposes conversion of mangrove areas to resort, tourism site, & residential (illegal settlement) Solid waste from household in mangrove areas Siltation
Corals	Fusiliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsustainable fishing practice: use of cyanide in the live reef fish industry blast fishing non-selective fishing gear and practices Collection of corals as sinker solid waste pollution
Seagrass	Rabbitfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of cyanide siltation fertilizer & insecticide residue

- 8) On the second day a presentation on the concept of fisheries refugia was presented by Mr. Barut. He also discussed Russel's axiom model, surplus production model by Schaefer & Fox, as well as the stock recruitments curve. The result Ichthyoplankton survey conducted on the 1st phase of the South China Sea Project in Coron Palawan was also presented.
- 9) A stakeholder identification and analysis were also conducted during the consultation workshop, participants identified different stakeholders that can be involved during the duration of the implementation of the fisheries refugia project, a matrix for stakeholders' analysis was also prepared. A sample of Power/Interest Grid was also presented and discuss with the participants during the workshop.

Power/Interest Grid Samples

IMPORTANCE INFLUENCE	High / Medium	Low / Not known
High / Medium	<p>A</p> <p>These stakeholders are the most important ones for the project. The implementing organization must consider their interests and expectations in order to ensure effective coalition and support for the project.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>These stakeholders are a source of significant risk. They need careful monitoring and management.</p>
Low / Not known	<p>C</p> <p>These stakeholders should be adequately informed about the development of the project, to protect their interest, but they only require limited monitoring and management.</p>	<p>D</p> <p>These stakeholders are of low priority. They require limited monitoring and management.</p>

Matrix for Fisheries Refugia Project Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder	High/Medium Interest	Low/not know interest	High/Medium Influence or Power	Low/Not know Influence or Power
Local Exec.				
Legislative				
MAO				
Judicial				
BFAR				
MIMAROPA				
PCG/PCGA				
Maritime Police				
Bantay Dagat				
IPs				
Fisherfolk Org.				
Academe				
Fishermen				
CENRO				
NFRDI				
Coastal Communities				
PCSDS				

10) The last part of the consultation workshop in the socio-economic data gathering. Mr. Barut presented data needed for the socio-economic analysis in Coron Fisheries Refugia Site, Ms. Besa from PCSD mentioned that a previous study on socio-economic analysis in Coron was also conducted by the ECOFISH Project, the data can be requested at ECOFISH to be used as reference and baseline data.