

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

REPORT

INITIAL ICHTHYOPLANKTON SURVEY IN SELECTEDC AREAS OF MASINLOC BAY

ZAMBALES, PHILIPPINES 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2017

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Development Center Environment

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I. Highlights of Activities:

- 1) A courtesy visit was conducted to the Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) Office, the Team meet Ms. Olive Gregorio of CENRO and inform her that the Team will be conducting Initial Hydrobiological survey which includes collection of various water parameters, plankton (phytoplankton and zooplankton), and ichthyoplankton samples. The objective of this research was to use the fish eggs and larvae as initial data for the Establishment and Operation Fisheries Refugia in Masinloc, Zambales.
- 2) Horizontal towing of Bongo nets (50 cm diameter, 2.5 m length and 300 μ m mesh size) in the surface water was done for 10 minutes on board the vessel at a possible speed of about 2-3 knots in each station to collect ichthyoplankton samples for estimates of the abundance and distribution of fish eggs and larvae.
- 3) Vertical tow of phytoplankton (30 cm diameter, 1m length and 20 μ m mesh size) and zooplankton (30 cm diameter, 1m length and 64 μ m mesh size) nets from near bottom up to the surface to ensure that planktons within the water column was well represented.
 - 1. Echo sounder was also used to determine the depth of every station.
 - 2. Collected sediment samples in every station using sediment corer.

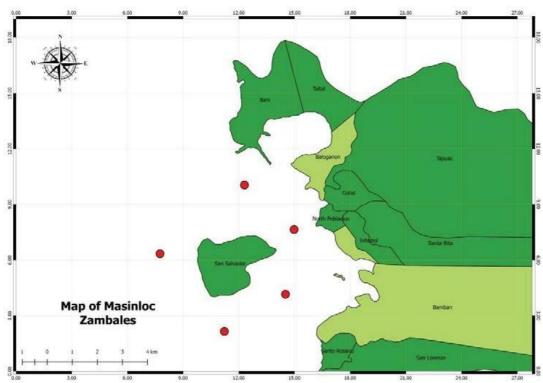
II. Laboratory work:

4) Analyses of various samples (water, ichthyoplankton and plankton samples) are on-going process in the laboratory. Species composition of ichthyo- and plankton assemblages will be microscopically analyzed. The chlorophyll and nutrient contents of the water samples are still being analyzed by chemical titration with spectrophotometer.

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Actual survey at Masinloc Bay, Masinloc Zambales



Map of Masinloc, Zambales with sampling stations