

**FAO/GEF REBYC II-CTI PROJECT
STRATEGIES FOR TRAWL BYCATCH MANAGEMENT
PROJECT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)-CAPACITY BUILDING AND ACTION
PLANNING WORKSHOP**

1. The Technical Working Group (TWG) Workshop was convened to capacitate/enhance appreciation of members on the issues, objectives, strategies and operations of the project and formulate 2013 action plan in project site (Samar Sea). It was held at the Conference Room of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Regional Fisheries Training Center (BFAR-RFTC) VIII, Samar State University - Mercedes Campus (SSU-MC) from July 3 to 4, 2013.
2. In attendance were members of the TWG for the project implementation in Samar Sea (Appendix I). As recommended during the inaugural TWG Meeting on 26 June 2013, additional members that were present were Mr. Edgardo M. Guya (representing the City Government of Catbalogan) and Mr. Cecilio N. Talagon (NGO from Social Action Center– CARITAS). The representative of the League of Municipalities and the Office of 2ndDistrict Representative of Samar were not present and the PAFC Coordinators was assigned to further coordinate with these offices for their attendance in the next TWG Meeting.
3. Also as recommended during the inaugural TWG Meeting, the special participation of Ms. Ma. Urfelie D. Maliper, MAO Pagsanghan and Mr. Constantino Ginay, OIC-MAO of Sta. Margarita was acknowledged considering their concerns on habitat mapping and trawl fishing was most relevant in their localities.

AGENDA 1.OPENING PROGRAM

4. Mr. Ronnie O. Romero, Project Technical Staff, led as the invocation and Ms. Ma. Urfelie Maliperin the singing of the National Anthem.
5. Regional Center Training Director Norberto T. Berida, BFAR-RFTC 8 warmly welcomed the TWG members and wished for a workable plan that contributes for the sustainability of Samar Sea and that fisherfolks in the area may benefit from the program and better prospects for the next generation.

6. Dr. Jonathan O. Dickson, Chief, BFAR Capture Fisheries Division and REBYC II CTI National Project Coordinator, stressed that the TWG is expected to be the principal support group in the implementation of the project especially its linkage with stakeholders. He further expressed his expectation that the TWG will be active in raising issues as he acknowledged importance of their local knowledge and experience in identifying and prioritizing workable activities.
7. He also envisioned the active TWG involvement in planning, supervision and monitoring of project activities and that participation of its members is key for the success of the project in Samar Sea. He further emphasized that the TWG prioritizing activities for 2013 will facilitate the project activities to move forward.

AGENDA 2. WORKSHOP

8. The TWG Chairman called for order and proceeded to adopt the proposed agenda with the additional update by Engr. Rolando T. Ay-ay regarding the status of the Samar Sea and Maqueda Bay Executive Management Council and South Maqueda Bay Fisheries Network as recommended during the previous TWG meeting last June 26, 2013
9. The Interim NTO refreshed the members of the adopted Terms of Reference (TOR) of the TWG during the Inaugural Meeting. He emphasized that the TWG would be recognized at National, Regional level as well as in FAO and the formal group to support the implementation of the project at pilot site and at local level.
10. He recalled that during the inaugural meeting last June 26, 2013, the TWG selected RFTC8 Director Norberto T. Berida and NPC Jonathan O. Dickson as TWG Co-Chairs and PAFC Chair Esteban Conchas and SSU Prof. Renato Diocton as Co-Chairs. He further recollected that in addition to the TWG members who were present in that meeting, it was also recommended to invite and become TWG members of the following 1) Reverend Father Cesar Aculan or representative of Social Action Center-CARITAS to represent Non-Government Organization (NGO), 2) Representative of the City Government of Catbalogan, 3) Representative of the 2nd Congressional District Office- Samar and 4) Representative of the League of Municipalities of Samar. He apprised the TWG that representatives of Catbalogan City and CARITAS were attending this

meeting and the invitation to the other agencies will be further coordinated for their attendance in the next meetings/activities.

11. The NTO further reiterated and emphasized on the Objectives of the Workshop as follows:
 - i. To capacitate the TWG to have a better understanding on the technical background of the project especially on the issues it intends to address and look at how technical information relates to objectives as well as the project operations/activities;
 - ii. To strategize implementation of activities and how the TWG can help as works/activities progress;
 - iii. To decide on the coverage (municipalities / references points) within Samar Sea that the project would cover based on priority and workable / practical reason;
 - iv. To identify and recommend areas to be included in critical habitat mapping and inventory activity;
 - v. To prepare action plan for 2013 and the overall 4-year plan.
12. Dr. Dickson suggested and supported by the body to add in the TWG TOR the following; 1) to serve as the link to stakeholders 2) to disseminate/facilitate information to promote partnership and convergence and 3) to coordinate relevant activities at local level in order to promote sense of ownership and involvement of stakeholders in the project

AGENDA 3. STATUS OF TRAWL FISHERIES

13. Prof. Renato C. Diocton presented the status of fisheries in Samar Sea. He provided the general profile of Samar Sea, production by coastal municipalities and catch rate by fishing gear. Samar Sea ranked number 8 among the top major fishing ground producer in the country, but high fishing effort characterized the coastal areas mainly due to open access regime and absence of coastal delineation.
14. He explained that fisheries are mainly multi-gear/multi species, with highly seasonal catch. The continuing damage to coral reef areas using destructive

fishing method such as dynamite and obnoxious substance/compound also still exist in some areas. He emphasized small scale (municipal) trawl fishing was a dominant method in the coastal areas of Samar Sea and that catch and catch rate was highest among the municipal fishing gears, citing that this maybe the reason why fishermen are fixed to this fishery despite existing restrictive regulations.

15. An update on the trawl survey conducted by MV DA-BFAR in Visayan Sea and Samar Sea in April 2013 was presented by the NTO. He highlighted that the survey was very timely with the results of the survey in Samar Sea as part of baseline data for the REBYC-II CTI Project. He said that there were 8 sampling stations carried out in Samar Sea with average catch rate of 288 kgs/hr compared to 262 kgs/hr for Visayan Sea.
16. He further explained that Samar Sea appeared better than Visayan Sea not only in terms of quantity but also quality as higher frequency and biomass of high value-species was observed in Samar Sea. He however highlighted that in terms of fish diversity, the number of finfish species was lower in Samar Sea compared to Visayan Sea, an aspect that the project may need to look at, and not only biomass and benefits derived from the production of the area.

AGENDA 4. REVIEW OF ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES.

17. Mr. Ramiscal also presented background on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), re-echoing concepts from similar presentation of Dr. Simon Fungesmith of FAO, Prof. Nygel Armada of FISH and the FAO guideline on EAFM. He cited that during REBYC I, the project only focused technical measures like the Juvenile and Trashfish Excluder Devices (JTED) to address bycatch issues only resulting to some degree of achievement.
18. With that experience, REBYC II approach is the integration, along the line of EAFM approaches, which seeks to addresses the sustainability of ecosystem and resources and balances the needs of community. Samar Sea has multi-gear and multi-species fisheries and has various needs of coastal communities in terms of livelihood, income and food not only for resources.

AGENDA 5. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

19. The Acting NTO also presented the project four (4) years plan from 2013 to 2016. He explained that activities for the succeeding years define the direction in order to attain the objective of the project of putting up a trawl & bycatch management plan in pilot site. For 2013 or first year of implementation, the activities are focused on setting up working arrangements and base-lining (organize the NAG/TWG, inventory, mapping, trawl & bycatch assessment, ichthyoplankton survey, etc).
20. Looking forward, he then encouraged the TWG members to identify specific activities based on the identified general activities under the project components, considering local application and expediency, which will taken up in succeeding planning workshops for the project.

AGENDA 6. PILOT PROJECT SITE AREA/DELINEATION.

21. The TWG Chair opened the discussion to agree on the scope or areal delineation as the project pilot site. While in general, Samar Sea was proposed as the pilot site, clear delineation and areal coverage based on practical / workable reasons were considered important. After deliberation, the TWG established that scope and coverage of the project pilot site was that as part of Samar Sea surrounding all coastal and island cities and municipalities of the province of Samar, and to exclude Maripipi island of Biliran Province. The following were the eleven (11) identified coastal & island cities and municipalities covered by the project pilot site; Island municipalities of 1) Almagro, 2) Sto. Niño, 3) Tagapul-an, 4) Zumarraga and 5) Daram; and coastal cities and municipalities of 6) Calbayog City, 7) Sta. Margarita, 8) Gandara, 9) Pagsanghan, 10) Tarangnan and 11) Catbalogan City.

AGENDA 7. HABITAT / CRITICAL AREAS SURVEY AND MAPPING

22. Mr. Efren Hilario, the Lead Project Staff for this activity, presented criteria and identification of fishing grounds and habitats to be included in surveys and subsequent mapping.
23. He pointed out that existing and established areas designated as MPAs or Fish Sanctuaries will not be covered by the proposed surveys. Current monitoring/assessment of these areas by LGUs and other agencies can serve as

baseline for the project. It was however noted that most of the seagrass beds have not been inventoried and surveyed and there is a need for assessment and documentation as basis for management.

24. He said that survey areas will include sea grass beds and coral reefs but exclude mangroves. Areas will be identified and prioritized based on preliminary consultation with communities and respective local government units. He also informed that a rapid survey will be conducted using acoustic sounder and bottom grab for bottom topography and substantiation of bottom nature (muddy, sandy, and sandy-muddy, etc). Recent NAMRIA maps will be used as base maps.
25. It was suggested to consider 3D maps and other appropriate mapping softwares/tool for mapping and zoning the pilot site.

AGENDA 8. ASSESSMENT OF TRAWL CATCH AND ITS BYCATCH; ICTHTYOPLANKTON SAMPLING ACTIVITIES

26. Prof. Rene Diocton, in his capacity as the main proponent for the conduct of the above activities under FAO/SSU LOA, presented the general description of the activities. The main activity for trawl and bycatch assessment will be fish ports/landings survey and will cover both municipal and commercial trawls in major trawl areas (Calbayog, Sta. Margarita and Catbalogan) and fishing ground of Samar Sea. He also informed that he plans to complement the port sampling activities with onboard observation/sampling especially to determine spatial catch distribution.
27. He explained that the survey period should at least cover one year period. The activities will entail engagement of four (4) enumerators who will be undertaking daily sampling activities in the above areas. Sampling protocol will follow standard methodologies established under the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP).
28. It was recommended to include in this survey biological (maturity/GSI) and population parameters, at least for the major species caught by trawls.
29. For the ichthyoplankton survey, Prof. Diocton presented the sampling stations that are distributed to cover the entire pilot area. Sampling will be done at least once a month for a period of one year. The composition of ichthyoplankton

will be identified and their abundance (density) will be determined over time and space. Sampling protocols will follow standard protocol (SEAFDEC and UNESCO guideline) using 200 microns larvae net, bongo net and other equipment.

30. It was recommended that sampling stations should be added in the vicinity of critical habitat / areas and distribution according to various depths/contours.
31. The TWG noted that resource and biological information generated from the above activities are useful in the policy formulation. It was revealed that such information are wanting at local levels where many LGUs are striving to manage their areas and are constrained with lack of available scientific information as basis for local regulation.
32. Prof. Diocton also provided an update regarding his series of communication with the LTO and RFU (Mr. Niklas) on the LOA between SSU and FAO on the conduct of trawl catch/bycatch and ichthyoplankton survey. He informed that the latest draft of LoA has been submitted to RFU and LTO for their final approval, hoping that this will be acted upon and signed July 15, 2013. Noting that other activities for the project have been launched, he urgently needed mobilization fund to commence these project activities.

AGENDA 9. REPORT ON TRAINING/WORKSHOP ON INVENTORY OF FISHING GEARS AND BOATS.

33. Mr. Napoleon Salvador J. Lamarca, the Lead Project Technical Staff for this activity, provided a brief report on the above activity which was conducted June 27-29, 2013. The training was attended by the Municipal Agricultural Officers (MAOs) and Agricultural Technicians (ATs) for fisheries from the island and coastal cities/ municipalities of Samar, Provincial Fishery Officers (PFOs), and Researchers of Samar State University.
34. The training/workshop was intended to 1) capacitate participants (local fishery officers/technicians) to undertake inventory fishing boats and gears with emphasis on trawl fleets 2) inform participants of the project and initiate their involvement in project implementation. He explained that output from the inventory will form the project baseline. A catalogue or similar reports will be also prepared and anticipated that the project would support for its publication for the benefit of relevant users and stakeholders.

35. The training/workshop included the following topics/activities: Overview and Activities of the Project, Classification of Fishing Boats and Gears, Important Documents of Fishing Vessels and Gears, Test run on the admeasurement and dissection of fishing vessels and gears and Inventory Procedures.
36. He reported that despite the bad weather condition (Typhoon Gorio, Signal No. 2) on the date of test run, participants were able to demonstrate and accomplished actual trial of inventory activities in one of the fishing villages in Catbalogan City.
37. The NTO prepared a summary of the initial inputs on fleet profiles from each of the LGUs and provided general guidelines on the conduct of inventory according to number of coastal barangay, type of gears used, types of boats whether motorized or non-motorized, commercial fishing boats present in the area, and estimated number of fishermen.
38. He also reported that during the workshop, it was agreed that the tentative inventory reports from the participating LGUs are due by September 15 and that a workshop in October will be organized to review and consolidate the reports
39. It was also discussed that the project will provide support for travel and per diems for LGU and field staffs involved in the inventory with the coordination/administrative support from RFTC8 and PAFC Coordinator.

AGENDA 10. ACTION PLANNING

40. The TWG Co-Chair presented the agenda with the purpose to identify responsibilities and ensuing actions that are necessary in the implementation of the remaining project activities for 2013. He presented and proposed to use a template as a guide for the TWG which was adopted and used for the succeeding activities for 2013 (Appendix 2).
41. One of the key activity that was agreed upon was to convene a meeting, in October 2013, with the Local Chief Executives from all (11) participating cities in municipalities for better appreciation of the project, inform them of the progress of the activities and strengthen their commitment to the project. This

will be preceded by a workshop to review, consolidate and prepare inventory reports and a TWG meeting to review and prepare progress report.

AGENDA 11. OTHERS.

42. Engr. Rolando T. Ay-ay, BFAR Provincial Fishery Director, provided an update on the status of Samar Sea and Maqueda Bay Executive Management Council (SSMBEMC) and the South Maqueda Bay Fisheries Network (SMB Fish Net).
43. The SMB Fish Net groups coastal municipalities along Maqueda Bay (Calbiga, Villareal, Dalalora, San Sebastian, Daram and Pinapakdao) with the general objective of managing coastal resources and serving adjacent municipalities through strict implementation of Fishery Ordinance and strengthening capabilities of fisherfolk.
44. Their main activities were support to livelihood and law enforcement. Several projects were supported by BFAR thru the assistance of Provincial Fishery Office including provision of fibreglass boats with engine to municipal fisherman and mussel stocks to the 6 municipalities. The SMB Fish Net is currently inactive. There have been no meetings or activities undertaken for 2013 and expected to be so as many of the local executives who initiated the group lost in the recent elections.
45. The SSMBEMC is also inactive and not functioning and there were no activities undertaken since its launching in Catbalogan City in 1997.
46. The Co-Chair commented the experience from the above initiatives should become a lesson and taken into consideration as the TWG guides the implementation of REBYC II CTI in Samar Sea.

AGENDA 12. RECAPITULATION AND CLOSING

47. The Co-Chair (Director Berida) provided the recap of two days workshop as he requested the TWG members to prepare and participate actively in the Samar Sea-Wide consultation with stakeholders that is scheduled the following day, 05 July 2013. For his part as Co-Chair, Dr. Dickson thanked the TWG members and reiterated their active participation is key to the success of the project in Samar Sea.
48. **Agenda 13.** The meeting/workshop was adjourned at 1500H, 04 July 2013.

Prepared by :


NAPOLEON SALVADOR J. LAMARCA
Aqua. II/Project Technical Staff


EFREN H. HILARION
Aqua. II/Project Technical Staff

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. Attendance

NAME	DESIGNATION/OFFICE
1. Ma. Urfelie D. Maliper	MAO/Pagsanghan, Samar
2. Dionisio A. Balili	Commercial Trawl Operator/Catbalogan City
3. Saturnino L. Morillo	Technical Staff/ BFAR-RFTC 8
4. ApolinarioCatarus	Commercial Trawl Operator/ Calbayog City
5. Renato C. Diocton	Head, R&D/Samar State University, Mercedes Campus
6. Rodrigo N. Luego	Technical Staff/PFO Samar
7. ConstantinoGinay	Agricultural Technician/ Sta. Margarita, Samar
8. Juan P. Meniano, Jr.	PAFC Coordinator/PFO Samar
9. Lester C. Cospe	BFAR-RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
10. Jonathan O. Dickson	National Program Coordinator/BFAR-Quezon City
11. Angelica T. Realino	Senior Aquaculturist/ CAO Calbayog City
12. Norberto T. Berida	Center Director/BFAR-RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
13. Esteban M. Conchas	PAFC/PFC Catbalogan City
14. Marcos A. Sabido	Agricultural Technologists/CAO Calbayog City
15. Ronnie O. Romero	Aquaculturist I/NFRDI, Quezon City
16. Myrna B. Ramos	Technical Staff/BFAR-CFD Quezon City
17. Cecilio N. Talagon	Program Officer/SAC Calbayog City
18. Edgardo M. Guya	Aquaculturist II/CAO-Catbalogan City
19. Rafael B. Ramiscal	Interim NTO/ BFAR, Quezon City
20. Efren V. Hilario	Aquaculturist II/BFAR, Quezon City
21. Napoleon SJ. Lamarca	Aquaculturist II/BFAR, Quezon City
22. Ofelia Froilan	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
23. Ma. Myrna Locado	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
24. Socorro Pagjuinasan	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
25. Marlon M. Bacarra	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
26. Engr. Rolando C. Ay-ay	Provincial Fishery Officer/ BFAR, Samar Province
27. Mark M. Bacarra	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
28. Cesar Cardoso	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
29. CrisanntoAmparado	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
30. Martin Ventulan	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
31. Benito R. Dantes	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
32. Carlos Rodriguez, Jr.	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
33. Erna Placiente	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
34. Rex H. Dasal	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
35. Vilma C. Alaga	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
36. An-an C. Alaga	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
37. Irma C. Nagpacal	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
38. Roselle Delos Santos	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
39. Ronaldo Salinas	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
40. Rodrigo Tilles	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
41. Valentino C. Bello	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
42. Dave Mark Delto	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
43. Virginia P. Salinas	LGU Catbalogan City
44. CristineAmparado	BFAR- RFTC 8, Catbalogan City
45. Engr. Guillermo Calderon	Office of 1 st District Representative Samar

TWG - Capacity building and Action Planning Workshop	 {GCP/RAS/269/GFF}	BFAR-RFTC8, SSU-MC, Catbalogan City 03-04 July 2013
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APPENDIX II. Program and Agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Time	Program/Activity	Presentor / Responsible person/ Facilitator
Day 1, 3 July 2013		
0830-0930H	Registration	Project Secretariat
0930-1000H	Agenda 1: Opening of workshop	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BFAR RFO8/RFTC8 • National Project Coordinator 	
	Photo ops	
1000-1030H	Snacks	
	Agenda 2: Introduction to the Workshop and Adoption of Agenda	
	Summary of Inaugural TWG Meeting last June 26, 2013	Rafael V. Ramiscal
1030-1100H	Adoption of Workshop Agenda	Norberto T. Berida TWG Co-Chairs
1100-1200H	Agenda 3. Status of National & Samar Sea Trawl Fisheries	Rafael V. Ramiscal and Prof. RO. Diocton
	Lunch Break	
1330-1400H	Agenda 4. Review of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	Rafael V. Ramiscal/ Jonathan O. Dickson
1400-1500H	Agenda 5. Project Activities	Rafael V. Ramiscal
1500-1530H	Snacks	
1530-1600H	Agenda 6. Presentation & Discussions of Pilot Project Site Area / Delineation	Rafael V. Ramiscal
1600-1630H	Agenda 7. Presentation & Discussions of Habitat Important Areas / Mapping Activities	Efren V. Hilario
Day 2, 4 July 2013		
0830-	Agenda 8. Presentation & Discussions on Port/	Prof. Renato O. Diocton

0930H	Fish Landing (trawl) Catch & Habitat Bycatch and Ichthyoplankton Sampling Activities	
0930-1000H	Agenda 9. Report on Training on Inventory of Fishing Gears & Boats	Napoleon Salvador J. Lamarca
1000-1030H	Snacks	
1030-1200H	Agenda 10. Plenary Discussions on the Pilot Project Activities, Responsibilities, Action Plan and Timetable	TWG Chair/s
	Lunch	
	Agenda 11. Other matters (Status of the Samar Sea and Maqueda Bay Executive Management Council and South Maqueda Fisheries Network).	Engr. Rolando P. Ay-ay
1330-1430H	Agenda 10. Recapitulation of the workshop	TWG Chair/s
1430-1500h	Agenda 11. Closing	

APPENDIX III. Pictures

