

**REBYC II – CTI Project (GCP/RAS/269/GFF)**  
**Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting**  
Onboard M/V DA-BFAR @ Port of Catbalogan  
25 October 2013

1. The FAO REBYC II Project TWG Meeting was held onboard M/V DA-BFAR last October 25, 2013. BFAR-RFTC 8 Director Ronnie Berida and Project TWG Chair presided the Meeting.
2. The meeting was attended by members of the TWG and other personnel involved in the project (Appendix 1).
3. The meeting started at 0930H with a prayer and singing of Philippine National Anthem by Ms. Riczyneth Arinque, Researcher of M/V DA-BFAR. M/V DA-BFAR Captain Erinaldo T. Cawaling welcomed the participants, expressed his appreciation for conducting the meeting onboard and hoped to contribute in the implementation of the project in Samar Sea. Director Berida, in response thanked the Captain and the vessels officers, crew and researchers of M/V DA-BFAR for accommodating the event. He also hoped for the success of the meeting.
4. Director Berida thanked the TWG members who were able to attend the meeting in spite of the short notice. He briefly provided background of the project which involves GEF/FAO, BFAR and the eleven (11) coastal municipalities of along Samar Sea as partners of the project and the objectives of the project to improve management of bycatch, particularly for trawl and that several activities have been initiated in June 2013.
5. Noting that the Chief Executives of most of the above municipalities were scheduled to attend a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing of the Alliance among 7 municipalities of Samar onboard the vessel the next day, the Chair informed that this meeting aim to briefly review on-going activities and seek concurrence of the TWG on providing the Chief Executives during the above meeting a brief background of the project and informed them of the project activities.
6. After a group photo, Mr. Rafael Ramiscal assisted the Chair in the adaption and some update of the meeting agenda. The preliminary result of M/V DA-BFAR demersal stock assessment survey in the Visayan Sea and Samar Sea was included in the agenda.
7. In behalf of the Activity-In-Charge (Mr. Napoleon Lamarca), Mr. Rafael V. Ramiscal provided an update on the inventory of trawl and other fishing boats/gears in Samar Sea. In summary, except the municipalities of Almagro and Pagsanghan, participating municipalities presented their respective reports and data collected in a concurrent review workshop.
8. It was noted that there were more than 10,000 boats inventoried so far. It was however noted partial reports were only covered in Calbayog, Catbalogan and Daram

due to the large number and extensive distribution of fishing boats and gears in these areas. It was reported that efforts are being done by concerned LGU technicians to complete the inventory.

9. Top three dominant type of gear consisted of gill net, bottom set longline or kitang, crab pot, multiple hook and line, crab entangling gillnet and simple hook andline. In commercial fisheries, Danish seine, ring net and trawl were the gear recorded, with Danish seine as the dominant commercial gear mostly found in Calbayog. It was however also noted that the number municipal and small-commercial trawler boats are significant. It was also commented that inventories in a few areas were only partial and inventory forms are yet to be completely encoded.
10. Mr. Efren Hilario, the Activity-In-Charge, made update on critical habitat and fishing ground mapping activities. In all, 15 areas mainly coral reefs in 6 municipalities have been covered by the survey. Accomplishments included surveys and coordination with the LGU's and Barangays, manta tows, scuba diving, line transect for biomass estimation and coral identification in selected sites. Each area visited/dived was assessed/evaluated, described and documented with pictures. Napalisan Island located in the municipality of Gandara was found not an ideal site for fish sanctuary due to silt/turbid water quality.
11. Mr. Ramiscal suggested to consider to use the concept of *fish refugia* rather than *fish sanctuary*, noting that the former can be a more practicable or acceptable option for fishers. He also highlighted the importance to determine/assess fish biomass and coral cover of these areas as baseline information.
12. Mr. Hilario confirmed that current survey include coral cover and rapid fish census. He also cited that the survey is yet to be made in municipality of Sta. Margarita. Mr. Ramiscal suggested that since Sta Margarita is one of the LGUs actively pushing for zoning, he suggested that a suitable survey & mapping approach should be made, further noting that the municipality may not have reef areas but fishing grounds that maybe separated by depth, bottom nature and various fisheries use. It was also suggested that the covered sites should be monitored and evaluated after 2-3 years to determine the impact of the project activities.
13. On bycatch and ichthyoplankton assessment survey, the initial activities made were presented by researchers of Prof. Rene Diocton of Samar State University (SSU). Accomplished sampling forms (Forms 1-4) covering catch, effort and species & size composition. Based on the data presented, Mr. Ramiscal emphasized that sampling strategy should cover the major trawl landing areas in Samar Sea and that municipal and commercial trawls should be covered; subsamples should be taken from the mixed catches, sorted & identified into species; particular attention should be made to account that part of the catch classified as reject or trash which should be sampled accordingly to determine species composition. He emphasized that daily total estimates for catch, effort and bycatch (reject/trashfish) should be based on sampled boats raised to the total number of boats landed for that day.

14. Ms. Angelica T. Realino and Mr. Napoleon Lamarca also shared their experiences during their attendance to the training on Fisheries Co-Management last October 7-11, 2013 held in South East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The training was attended by 5 REBYC II CTI Project participating countries. and Mrs. Realino and Mr. Lamarca are the participants from the Philippines. The training included industry plenary discussions at Kasetsart University and presentation on fisheries management plan of each country at SEAFDEC Training Center in Samut Prakan, Thailand. During the presentation of Fisheries Management Plan, Philippine participants presented the results of REBYC I Project and the Sardine Management Plan in which some comments was raised that the proposed subsidy on fuel under the plan encourage overfishing.
15. Last presentation was delivered by Mr. Rafael Ramiscal on the initial results of Demersal Stock Assessment survey recently conducted by MV DA-BFAR in the Visayan and Samar Seas. It focused on the important species mostly abundant in Samar Sea comparable to Visayan Sea. He depicted that in terms of estimated biomass and quality of species caught, Samar Sea seemed better off than Visayan Sea. He also indicated that estimated biomass appeared higher compared to the preceding surveys conducted in late 70s to early 80s in Samar Sea.
16. Mr. Ramiscal also re-echoed his observations on his attendance during a meeting among 7 Mayors with BFAR8 on October 14, 2013 In Calbayog City. The meeting was to finalize Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of 7 municipalities in managing the fisheries particularly the framework for the distribution and use of shallow payao as part of the livelihood under the BFAR National Payao Program. He highlighted the concerns of local chief executives regarding illegal fishing and their view that BFAR should take lead in fisheries law enforcement. Mr. Ramiscal suggested to the meeting that updates of the project will be incorporated in future meetings of the Alliance.
17. TWG members recommended that, in addition to a briefing on REBYC II CTI Project and the pilot site activities in Samar Sea, results of demersal survey conducted in Samar Sea and the activities of the REBYC II CTI Project pilot site in Samar Sea will be also requested for inclusion in the agenda in the following day.
18. The meeting adjourned at 1145H.

Prepared by:

**RICZYNETH A. ARINQUE**, Researcher M/V DA-BFAR

**EVANGELINE S. SAPUL**, Researcher M/V DA-BFAR

## APPENDIX II – Attendance

<b>Name/Position/Agency</b>	<b>Address/Email/Contact numbers</b>
Esteban M. Conchas, Chairman, Samar Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Council (PAFC)	Brgy. Obrero, Calbayog City
Renato C. Diocton, Head Research and Development, Samar State University (SSU)	Brgy. Ubanon, Catbalogan City rdiocton2004yahoo.com
Norberto T. Berida, Training Center Director, BFAR-Regional Fisheries Training Center	Catbalogan City, Samar bfar_rftc8@yahoo.com.ph cp#09177057703
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Marcos Sabido- Fisheries Officer	Calbayog City <a href="mailto:markfisheries@yahoo.com">markfisheries@yahoo.com</a> cp#09351854666
Juan P. Meniano, Jr., Fishery Officer, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist	Catbalogan City <a href="mailto:john_opasamar@yahoo.com.ph">john_opasamar@yahoo.com.ph</a> cp#09209682241
Edgardo M. Guya- City Fisheries Officer	Catbalogan City cp#09493973747
Guillermo Calderon-1 <sup>st</sup> Congressional District Office Representative	Calbayog city
Cecilio Talagon, Program Coordinator, Social Action Program, Archdiocese of Samar	Brgy San Andres, Catbalogan city
Dionesio A. Balili, Chairman, Samar Provincial fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC)	Brgy. Binaliw, Calbayog City
Apolinario Cataros, Commercial Trawl Fishing Boat Operator-(Rep)	Calbayog City
Rodolfo Ybanez, President, Commercial Fishing Operators	Catbalogan City
Maridel M. Bulawit, Fish Trader, Small Scale Trawl Operator	Sta. Margarita, Calabayog City
Rodrigo Luego, Technical Staff, BFAR-Provincial Fisheries Office	Catbalogan City, samar
Rolando P. Ay-ay- BFAR8 Provincial Fishery Officer	Catbalogan City
Saturnino L. Morillo-Technical Staff RFTC8	Catbalogan City
Simon Conejos, Technician, City Agriculture Office	Catbalogan City/cp#09173237655
Lester Caspe – Support staff	RFTC8, Catbalogan City cp#09065866090
Rafael V. Ramiscal, Acting Proj. Technical Officer	BFAR, NMFDC, Q.C. <a href="mailto:rv_ram55@yahoo.com">rv_ram55@yahoo.com</a> cp#09998847635

Napoleon S.J. Lamarca-Aquaculturist II, Project staff	BFAR- Central Office <a href="mailto:nsjlamarca@yahoo.com">nsjlamarca@yahoo.com</a> cp#09154334504
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Myrna B. Ramos, Project staff	BFAR, Capture Fisheries Division, Central <a href="#">Office</a> <a href="mailto:cfd53@yahoo.com">cfd53@yahoo.com</a> <a href="#">cp</a> # 09213291309
Ernaldo T. Cawaling, Capt., M/V DA-BFAR	BFAR-NMFDC
Riczyneth Arinque, Researcher, MV DA-BFAR	BFAR-NMFDC
Envangeline Sapul, Researcher, MV DA-BFAR	BFAR-NMFDC
Jovelyn E. Cabiso, Research Asst., SSU-Mercedes Campus	Mercedes, Catbalogan City
Maria Crisanta B. Barsobia, Research Asst., SSU-Mercedes Campus	Mercedes, Catbalogan City
Rosemarie D. Mercenes, Research Asst., SSU-Mercedes Campus	Mercedes, Catbalogan City
Jay L. Ilagan, Research Asst., SSU-Mercedes Campus	Mercedes, Catbalogan City
Aaron D. Garcia, Research Asst., SSU-Mercedes Campus	Mercedes, Catbalogan City
Andres M. Castillo, Research Asst., SSU-Mercedes Campus	Mercedes, Catbalogan City

## APPENDIX II – Meeting Agenda

### REBYC II CTI PROJECT - TWG Meeting

Onboard MV DA-BFAR, Catbalogan City  
25 October 2013

#### AGENDA

0830-0900H	Registration	Secretariat
0900-0930H	Opening Program	
	Invocation/ National Anthem	MV DA-BFAR Researcher
	Welcome Remarks	<b>Ernaldo T. Cawaling</b> Captain, MV DA-BFAR
	Message	<b>N. Berida</b> TWG Chair
	Photo ops	
0930-1000H	Update/s	<b>Raffy V. Ramiscal</b>
	Adoption of Agenda	
Snacks		
1030-1200H	Report of of inventory of trawl and other fishing gears	<b>Napoleon S.J.Lamarca</b> Project Technical Staff
	Update on habitat/fishing ground mapping	<b>Efren Hilario</b> Project Technical Staff
	Update on bycatch / ichthyoplankton assessment survey	<b>Prof. Rene Diocton</b>
1200-1300H	Lunch break	
1300-1600H	Update/re-echo Training on Co-Mgt & Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Mgt, SEAFDEC, Bangkok, Thailand	<b>A Realino &amp; N Lamarca</b>
	LCE Meeting on 26 Oct 2013 (MV DA-BFAR)	<b>R Ramiscal</b>
	Other Matters - Update on the results of Samar Sea Survey	

APPENDX III – Pictures on board M/V DA-BFAR



