



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

REPORT

**FISHERIES REFUGIA SITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING:
MASINLOC SITE**

**ZAMBALES, PHILIPPINES
12 MAY 2021**

Prepared by
**NATIONAL FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
PHILIPPINES**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**



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HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES:

- The Meeting started with the usual preliminaries. After the acknowledgement and introduction of participants, the overview of the meeting was discussed briefly. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex A.

Project Overview and *Refugia* Concept

- Mr. Noel Barut, Technical Advisor of the Project provided the overview of the project for the benefit of the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) Members (Local Legislative Body) who attended the meeting for the first time. He acknowledged the members of the Site Committee, who were appointed through an Executive Order signed by Mayor Arsenia J. Lim. A copy of the EO/TOR is attached as Annex B.
- He explained that the project is a follow through initiative of the first project entitled "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand" implemented from 2004 to 2009. He added that the current project is the implementation of the fisheries component of the South China Sea Strategic Action Plan (SCS SAP), and that the implementation of the habitat component is underway.
- He informed the meeting that the project is being implemented in the six countries in Southeast Asia bordering the South China Sea namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Masinloc is among the three priority fisheries *refugia* sites in the Philippines along with Coron, Palawan and Bolinao, Pangasinan. The sites were selected based from the data and information gathered and the outcomes of country consultations on the identification of fisheries *refugia* during the 1st Phase of the Project.
- Mr. Barut also explained the fisheries *refugia* concept which focuses on the specific habitat and its critical significance to the critical stages in the life-cycle of the fish species to be managed. He emphasized that the protection and management efforts of fisheries *refugia* looks into the integration of habitat and fisheries management, and not just to declare close fishing either temporally or spatially in a particular fishing ground.

1. Project Updates 2017-2020

1.1. Mr. Barut summarized the project activities that were conducted since its inception in 2017, such as:

- Masinloc Site Level Workshop – Masinloc Municipal Convention Hall, 27 March 2017
- Initial Meeting of the *Refugia* Site Management Committee – DFARM and Park Resort, 13 August 2019
- Fisheries *Refugia* Stakeholder's Consultation Workshop – DFARM and Park Resort, 14-16 August 2019
- Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Training – Azzurro Hotel, 4-8 November 2019; and
- Training on Reproductive Biology Sampling for Priority Species – Bakasyunan Resort, 10-13 November 2020.

1.2. The Site Committee was informed that during the August 13, 2019 Meeting, the top three priority species for Masinloc *refugia* site were identified, namely:

- *Auxis thazard* (Tulingan)
- *Pterocaesio tessellata* (Terong)
- *Sardinella fimbriata* (Bilis)

2. Initial Results of Fisheries Landing Survey (2018-2019)

2.1. The results of the baseline fisheries data collected by the project using NSAP sampling protocol was presented. Production estimates, catch composition per gear, seasonality of species per gear and relative abundance of major species in Masinloc was also presented and briefly discussed. The Site Committee noted the top species caught in Masinloc are as follows:

- *Thunnus albacares* (Piyok)
- *Katsuwonus pelamis* (Gulyasan)
- *Decapterus macarellus* (Galunggong)
- *Euthynnus affinis* (Tulingan)
- *Auxis thazard* (Bilogan)
- *Sardinella gibbosa* (Tamban)
- *Pterocaesio tessellate* (Terong)
- *Sphyrnaena obtusata* (Baracuda)
- *Rastrelliger faughni* (Alumahan)

3. Validation of the Fisheries Profile and Boundary Delineation and Threats of Fisheries Refugia Site in Masinloc

3.1. Ms. Eunice Gasmin facilitated the discussions on the validation of the fisheries profile initially gathered. Among the information presented include demographics, sources of livelihood, registered fisherfolk, number of registered vessels and gears, identified priority species and status of important habitats such as seagrass, mangroves and corals based on 2010-2012 ICRMP, and the boundary delineation map

3.2. During the open forum, the following inputs and comments were gathered from the Site Committee on the fisheries profile and the boundary delineation for the *refugia* sites:

- a. On other sources of livelihood, mining was replaced by industry (coal plant)
- b. On the clarification raised by the Philippine Coast Guard on the 127 registered fishing vessels, it was clarified that the figure only pertains to the number of fishing vessels operating in the *refugia* site. PCG informed that currently, a total of 147 motor bancas are operating in Masinloc
- c. On the status of resources, the Site Committee suggested to inquire from MENRO if there is an updated resource assessment.
- d. The Site Committee also recommended for the project team to confirm with MENRO and MAO the boundary delineation and if the priority species should be changed or retained.
- e. On the ordinances related to environment and fisheries management, the SB Chairman for Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries agreed to provide information on ordinances passed in 2019-2020.
- f. On the issues and threats, it was clarified that dynamite fishing is already not an issue, while the item on industrial waste was qualified as illegal waste disposal of fish cages, dredger and barge.
- g. The term poverty was revised as "Low and unsustainable incomes."

4. Project Next Steps and Needed Assistance from LGU

4.1. After the plenary session, the forthcoming activities of the project along with the needed actions from the Site Com were discussed:

- a. **Preparation of Fisheries Refugia Management Plan** – the Site Com was informed that management plans will be formulated for all the fisheries *refugia* sites using an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management through the local participatory arrangement based on the outline presented before by the National Project Coordinator. To finalize the document, the Site Com recommended for the project team to work closely with MENRO and MAO.
- b. **Establishment of Refugia Management Teams and Site Based Volunteers** – to implement the activities of the project related to law enforcement, information dissemination and proposal writing for possible project proposal to be submitted to funding or donor agencies for livelihood project among others, a *Refugia* Management Teams and Site Based Volunteers will be identified.

The Site Com recommended the focal offices for the identification of volunteers and training participants:

<i>Team</i>	<i>Focal Office</i>
<i>Enforcement Team</i>	<i>Barangay (Bantay Dagat),</i>
<i>Public Education Team</i>	<i>MAO, MENRO</i>
<i>Livelihood Team (Proposal Making)</i>	<i>MENRO, MAO, MPDC, GAD and DRRM), Municipal Cooperative Development Office, PESO</i>

- c. **Review of fisheries and environmental laws**- a Fisheries Law Specialist will be hired by the project to assist in reforming national policy, legal and planning frameworks for demarcating boundaries and managing *refugia*. The Site Com, particularly the SB Chairman on Fisheries and SB Chairman on Environment agreed to assist by providing the ordinances related to environment and fisheries that have been approved by the Sangguniang Bayan. The National Project Coordinator has initially compiled National laws, local ordinances, proclamation, etc. related to fisheries management, and marine protected areas.
- d. **Information Education and Communication Materials** – on the inquiry on their recommended IEC materials to strengthen awareness of the community about the fisheries *refugia*, the Site Com suggested to have a website or a Facebook page where they can easily access the information. MENRO on the other hand, suggested for an audio-visual about the *refugia* initiative.

5. Other Matters/Next Steps

- 5.1. For the next steps, the Site Com recommended for the project to have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the LGU of Masinloc to facilitate the implementation of future project activities. The national Project Coordinator shall draft the MOA.
- 5.2. On the finalization of priority species for Masinloc, a Focus Group Discussion has been proposed by MENRO, considering the results from the larval and fish catch survey. The results will be the basis for the amendment of the local ordinance or a new local ordinance will be passed as appropriate by the Sanggunian Bayan of Masinloc.

FISHERIES REFUGIA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – Masinloc Site**Dawal Beach Resort****May 12, 2021****Program of Activities**

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Preliminaries
	Project Overview and <i>Refugia</i> Concept
	Project Updates 2017-2020
	Initial Results of Fisheries Landing Survey (2018-2019)
	Validation of Fisheries Profile and Boundary Delineation and Threats of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Site in Masinloc
	Other Matters and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Preparation and identification of focal persons for the preparation of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Management Plan and</i> - <i>Establishment of <i>Refugia</i> Management Teams and Site Based Volunteers</i> - <i>Capacity Building Activities (proposal making)</i> - <i>Review of fisheries and environmental laws</i>
	Synthesis
12:00 NN	- LUNCH -
1:00 PM	Adjournment

FISHERIES REFUGIA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – Masinloc Site
Dawal Beach Resort
May 12, 2021

Attendance

NO	NAME	SEX	DESIGNATION/AGENCY	CONTACT NUMBER
1.	PO1 JEFFREY DOCTOR	M	CHIEF, PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD	09125105103
2.	SN2 JOHN MARK DAZA	M	PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD	09178232726
3.	SAM B. ECLARINAL	M	LGU - MASINLOC	09981664171
4.	MARY JUNE DELOS REYES	F	BFAR	09303903202
5.	KAREN TOLEDO	F	TECHNICAL ENUMERATOR	09076715686
6.	SORAYDA E. SISON	F	LGU – SB MEMBER	09308222594
7.	ARNEL P. AQUINO	M	LGU - SB MEMBER	09304426989
8.	NORMAN C. ACIERTO	M	LGU – SB MEMBER	09090579425
9.	VIRGILIO E. EBARIO	M	LGU – SB MEMBER	09985580043
10.	JOEL BUTULAN	M	CSO	09285622870
11.	ARMAND MORALES	M	TECHNICAL ENUMERATOR	09396311605
12.	LEVY P. EDUVALAR	M	SK PRESIDENT	09985520046
13.	GIGI E. JUAREZ	F	LGU – SB MEMBER	09105876600
14.	CARANAY CHELZY JESITA	F	FISHERFOLK	-
15.	JOMAR TOLEDO	M	FISHERFOLK	-
16.	JOMARIE CARANAY	M	FISHERFOLK	-
17.	RUDY CARANAY	M	FISHERFOLK	-
18.	OMING BARRIENTOS	M	FISHERFOLK	-
19.	BEN ESTAMOS	M	FISHERFOLK	-
20.	ISRAEL RACCA	M	FISHERFOLK	-
21.	JANET TOLEDO	F	FISHERFOLK	-
22.	LEONALDO BENDANG	M	FISHERFOLK	-
23.	JO ANN L. DELLER	F	FISHERFOLK	-
24.	ROGAP AQUINO	M	FISHERFOLK	-
25.	AMBOY MEDINA	M	FISHERFOLK	-

FISHERIES REFUGIA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – Masinloc Site
Dawal Beach Resort
May 12, 2021

Meeting Minutes
MEMBERS

Present:

Local Government Unit (LGU)	
Municipal Mayor	Hon. Mayor Arsenia J. Lim (Chairperson) Via Zoom
Vice Mayor	Hon. Pedro O. Enciso (Vice Chairperson)
SB Chair - Agriculture and Fisheries	Hon. Arnel Aquino (Member)
SB Chair - Environment	Hon. Norman Acierto (Member)
SB Chair – Women Sector	Sorayda Sison (Member)
SB Chair – Women Sector	Gigi E. Juarez (Member)
Sanggunian Kabataan (SK)	Hon Levi Eduvala (Member)
Federation President (Youth Sector)	
Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO)	Ms. Olivia Gregorio (Member) via Zoom
BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office (PFO)	represented by Ms. Mary Jane delos Reyes
Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)	PO1 Jeffrey Doctor (Member)
People’s Organization (PO)	Mr. Joel Butulan (Member)

Absent:

SB Chair – Association of Barangay Chairman (ABC)	Hon Christian Piere Nacin (Member)
Municipal Agriculture Office	MS. Joanne N. Rosete (Member)
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO-DENR)	Mr. Bernado Montalla (member)
Academe Representative	Mr. Zaldy Elaugos (Member)
Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management (MDRRM) Focal Point	Mr. Juliano Ebue, Jr. (Member)
Municipal Gender and Development (GAD) – Focal Point	Donnah Feline Port (Member)
Philippine National Police (Maritime)	Chief PNP-Maritime
MPA Network Representative	Mr. Richard G. Pascual (Member)
Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC)	Mr. Oscar Fontillas (Member)
National Technical Coordinator/Consultant	Mr. Noel C. Barut
Independent Consultant	Ms. Eunice A. Gasmin

Secretaria:

Science Research Specialist 1	Ms. Raziel Ares
Science Research Analyst	Ms. Lilibeth C. Abina

ANNEX B



Republic of the Philippines
 PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES
 MUNICIPALITY OF MASINLOC

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11 , SERIES OF 2019

AN ORDER REORGANIZING THE REFUGIA SITE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MASINLOC, ZAMBALES.

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution, Article XII Section 2 (pa.2) states that “the state shall protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic water, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens”

WHEREAS, the General Welfare clause of the 1991 Local Government Code provides for the exercise of powers by local government units (LGUs) in order to enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology and promote full employment among their residents;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8550, known as The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Chapter 1 Section 2, declares as the policy of the state, “to achieve food security as the overriding consideration in the utilization, management, development conservation and protection of fishery resources in order to provide the food needs of the population. A flexible policy towards the attainment of food security shall be adopted in response to changes in demographic trends for fish, emerging trends in the trade of fish and other aquatic products in domestic and international markets, and the law of supply and demand”;

WHEREAS, the fisheries habitat components of the United Nation Environment Programmed-Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) South China Sea project focus on the critical role that the habitats such as mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, and wetland play in sustaining fisheries production in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand.

WHEREAS, to establish a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea (west Philippine Sea) and Gulf of Thailand in the context of the UNEP/GEF Project, the Municipality of Masinloc, Zambales was identified to be provided with technical interventions, monitoring and evaluation support by the Bureau of Fisheries.

WHEREAS, LGU Masinloc recognizes the very objective of the Refugia Project of Protecting the environmental habitat of marine life while sustaining the fisheries industry which ensures the livelihood of the locality’s fisherfolks;

WHEREAS, in order to secure the execution of the Refugia Project there is an urgent need to organize the Refugia Site Management Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, I ARSENIA J. LIM, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Masinloc, Zambales, by virtue of powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

I. ORGANIZATION COMPOSITION

The Refugia Site Management Committee shall be organized and be composed of the following:

Chairperson: Hon. ARSENIA J. LIM – *Municipal Mayor*

Vice-Chairperson: Hon. PEDRO O. ENCISO – *Municipal Vice-Mayor*

Members:

Hon. ARNEL AQUINO – *SB Member, Agriculture & Fisheries*

Hon. NORMAN ACIERTO – *SB Member, Environment*

Hon. CHRISTIAN PIERCE NACIN – *Association of Barangay Captains (ABC)*

Hon. SORAYDA. SISON - *SB Member, Women Sector*

Hon. GIGI E. EJANDA - *SB Member, Women Sector*

Hon. LEVI EDUVALA - *SK Federation President*

Ms. JOANNE N. ROSETE – *Municipal Agriculture Office Representative*

Ms. OLIVIA GREGORIO – *Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office*

Mr. BERNARDO MONTALLA – *Community Environment and Natural Resources Office*

Mr. NEIL ENCINARES – *Provincial Fisheries Officer*

CPO FELIX RIZALDY SARDAN – *Chief of Philippine Coast Guard*

PMAJ VIRGILIO M. CARODAN – *Chief of PNP Maritime*

Mr. JOEL BUTULAN – *People's Organization Representative*

Mr. OSCAR FONTILLAS – *MFARMC Representative*

Mr. ZALDY ELAUGOS – *Academe Member*

Mr. RICHARD G. PASCUAL – *MPA Network Representative*

Mr. JULIANO EBUE, JR. – *Focal Point, MDRRM*

Ms. DONNAH FELLINE PORTO – *Focal Point, GAD*

In addition, alternate members shall be designed in order to ensure the immediate and continuous execution of refugia activities as follows:

Alternate Chairman: Municipal Vice mayor

Alternate Vice-Chairman: SBM Chairman, Committee on Environment

Alternate Members:

In cases wherein principal members and/or alternate members be subjected to personnel reassignment the newly assigned personnel will automatically be the principal member and/or alternate member as the case may be.

II. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS:

1. Receive, review and approve reports from the Fisheries Refugia Management Team regarding the outputs and outcomes of project activities;
2. Assist the Fisheries Refugia Management Team in ensuring coordination 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;

3. Review stakeholder involvement in project activities and take action where necessary to ensure the engagement of appropriate levels of government, Civil Society Organization (CSO) community, and private sector;
4. Ensure compatibility between the recommendations for action at the fisheries refugia site with other local level activities for fisheries and coastal habitat management;
5. 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 Committee;
6. Approve quarterly progress reports for transmission to the meetings of the National refugia Committee;
7. Facilitate the approval and implementation by the competent municipal authority, management plans and courses of action developed during the course of project execution;
8. Assist the Fisheries Refugia Management Team in leveraging required project co-financing and additional funds that may be required from time to time;
9. 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
10. Agree at their first meeting:
 - a) Meeting arrangements and terms of reference of the committee
 - b) Standing orders and manner of conducting business as may be considered necessary by the committee.
11. Perform other related functions.

III. MEETINGS

The RSMC shall meet on a monthly basis during the project inception period and on a quarterly basis thereafter to guide the timely execution of activities. In addition, the Chair may call for a special meeting when necessary in order to establish and operate fisheries refugia.

IV. EFFECTIVITY

The Executive Order shall take effect immediately.
Done this 11th day of October 2019 at Masinloc, Zambales.

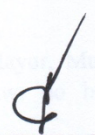

ARSENIA J. LIM
Municipal Mayor

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

