



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

REPORT

**MEETING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, BFAR AND
STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE CREATION OF REFUGIA SITE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN PANGASINAN**

**PANGASINAN, PHILIPPINES
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ACTIVITY REPORT

- 1) On the First day, a courtesy call to Mayor Arnold D. Celeste, Municipal Mayor of Bolinao was made. A short meeting was conducted together with the Refugia Management Team. We informed the purpose of the trip & discuss the agenda of the upcoming meeting with the Bolinao Fisheries Refugia Site Management Committee (RSMC). We also coordinated the copy of Municipal Fisheries Ordinances for the MPAs in Bolinao, Pangasinan as well as the BOATR & FISHR data available.
- 2) The RSMC meeting was held at El Pescador Resort Hotel & Participated in by 25 participants from different agencies in Bolinao. The meeting starts around 9:30 am. Mayor Arnold Celeste gave his welcome remarks and mentioned that the Local Government of Bolinao is fully supporting the Fisheries Refugia Project. Mr. Borja presented an overview of the Fisheries Refugia Project. The team also presented the initial list of agencies for the Fisheries Refugia Site Management Committee that has been agreed initially during the previous Orientation Workshop of Refugia Project. The participants revised the membership of RSMC. The group discussed the list of members and agreed on how the RFMC can be put into a Executive Order to be signed by the Municipal Mayor. The group finally agreed that an executive order will be used for the RFMC.
- 3) During the meeting we also presented the provisional terms of reference of the FRMC for review of the Members. The following are the agreed terms of reference of RFMC Member:
 - Meet on a monthly basis during the project inception period and a quarterly basis thereafter to guide the timely execution of activities to establish and operate fisheries *refugia*, the Chair may call for a special meeting when necessary;
 - Receive, review and approve reports from the Fisheries *Refugia* Management Team regarding the outputs and outcomes of project activities;
 - Assist the Fisheries *Refugia* Management Team in ensuring co-ordination among the fisheries *refugia* project and other local activities undertaken during the course of the project to further enhance local capacity to strengthen the integration of fisheries and habitat management;
 - Review stakeholder involvement in project activities and take action where necessary to ensure appropriate levels of government, Civil Society Organization (CSO), community, and private sector engagement;
 - Ensure compatibility between the recommendations for action at the fisheries *refugia* site with other local level activities for fisheries and coastal habitat management;
 - Review and evaluate, at the site level, progress in implementation of the project, and provide guidance for improvement to the Fisheries *Refugia* Management Team and National Fisheries *Refugia* ;
 - Approve quarterly progress reports for transmission to the meetings of the National Fisheries *Refugia* ;
 - Facilitate the approval and implementation by the competent municipal authority, management plans and courses of action developed during the course of project execution;
 - Assist the Fisheries *Refugia* Management Team in leveraging required project co-financing and additional funds that may be required from time to time;
 - Work with the Fisheries *Refugia* Management Team in identifying best practices for

replication and scaling-up as well as the mainstreaming of the fisheries *refugia* approaches at the local level; and

- Agree at their first meeting:
 - a) the membership, meeting arrangements, and terms of reference of the committee
 - b) such standing orders and manner of conducting business as may be considered necessary by the committee
- 4) After the presentation and review of Term of Reference for the Refugia Site Management Committee, it was agreed that the team will be sending letter to the different agencies listed in the membership of the Committee to nominate member as well as alternate member to be included in the Draft Executive Order to be reviewed and signed by the Municipal Mayor. We also informed them that a formal meeting will be conducted once the Executive Order was signed by the Municipal Mayor.
- 5) The meeting ended with the closing remarks from Mr. Noel Barut, Chief Technical Adviser of the Refugia Project, he gave thanks to the participants for their support and active participation during the meeting.

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