

The Official Publication of Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA Region









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BEAR - MINABOPA ...



#### ABOUT THE COVER

The cover features the accomplishments of DA-BFAR MIMAROPA highlighting success stories of our fisherfolk. It also showcases the BFAR activities such as Mangingisdang Direktor and livelihood interventions



# >>> Table of Contents

01

SUCCESS STORY: MOTIVATION AND SUPPORT: ROAD TO A NEW LIFE

03

ISARAP PROGRAM LAUNCHED: COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) AND BFAR MIMAROPA LAUNCHED INTEGRATE SUSTAINABLE ASSISTANCE RECOVERY AND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

04

READ-MIMARODA WELCOMES REGIONAL FISHERFOLK DIRECTOR

05

- SAKAG RECEIVED 158,000 LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE
- ROMBLON WINS AT POSTER MAKING CONTEST, FOR 59TH FISH CONSERVATION WEEK

06

IEC AND ORIENTATION CARAVAN: IMPACT OF PLASTIC STRAW (TIE-TIES) TO THE PHILIPPINE SEAWEED INDUSTRY

07

DA-BFAR DISPERSE 75,500 TILAPIA FINGERLINGS IN NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO

08 09

# PHOTO CORNER

10

DA-BFAR MIMAROPA INTENSIFIES FISH SUFFICIENCY AND FOOD SAFETY EFFORTS

# >>> Table of Contents

• DA-BFAR MIMAROPA I CALAPAN CITY

 DA-BFAR MIMAROPA HOLDS MANGROVE PLANTING IN SILONAY, CALAPAN CITY

12

DA-BFAR MIMAROPA CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH

13

 EMBRACING MODERNIZATION DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MIMAROPA HOLDS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE DIGITAL SIGNATURE ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

14

 DA- BFAR MIMAROPA CONDUCTS FOUR-DAY HANDS-ON TRAINING ON FISH SMOKING TECHNOLOGY AND VALUE ADDED PRODUCT MAKING

15

 DA-BFAR MIMAROPA RELEASES 2,227 FUEL DISCOUNT CARDS FOR OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, ROMBLON AND MARINDUQUE

16

 SUCCESS STORY: A CHANGE IN FISHING PERSPECTIVE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

18

#### **NEWS BITS**

19

- PFO DISTRIBUTE LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS TO MARINDUQUE FISHERFOLK
- 59TH FISH CONSERVATION WEEK: PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### **SUCCESS STORY:**

# MOTIVATION AND SUPPORT: Road to A New Life



"Sa tulong po ng BFAR ay naging maganda ang takbo ng aming samahan. Unang una, dahil po sa pinadalang tulong ng BFAR, yung fish cage at nagkaroon po kami ng hanap-buhay, dagdag kita po sa samahan kung saan nakikinabang nito ay hindi lang mga miyembro kundi ang aming buong nasasakupan ng barangay." Dominador Conde, Samahan ng mga Mangingisda at Magsasaka Barangay Misong (SMMBM) President

The government, particularly the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, works to help those on the outskirts of society and to provide them with a means of subsistence. This is what the Samahan ng mga Mangingisda at Magsasaka ng Barangay Misong (SMMBM) at Barangay Misong Pola Oriental Mindoro, led by Association President Dominador M. Conde and Barangay Secretary Herculano A. Plaza, is appreciative for. They began their association in Sitio Lambanog Misong Pola, Oriental Mindoro, with 62 members who were experiencing an insufficient supply of bangus fingerlings due to limited garungan or milkfish fingerlings production in the area.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-MIMAROPA Region was able to make it possible by making them the beneficiary of the fish cage techno demo project consisting of one unit  $10 \text{ m} \times 10 \text{ m}$  bamboo fish cage. The project comes with bangus fingerlings and feeds. The bureau also held training to capacitate them. To date, they are now the beneficiary of the Bayanihan II- HPDE Fish Cage. The association continually indulges in bangus aquaculture.

Dominador Conde, the association's president, was delighted about the high quality of bangus they had produced in just four months, with the texture, size, and taste that came because of their careful handling. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources didn't stop there, the bureau constantly supports and monitors them. With their hard effort and the aid of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, they were able to collect 4,104 kilograms of bangus on December 14, 2021, netting them PHP 582,360.00.

They were able to raise a total of PHP 195,360,00 as start-up capital for their association, and many people were encouraged to produce and care for bangus as a source of income. Local markets and adjacent municipalities are currently their target markets.

"Sa tulong po ng BFAR ay naging maganda ang takbo ng aming samahan. Unang una, dahil po sa pinadalang tulong ng BFAR, yung fish cage at nagkaroon po kami ng hanap-buhay, dagdag kita po sa samahan na kung saan ang nakikinabang nito ay hindi lang mga miyembro kundi ang aming buong nasasakupan ng barangay." Association President, Dominador said.











Barangay Secretary Herculano Plaza was also proud that the municipal officials designated their area as the municipality's Aqua Marine Culture, which provided the significant potential for culture and produced bangus that helped them raise income and provide economic options, particularly for the local fishermen.

Today, the Samahan ng mga Mangingisda at Magsasaka ng Barangay Misong (SMMBM) is striving to obtain government guidance for the future development of fish production in the area. Barangay Secretary Herculano Plaza believes that they should stay optimistic in their thoughts and views to develop their association with the continued support of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-MIMAROPA Region.

They scheduled a clean-up drive around the mangrove area or bakawan and assigned Bantay Kalikasan to maintain the area as a mark of their gratitude. They now want to acquire more fish cages to persuade more investors to engage in fish cage production.

"Pinipilit naming ipaunlad ito para ang lahat ay makinabang. Kaya po kami nagpapasalamat sa BFAR sa pangunguna po ni Director Elizer Salilig na yung eagerness po namin na madagdagan, mabigyan pa ng tulong ay sana po ay matupad." Barangay Secretary Herculano Plaza said.

The Samahan ng mga Mangingisda at Magsasaka ng Barangay Misong is a demonstration that, with their right eagerness and the right support from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, every action is given importance and appreciation for the betterment of each fisherfolk's living and working conditions.





## ISARAP PROGRAM LAUNCHED:

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) AND DA-BFAR MIMAROPA LAUNCHED INTEGRATED, SUSTAINABLE, ASSISTANCE, RECOVERY AND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines, April 22, 2022 - To better bring government services to the people, the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) MIMAROPA launched the Integrated, Sustainable, Assistance, Recovery and Advancement Program (ISARAP) which aims to aims to converge the government agencies in response to the directives of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to implement and inform the public about the government's Programs, Policies, Accomplishments, and most importantly the implementation of the continuing projects and programs of the administration.

In line with this, BFAR MIMAROPA distributed the following assistance programs in coordination with other different agencies as follows:

- provided 20-footer boats and a 13-HP marine engine to the fisherfolks of Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Baco, Calapan, Naujan, Victoria, Socorro, Pola, Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud, Bongabong, Roxas, and Bulalazao, Oriental Mindoro
- awarded Tilapia Fingerlings to the fisherfolk of Victoria Oriental Mindoro
- gave Fish Corral to one fisherfolk association of San Iose, Occidental Mindoro
- provided Post-Harvest Equipment to the women's group of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro
- awarded Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) or Payao to the fisherfolks of Odiongan, Romblon
- provided two (2) units of Solar Seaweed Dryers fisherfolk associations from Looc and Sta. Fe Romblon
- provided tilapia fingerlings to the Local Government Unit-Municipal Agriculture's Office of Odiongan Romblon.

Mr. Gerald Pacanan, Regional Director of DPWH (Department of Works and Highways) ended the program with his speech saying, "ISARAP is a program that unifies different government agencies to consistently deliver quality services that President Rodrigo R. Duterte initiated." He also expressed his value for the efforts and projects of every government agency.



"It is a program that brings the government to the people". -Secretary Leoncio B. Evasco Jr., Presidential Adviser for Streamlining of Government Process



According to Cooperative Development Undersecretary Joseph B. Encabo, the activity was carried out in accordance with President Rodrigo Duterte's directive to provide all-out government services to the people until the end of his term.



# DA-BFAR MIMAROPA WELCOMES REGIONAL FISHERFOLK DIRECTOR FOR 2022



With the theme Mangingisdang Direktor Para Sa Mas Matatag Na Balikatan, DA-BFAR MIMAROPA Region held the Installation and Oath Taking of the new Regional Fisherfolk Director last May 2, 2022, at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office.

Ms. Conchita Roldan, the new Fisherfolk Director, was known because of her invaluable contribution to the fishery sector in their municipality and was recognized by various awarding bodies. Ms. Roldan then expressed her thanks and excitement for the opportunity to serve the bureau and the fisherfolks.

BFAR MIMAROPA Regional head officials led by Regional Director Elizer S. Salilig and Assistant Regional Director Roberto R. Abrera, expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the fisherfolk leaders and members present on-site and virtually, acknowledging them as the real boss of the bureau.

The Fisherfolk Director Program was made possible through the Department of Agriculture Special Order No. 88 series of 2005 for a strengthened partnership in Fisheries Management.







#### SAMAHAN NG KALAPENYONG MANGINGISDA RECEIVED 158,000 LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE

September 29, 2022 - The Samahan ng Kalapenyong Mangingisda (SAKAG) received 158,000 livelihood assistance under the Technology Demonstration Project Inputs of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA Region at barangay Masipit, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro,

Included in the livelihood assistance were 5.000 milkfish fingerlings and 114 sacks of fish feed, Mr. Larry Rologue, SAKAG Baruyan Chapter President, received the said inclusions



#### DA-BFAR MIMAROPA NAMES 59TH FISH CON POSTER MAKING CONTEST WINNERS

In line with the observance of 59th Fish Conservation Week, DA-BFAR MIMAROPA hosted a poster-making contest last September 12-16, 2022.

Jerry Guro, a resident of Odiongan, Romblon, won the grand prize of five thousand pesos (P 5.000.00) and a certificate of recognition, Mr. Guro's masterpiece titled "Liwanag para sa Magandang Bukas" reflects the message saying that with the help of BFAR, a prosperous future will be attained. The poster also shows the unity of Filipino families to protect and cultivate the abundant production of aquatic resources.

The following are the winners of the said event: · First Place - Ms. Marie Cela S. Fontejon, from

- Odiongan, Romblon · Second Place - Mr. Ihav Mark Amparo, from
- Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro
- Third Place Ms. Ana Rose Villareal, from Puerto Princesa City, Palawan



The first placer received 3000 pesos, the second placer received 2000, and 1000 pesos to the third placer.

Other participants received 500 pesos as a consolation prize: Alfredo Chicano, Menard Ferasiton, Charlean Iov Abrea, and Ievens Falcan.

# IEC AND ORIENTATION CARAVAN: IMPACT OF PLASTIC STRAW (TIE-TIES) TO THE PHILIPPINE SEAWEED INDUSTRY

The BFAR Team conducted an IEC and Orientation Caravan on the "Impact of Plastic Straw (tie-ties) to the Philippine Seaweed Industry", held on October 05 - 06, 2022 at the Green Island, Tumarbong, Roxas, Palawan.

The 10-hectare size island was hardly hit by Super Typhono Odette last year, where the almost 500 households and about 2,500 populace, make a living in the vast marine area, primarily devoted to seaweed farming.

The intent and purpose of the activity is to make the seaweed farmers aware of the importance of our raw dried seaweeds (RDS) devoid of any impurity, to remain as pure and naturally produced, that would be acceptable in the world market, for food, pharmaceutical and in industrial applications.

Commercially-available replacement for plastic straw, the "cotton-made twine" have been shared to farmers to field test for themselves, the viability of the same as an alternate tying material for seaweed propagules. Likewise, a "Lecture on Financial Literacy" was provided to more than 100 seaweed farmers and cooperative members, in attendance during the event.

The activity was initiated by the BFAR CO NCU of the Seawed Development Program Coordinator Demosthenes Togonon, in coordination with the BFAR-MIMAROPA and the LGU of Roxas, Palawan. Mayor Dennis Sabando and Board Member Maria Angela Sabando and graced the activity on the island.







# DA-BFAR DISPERSE 75,500 TILAPIA FINGERLINGS IN NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO

A fish seeding activity initiated by Ms. Mercilyn V Hj Rebuan under the supervision of Regional Director Elizer S. Salilig, MFT, wherein 75,500 tilapia fingerlings dispersed to Barangay Tagumpay, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, as part of intensified Balik Sigla sa llog at Lawa (BASIL) program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource MIMAROPA Region thru Freshwater Technology Station, was conducted last September 13, 2022.

Project BASIL (Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa) aims to seed fingerlings of indigenous and noninvasive fish species over the next five years to the country's major river basins and lakes.

The National Inland Fisheries Enhancement Program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), an agency under the Department of Agriculture, was designed to provide Filipinos greater access to available food and address poverty and hunger in the countryside.











# PHOTOCORNER





# CAMARADERIE & FELLOWSHIP DAY



#### DA-BFAR MIMAROPA INTENSIFIES FISH SUFFICIENCY AND FOOD SAFETY EFFORTS

Aiming for a food-secure and resilient Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk, the theme of the 59th Fish Conservation Week slated on September 12-16, 2022 of the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), BFAR MIMAROPA intensifies fish sufficiency and food safety efforts.

The Bureau laid out its catch-up plan for the fisheries sector to boost local production, minimize the need for fish importation this year, and provide training and services to support the agency's goal to turn it into reality. Some of the conducted programs are simultaneous Information, Education, and Communication Campaign in different MIMAROPA provinces, Coastal Clean Up drive, mangrove planting, fish seeding, and livelihood distribution.

DA-BFAR MIMAROPA is one with the nation in securing a whole-of-nation approach towards achieving harmony and unity among Philippine maritime stakeholders in raising national consciousness on various fisheries issues and concerns.

The country aims for a 'food secure and resilient Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk,' which is the theme of the 59th 'Fish Con' celebration of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.







## **DID YOU KNOW?**

MIMAROPA has been the source of tuna exports to Japan, Korca, Australia, and some European countries. An immense unmber of catches in terms of metric tons has been discovered in Palawan and Occidental Mindoro. The species that are usually caught are Oceanic Tuna such as Skip Jack Tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis), Albacore Tuna (Thunnus Alalunga), Yellowin Tuna (Thunnus Alabacores), and Big-eye Tuna (Thunnus obesos) and Netric Tuna like Frigate Tuna (Austrach, Bullet Tuna (Austrach, Bullet Tuna (Austrach, and eastern Luttle Tuna (Euthymus affinis), and Longala Tuna (Thunnus tongol).

# DA-BFAR MIMAROPA HOLDS MANGROVE PLANTING IN SILONAY, CALAPAN CITY

September 15, 2022 - The DA-BFAR MIMAROPA Region spearheaded the mangrove planting activity at Brgy. Silonay, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, as part of the 59th Fish Conservation Week.

With the theme Pagkain ng Bansa Siguruhin, Likas-kayang Produksyon ng Isda Isulong Natin, barangay officials and residents from Silonav, Calapan City, and RFAR representatives planted 300 mangrove propagules. Fifteen (15) barangay officials and residents from Silonay, Calapan City, together with (5) five BFAR MIMAROPA representatives Senior Aquaculturist, Mr. Josehari R. Sarabia, Fishing Regulations Officer III, Ms. Rosalie R. Masinas, and staffs from the Production and Support Services Division headed by Assistant Regional Director, Roberto R. Abrera, and Calapan City Administrator, Mr. Raymond Al Ussam who guided the residents of Sitio Punduhan, barangay Silonay, Calapan City initiated the said activity.











#### DA-BFAR MIMAROPA CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH

BFAR-MIMAROPA Region recognized the contribution of every woman during the celebration of Women's Month with the theme, "Agenda ng Kababaihan, Tungo sa Kaunlaran" held last March 8, 2022, at the BFAR-MIMAROPA Regional Office Conference Hall, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

The activity highlights the importance of the role of every woman in the community and reiterates how to cope with mental health issues, especially during these times of uncertainty.

Regional Director Elizer S. Salilig, MFT also presented his support and acknowledged that every woman in the organization has a role to play and equality must be demonstrated. It was followed by a series of discussions given by Ms. Shaula Gail C. De Ocampo, M.D., Mental Health Coordinator of the City Health and Sanitation Department, She emphasized the different stressors that cause mental health issues and discuss the proper medication and that psychosocial support from the family and loved ones were important. Afterward is the empowerment message from Ms. Loida "Lola" O. Axe, Chairperson of SALUMAFCO and Head of Regional Advisory Council of the Regional Maritime IInit 4B

This event was made possible through the efforts of the Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Person and Chief of the Administrative and Finance Division, Ms. Hope J. Relayson who also promotes women empowerment and gender equality in the office.

The Women's Month Celebration is an avenue for celebrating women's accomplishments and discussing current and developing women's empowerment and gender equality topics, concerns, difficulties, and commitments.









## EMBRACING MODERNIZATION:

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MIMAROPA HOLDS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE DIGITAL SIGNATURE OR GIENTATION AND TRAINING

Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) conducted an Orientation and Training on the Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI) last September 14, 2022, held at BFAR MIMAROPA Regional Office, Guinobatan, Calapan City, Oriental Mindron.

Since electronic documents and electronic signatures are now recognized in the Philippines by the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000 (E-Commerce Act), which specifies that an "electronic Signature on an electronic document shall be equivalent to the signature of a person on a written document", now is the perfect time to learn how to use E-signatures.

The Electronic Commerce Act of 2000 emphasizes the crucial role of information and communications technology in nation-building. It aims to use electronic technology to facilitate domestic and international dealings. transactions, and contracts, to recognize the authenticity and reliability of electronic messages or electronic documents related to such activities, and to promote the usage of electronic government in and public transactions

Electronic signatures are the equivalent of handwritten signatures, and electronic documents are the legal equivalent of paper documents.

Engr. Nordy A. Tabo, Provincial Officer of DICT Oriental Mindoro, Ms. Hope J. Relayson, Chief of Administrative and Finance Division, and BFAR MIMAROPA employees were also present at the training.



#### DA- BFAR MIMAROPA CONDUCTS FOUR-DAY HANDS-ON TRAINING ON FISH SMOKING TECHNOLOGY AND VALUE ADDED PRODUCT MAKING

DA-BFAR MIMAROPA conducted four-day Hands-On Training on Fish Smoking Technology and Value-Added Products Making last October 4-5, 2022, at Brgy. Daykitin Buenavista and October 6-7, 2022 at Brgy. Argao Mogpog Marinduque.

Said program aims to provide services and training for the fisherfolks' alternative livelihood not only to alleviate poverty but to maintain food safety and utilize fishery products while targeting to widen the knowledge of fisherfolks on different processes involved in processing fishery products.

Provincial Fisheries Office Marinduque awarded brand new chest freezers and smokehouses to twenty-five (25) women of each barangay who was luckily selected to join free training conducted by BFAR.

Said event training encouraged the participants to start producing more quality fishery products using the given machines.











# DA-BFAR MIMAROPA RELEASES 2,227 FUEL DISCOUNT CARDS FOR OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, ROMBLON AND MARINDUQUE

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA Region, under Fuel Discount for Farmers and Fisherfolk (FDFF) program, distributed 1,185 Fuel Subsidy Cards in Romblon, 696 Fuel Subsidy Cards in Occidental Mindoro last August 24-25, 2022 and September 13-15, 2022.

Fuel Discount Program aims to provide fuel discounts to farmers and fisherfolk who own agricultural or fishery machinery. Farmers and fisherfolk can claim Fuel Discount Cards (FDCs) issued by the Development Bank of the Philippines. Regional Field Offices of the DA-BFAR will distribute FDCs to eligible beneficiaries. Finally, the recipients can present their FDCs to the contracted oil companies or gas stations and claim a maximum P3.000 fuel discount.











#### SUCCESS STORY:

# A CHANGE IN FISHING PERSPECTIVE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



"Pag may suporta ang gobyerno, ang mga mamamayan ay tuluy-tuloy na aasenso" Kagawad Ronillo Rolloque, the president of the Samahan ng mga Mangingisda ng Gaspar Island in Marinduque founded 2015.

PHOTO: Samahan ng mga Mangingisda ng Gaspar Island sun drying seaweed

As a result of its ongoing effort and support, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources continues to strengthen and provide programs for the fishing industry. Among those who got it was Kagawad Ronillo Rolloque of Gaspar Island Marinduque. Their island has 97 households and 107 families, with 80 percent of the people being fishermen. Kuya Ronillo then stated that he was one of those participating in illegal fishing methods on the island and that cultured seaweeds were not something he was interested in before. But, due in large part to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' assistance, they were able to maintain their livelihood through the use of the gill nets, marine plywoods, machines engines, nails, and paints that were provided by the Bureau for their hoats.

There were also lectures on illegal fishing which cause Kuya Ronillo to be aware of the harm that illegal fishing methods may cause to our ecosystems, especially our seas. This sight moved him to become the President of the Samahan ng mga Mangingisda ng Gaspar Island, which was also organized by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in 2015 to further educate his fellow fishermen about the dangers and damage it can do. "Pinilit kong baguhin ang maling sistema ng panghuhuli ng isda sapagkat ako ay naniniwala na ang masunod na henerasyon ang dapat makinabang dito", he strongly added. For him, what they are doing now is a preparation for the lives of the next generation.

His support for this landed him in a situation where his own parents wanted him to stop, "Sa ngayon po ay maraming mga pagsubok ang dumaan sa akin, pero ito po ay ipinagpatuloy ko, hinikayat ako ng mga magulang ko na titgil na, subalit sinabi ko po sa kanila na kung ako po ay matigil ay sino ang magawa nito?" Despite the unpleasant circumstances, he was able to educate other fishermen about the dangers of unlawful fishing. As a result, these fisherman were finally assigned as the island's barangay tanod and bantay-dagat organized together with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources that has been their partner in developing and successfully caring for the oceans, as well as practicing sustainable fishing that has generated excellent results. "Yung mga nahuhuli ay sapat na po upang matugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga taga Isla' he quoted.









The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' assistance didn't stop there; it also provided seminars on seaweed culture and a seaweed culture livelihood project under the direction of PFO Rex Gonzalez, who helped them find a market for their harvested seaweeds. Many were opt to cultivate since they were able to harvest a large quantity seaweeds; ranging from a 100 to 500 hundred kilos per harvest. It grew from 10 farmers farming seaweeds to 30 on the island and 60-70 on the mainland. This earned them between 30,000 to 50,000 pesos that for him was sufficient for their daily expenses. "Masaya ako na nakkita ko yung mga mangingisda dito sa aming barangay ay nagkakaroon ng extra income maliban po sa kinikita namin ay ito po ay malaking tulong na sa pag-aaral ng aming mga anak, sa mga pang-araw-aran na gastusin,

ito rin po ay bahagi ng kinita namin nitong mga bahaging ginagawa namin dito" says Kuya Ronillo. He was happy that he was not the only one who benefited from the government's assistance, but that the island residents had also benefited from it. The additional generated income allowed him and his fellow fishermen to cover their daily expenses.

Still. Kuva Ronillo and his other farmers hardwork continued on their farming watermelons, squash and corns which are ready to be harvested this May and June. The money they raise from it is for the maintenance of the farming land and for the feeding of their families. All in all, they are together working hard to success and abundance through the help of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. He can't help but express his gratitude to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. as well as PFO Joel Malabanan and Regional Director Elizer 'Toto' Salilig to their unwavering support. They appreciate the assistance they have received and hope to continue receiving it in order for Gaspar Island's many water resources to thrive. He concluded that "pag may suporta ang gobyerno ang mga mamayan ay tuloy-tuloy na aasenso". The story of Kuya Ronillo is an assurance that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is always committed to enhance the livelihood of every fisherman who contributes significantly to our fishing sector.







# **NEWS BITS**





#### LAUNCHING OF BFAR - NATIONAL MARICULTURE CENTER SATELLITE OFFICE

BFAR MIMAROPA REGION, October 26, 2022 - The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and National Mariculture Center launched NMC Satellite Office in MIMAROPA Region as a part of the BFAR Re-Organization Program by Fisheries Office Order No. 2, Series of 2015, which aims to ensure that food is available and priced for Filipinos to improve the lives of the fishing community, the NMC Satellite Office will work to establish and promote a sustainable and integrated mariculture business in the nation.

Present during the event were Dr. Jericardo S. Mondragon, RFT, MBA, NMC Head, Elizer S. Sallow MFT, BFAR-MIMAROPA Regional Director, Ms. Cristine Pine, Provincial Agriculture Officer, City Mayor Malou Flores-Morillo, Atty. Raymond Al Ussam, City Administrator, Roberto R. Abrera, MPA, BFAR-MIMAROPA Assistant Regional Director, and other BFAR Officials.

## WE ARE BUILDING OUR HOME: GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE NEW BEAR-MIMAROPA REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA Region conducted a Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the Regional Fisheries Office last April 26, 2022, at Barangay Sapul, Calanan City. Oriental Mindoro.

BEAR MIMAROPA Regional Director, Elizer S. Salliig, MFT, Assistant Regional Director, Roberto R. Abrera, MPA, Chief of the Admin and Finance Division, Hope J. Relayson, guests from Oriental Mindror Provincial Office, Calapan City Agricultures Office, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group and Department of Public works and Highways, led the said activity.

National Fisherfolk Director Antonio Dela Torre, the incoming Regional Fisherfolk Director Conchita Roldan, and other fisherfolk representatives from Oriental Mindoro were also present at the event.





# PFO DISTRIBUTE LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS TO MARINDUQUE FISHERFOLK

Various livelihood interventions were distributed in the province of Marinduque last January 22 to February 11, 2022 initiated by Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-MIMAROPA through Provincial Fisheries Office - Marinduque.

Said activity include dissemination of 15 tons of Seaweed propagules, 400 units of Multiple Hook and Line, and distribution of 3, 750,000 P. vannamei post-larvae for beneficiaries from 6 municipalities of the province.

These livelihood interventions are part of the bureau's program to support fisherfolk and aims to provide sustainable livelihood sources. BFAR is hopeful that through this activity, fish catch and income of the beneficiaries will improve and poverty will reduce within the province of Marinduque.



# 59TH FISH CONSERVATION WEEK: PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES



For the first time since the pandemic started, the 59th Fish Conservation Week were conducted face-to-face with participants from Marinduque State Gasan Campus, with the theme: "Pagkain Ng Bansa Siguruhin, Likas Kayang Produksyon Ng Isda Isulong Natin' last September 14-16 & 19, 2022 at Banuyo, Gasan, Marinduque.

Activities done during this four-day celebration are: Coastal Clean-Up, Mangrove Planting, Aqua-Scaping, Product-labeling and Post-Harvest Value-Added Product making, Poster and Slogan Making, Mr. & Ms. KaFishtahan 2022, Fishery Law Regulatory Training, Fisheries Scholar Campaign, Oath Taking O'i Newly Deputized Fish Warden and Distribution Of Fishing Gear Paraphernalia in Torrijos, Marinduque and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign participated by the fisherfolks and students of Marinduque State College.

This is the first-ever collaboration in Marinduque of the Bureau and academe to commemorate Fish Conservation Week

#### RED CROSS MIMAROPA CHAPTER: HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Philippine Red Cross Membership is a form of donation that has accident assistance benefits intended for anyone between 5-85 years old. As a member, an individual is entitled to accidental death, disablement and dismemberment, hospitalization, and burial reimbursements.

Membership fund drive program gives you access to all services of the Philippine Red Cross in times of emergencies, sickness, and disasters.

#### Member's Renefits:

- · Accidental Death, Disablement and Dismemberment
- · Burial Benefit (Accident)
- Unprovoked Murder and Assault
- · Medical Reimbursement (Accidental)
- Hospital Daily Allowance (maximum of 60 days)
- · Blood Reservation Assistance
- · Ambulance Service (due to major accidents only)

#### **"BE A RED CROSS MEMBER** AND SAVE LIVES."

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# **REGISTERED FISHERIES PROFESSIONALS 2022**

## CONGRATULATIONS!









FOR PASSING THE OCTOBER 2022 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR FISHERIES PROFESSIONALS







# 202

# ANNUAL REPORT

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA Region

# **ABOUTUS**

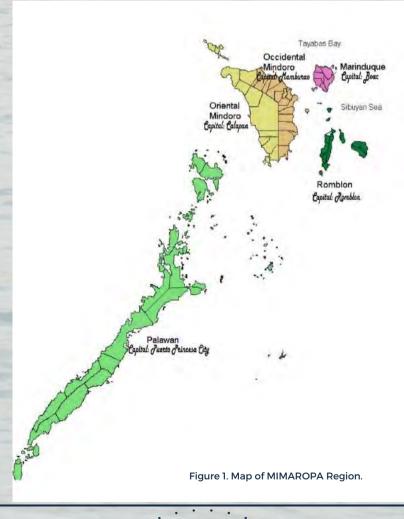
MIMAROPA Region is made up of five (5) island provinces: Occidental MIndoro, Oriental MIndoro, MArinduque, ROmblon, and PAlawan. Through the promulgation of Executive Order No. 103 on May 17, 2002, MIMAROPA was established out of the Southern former Tagalog Region. Executive Order No. 682, s. 2007, under the IRR of Republic Act No. 10879, or the Mimaropa Act. Calapan City was designated as MIMAROPA's regional center. This means that government offices would have to be set up or relocated there.

In terms of the diversity of both terrestrial and marine species, MIMAROPA is likely the most biologically significant area in the nation. There are nineteen (19) National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) sites in the region, covering a total land area of 1,614,578.63 hectares.

With a coastline that stretches for 6,428 kilometers, MIMAROPA accounts for 17.7% of the nation's whole 36,289 km of coastline. It consists of twelve (12) main islands, namely Marinduque, Mindoro and Lubang, Romblon, Tablas and Sibuyan, Palawan, Dumaran, Coron, Culion, Balabac, and Linapacan. It is one of two (2) regions that do not share a land border with another, the other being Region VIII (the Eastern Visayas).

The Coral Triangle Initiative encompasses the entire MIMAROPA region as well (Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia).

The BFAR-MIMAROPA Region has implemented fishing-related policies and initiatives in close cooperation with other government agencies, Local Government Units (LGUs), research institutions, fisherfolk organizations, state universities and colleges, and the corporate sector.



# **BFAR-MIMAROPA**

Annual Report 2022

# **HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

General Management and Supervision
Support to Operations 2
Fisheries Development Program3
Fisheries Production and Distribution4
Fisheries Regulatory & Law Enforcement Program 6
Quality Control and Inspection7
Coastal and Inland Fisheries Resource Management 8
Quarantine, Registration, and Licensing9
Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System (IMEMS) 10
Fisheries Extension and
TrainingProgram11
Other Fisheries Development
Programs13



# GENERAL MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION



Provincial Fisheries Offices

BFAR MIMAROPA established Provincial Fisheries Offices across the major island provinces to fully carry out its mandated functions and serve the fisherfolk of the MIMAROPA Region.



Operational Fisheries
Quarantine Stations are
located at all main ports
and airports in the region.

These operational quarantine stations act as one of the primary services to guarantee that regional best practices and stringent quality assurance requirements are followed when inspecting fish and fishery products.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-MIMAROPA Regional Office is located at LeGrace Building, Brgy. Guinobatan, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.



Figure 2. BFAR-MIMAROPA - Regional Office in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

# **SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS**

# DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROCEDURES

Sixty-five (65) workshops and meetings were held. The majority of the subjects that were discussed involved technical assistance for fishery issues. For FY 2022, there were 397 workshops or meetings in total, the most of which were conducted online; 216 field visits have been made in the assessment and keeping tabs on regional projects and programs this year. To record the accomplishments of the region and its offices, 17 reports were drafted and submitted.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE for fishery issues workshops and meetings

ONLINE workshops or meetings

FIELD VISITS to assess and keep tabs on regional programs and projects

REPORTS drafted and submitted to record the accomplishments of the region and its offices



The BFAR-MIMAROPA Regional Fisheries Office is in charge of managing and maintaining one Fisheries Information and Management Center to provide support services in maintaining a comprehensive fishing information system and offering technical knowledge in ICT-related issues.

# **LEGAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES**

Through the drafting of position papers, legal opinions, and documents like memoranda of agreement (MOA) and memoranda of understanding (MOU), primarily in relation to fisheries issues, the Legal Section provided a total of 55 legal and advisory services. The regional office was accountable for a total of 61 cases of infractions involving fisheries related issues.

filed cases of infractions involving fisheries related issues

legal and advisory services related to fisheries issues provided

# FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## **CAPTURE SUB-PROGRAM**

## FISHING GEAR/PARAPHERNALIA DISTRIBUTION

BFAR MIMAROPA accomplished extensive development support in fisheries production by providing environmentally friendly fishing equipment and accessories. The allocation of fishing gear and accessories is as follows: 64 units of motorized boats, a marine engine of 426 units, 10 units of payao, 12 units of hook and line gears, 128 units of net gears like bottom set gillnets, and 760 units of tuna hand lines dispersed across the many provinces in the region.











# AQUACULTURE SUB-PROGRAM BROODSTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Effective hatchery management depends on maintaining high-quality broodstock; 200 milkfish; 425 finfish; and 6,720 tilapia are being supported by BFAR MIMAROPA. By providing a supply of readily available fry and fingerlings, the aforementioned service aids Local Government Units (LGUS), fisherfolk groups, and private individuals interested in establishing fish production industry in the area.

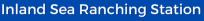


# FISHERIES PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

## **OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

The BFAR-MIMAROPA Region has currently maintained and operated its 2 technology outreach stations (TOS): the Inland Sea Ranching Station (ISRS) in Sta. Lucia, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan and the Brackishwater Fisheries Research Station (BFRS) in Melgar, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. These stations serve as nurseries, farms, and tanks for the production and growth of fishery commodities while providing on-site demonstration for the skill improvement of fisherfolks and other clientele.

The bureau maintains 4 operational TOS for MIMAROPA Region:



Sta. Lucia, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

## Tilapia Hatchery

Barcenaga, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro

Brackishwater Fisheries Research Station

Melgar, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro

Multi-Species Marine Fisheries Hatchery

MinSCAT, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro

The bureau also maintains 4 hatcheries:

Mindoro Shrimp Hatchery

Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro

Freshwater Fish Hatchery & Demo Farm

Taritien, Narra Palawan

Marine Research and Breeding Center

Canduyong, Odiongan, Romblon

**Multi-Species Hatchery** 

Sta. Lucia, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

The following 5 hatcheries are also maintained in the different provinces of MIMAROPA: the Tilapia Hatchery in Barcenaga, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro; the Multi-Species Marine Finfish Hatchery in MinSCAT, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro; the Marine Research and Breeding Center in Canduyong, Odiongan, Romblon; the Multi-Species Hatchery. The Mindoro Shrimp Hatchery in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, has been added to the list

# FINGERLINGS/SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The production and distribution of fry and fingerlings are priority interventions to support the target clientele including fisherfolks and other fisheries stakeholders. The Inland Sea Ranching Station (ISRS) in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, and the Brackishwater Fisheries Research Station (BFRS) in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro are the main operational technology outreach stations for the MIMAROPA region. These two stations collectively distributed 19.45 million fish seeds, of which 8.9 million come from tilapia breeders and 4.95 million from milkfish breeders. For the species of pompano, seabass, snapper, and grouper, 5.6 million fish seeds were distributed.



Procured, 5 million post-larvae of Penaeus vannamei were already distributed during the 1st and 2nd Quarter of 2022 to the beneficiaries of the provinces of Marinduque and Occidental and Oriental Mindoro as a source of livelihood.

BFAR MIMAROPA has established for the development of 1 seaweed nursery and 5 nurseries maintained; 1 seaweed culture laboratory are to be maintained, and 3 mariculture parks in order to address important issues like food security, employment, livelihood, and poverty reduction in coastal communities.



# **POST-HARVEST SUB-PROGRAM**

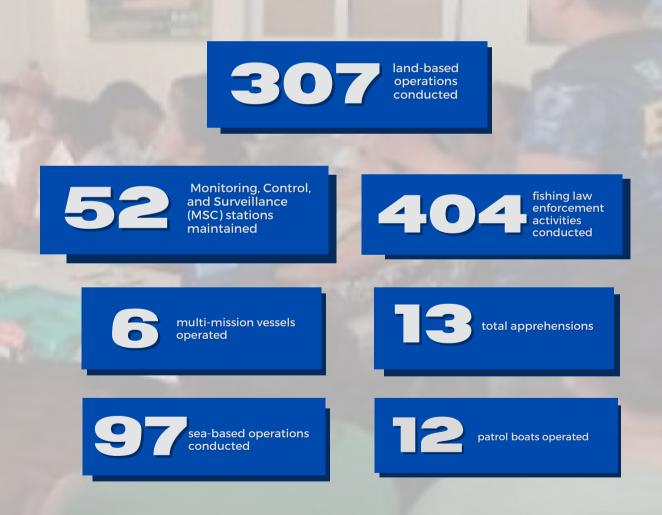
The establishment, operation, and maintenance of fisheries post-harvest facilities, the adoption of good fish handling procedures, and the creation of value-added goods for human consumption are all responsibilities of the Fisheries Post-Harvest and Marketing section. There are 52 post-harvest projects and equipment items distributed around the region. These consist of seaweed dryers, smokehouses, freezers, and seafood stalls.

Three hundred fifteen price monitoring activities were carried out in the retail and wholesale wet markets for the top commercially significant fish and fishery commodities in order to offer connection between customers, producers, and suppliers. Eight credit and investment opportunities were given to the fisherfolk. Additionally, 3 aqua-fairs and 1 exhibit on fisheries marketing were organized in collaboration with other entities in search of prospective marketing-related collaborations.



# FISHERIES REGULATORY & LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The regional fisheries office maintained 8 Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MSC) stations in various provinces to enforce laws and enforce all rules and regulations governing the protection and management of fishing resources. In operation 12 patrol boats and 6 multi-mission vessels. Four hundred four fishing law enforcement activities have been carried out in observance of and conformity with the requirement to prevent, dissuade, and eradicate illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing (IUUF). Three hundred seven land-based operations and 97 sea-based operations were conducted in total. Total apprehensions were 13 in number. Informational campaigns, market denials, and landing revocations are all actively carried out by the Enforcement and Regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance Operations Center (ERMOC). The deputation of fish wardens is also conducted in cooperation with the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordination Division (RFTFCD).



# QUALITY CONTROL AND INSPECTION

By registering, inspecting, and managing the follow-up of producing and processing establishments and other facilities that abide by the sanitary control standard, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures (SSOP), and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based quality assurance—quality control and inspection ensure food safety and the quality of fish and fishery products. Two hundred fifty facilities were checked upon, predominantly in the provinces of Palawan and Occidental Mindoro. Additionally counted were 250 quality control analyses in total.



Figure 3. Virtual Training Course on Fish and Crustacean Parasitology attended by Roxanne R. Crisostomo and John Mark M. Layesa, technical staff of Regional Fisheries Laboratory Division (GELD).

One of the bureau's many regulatory duties is to monitor and inspect fishing facilities. To ensure the welfare of consumers, the safety of the products, and the general public's health, every fishing facility participating in the chain of production must be inspected. To satisfy the demand for disease detection, prevention, and treatment, the Regional Fisheries Laboratory Division (RFLD) kept an eye on 258 aquaculture farms in 2022 and evaluated 3,400 samples, including water quality and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests. For further heavy metal and residue laboratory testing, more samples were collected and given to the National Fisheries Laboratory Division at the BFAR Central Office.

Cyanide is another substance that the Bureau continuously monitors in addition to red tide. It is one of the compounds covered by Section 92 of Republic Act 8550, amended by RA 10654. It is particularly prevalent in the tissues of live fish used in aquarium fish and live fish trade. An effective technical law enforcement instrument for detecting fish that have been cyanide-caught is the outcome of the laboratory's analyses. In order to apply for a permit to operate under RA 10567, also known as the Chemistry Professional Act, the Cyanide Detection Laboratory of BFAR MIMAROPA has successfully passed a virtual inspection conducted by the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), the Professional Regulatory Board for Chemistry.

# COASTAL AND INLAND FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Management Areas Fisherv (FMAs) are regions (bay, gulf, lake, or others) that the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of **Fisheries** Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) has identified as significant fishing grounds based on stock boundary, range. distribution, fisheries structure. administrative and subdivisions that integrate science-based management.



Figure 4. Photo opportunities of participants during the Fisheries Management Area 5 Planning Workshop held at the AA Plaza Hotel, Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

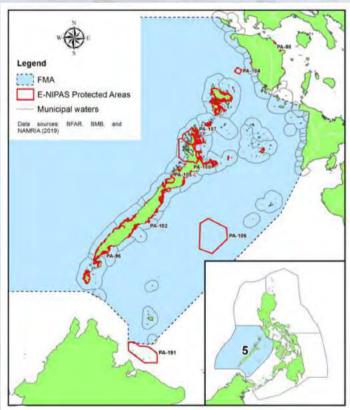


Figure 5 Map of FMA 5 and E-NIPAS Marine Protected Areas

The MIMAROPA region belongs to the Fisheries Management Area (FMA). along with 11 other management areas. To add to the accomplishments previous Fisheries Resource Management Section, a planning workshop was conducted along with the operationalization of the Fisheries Area (FMA) Management Board Management conducted to lay out the plans to efficiently manage and safeguard the nation's fishery resources.

# QUARANTINE, REGISTRATION, AND LICENSING

Like any other regulatory body of the government, it is given the necessary discretion to approve or deny applications or petitions pertaining to subjects coming within its purview as an institution that directly supervises transfers of leasehold rights over fishponds. However, that latitude is constrained by the legal restrictions already in place. Applications for leasehold rights transfers are administered by BFAR in accordance with Section 33 of its Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 60. A total of 2,256 licenses for commercial fishing vessels and gears, 115 for Fishpond Lease Agreements-covered areas, 33,000 for fish and fishery products, and 2,849 for other fishing entities were issued for the year 2022. To support this, BFAR MIMAROPA also does routine inspections. Two thousand two hundred fifty-six inspections of commercial fishing vessels and gears, 523 inspections for FLA-covered areas, 2,816 inspections of other fishing entities, and 33,000 inspections of fishing goods were carried out during the period.

## Inspections conducted:









## Issued licenses:









# **Equipment and accessories provided:**





128
units of net gears (like bottom set gillnets)

760
units of tuna hand lines

**10** units of payao

units of hook and line gears

# INTEGRATED MARINE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (IMEMS)

The Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System (IMEMS) main objective is to substantially expand and enhance the presently in place Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Additionally, this initiative strives to assist and promote adherence to the several conservation and management measures being put into place in Philippine seas, the Exclusive Economic Zone, other Coastal States, and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). One of the main elements of the project is the installation of the Port and Coastal Monitoring System (PCMS), a terrestrial network of sensors that will enable BFAR real-time tracking, monitoring, and identification of fishing vessels operating in and around active regional and local ports and close to coastal areas.

As part of the IMEMS project, Port and Coastal Monitoring Station Type 2 were set up at the following locations in the MIMAROPA: DA – BFAR Regional Fisheries Office MIMAROPA Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, Mansalay Fishing Port, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, Provincial Fisheries Office – Occidental Mindoro, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, Provincial Fisheries Office – Marinduque Boac, Marinduque, Provincial Fisheries Office – Romblon, Odiongan, Romblon and Provincial Fisheries Office – Southern Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

In addition to the PCMS already mentioned, one will be created in the PFO-Northern Palawan, Magsaysay, and El Nido, Palawan, thanks to collaboration between BFAR MIMAROPA, the DABFAR Central Office, and the LGUs in the MIMAROPA region. The installation of PCMS Type 1 in Brooke's Point, Palawan is likewise being expedited.

Other PCMS will be established in:

PFO-Northern Palawan, Coron, Palawan

El Nido, Palawan

Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro

As part of the IMEMS project, PCMS Type 2 were set up at the following locations in the MIMAROPA:

DA - BFAR Regional Fisheries Office MIMAROPA Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

Mansalay Fishing Port, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro Provincial Fisheries Office -Romblon, Odiongan, Romblon

Provincial Fisheries Office -Occidental Mindoro, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro Provincial Fisheries Office -Southern Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

Provincial Fisheries Office – Marinduque Boac, Marinduque

# FISHERIES EXTENSION PROGRAM

# EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES PROVISION OF TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A total of 57 training and extension services were provided by the Regional Fisheries Training and Fisherfolk Coordination Division (RFTFCD) to fisherfolks, private entities, and local government units (LGUs) in the MIMAROPA Region. These services include areas on women and development, post-harvest technologies, fishery law enforcement or regulation, and aquaculture. Most trainings conducted fall under the regulatory purview, specifically for the Deputation of Fishery Wardens in the region. Five thousand six hundred thirty-seven technical assistance were provided to different stakeholders of BFAR MIMAROPA in 2022.

A total of 14 technology demonstration projects were established in the region, with an emphasis on aquaculture to increase production within ecological limits.

training and extension services provided

5,637 technical assistance provided technology demonstration projects established

# CONDUCT OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) ACTIVITIES

The IEC Campaign of the region has an objective to inform, educate, and persuade people to realize their roles and responsibilities and the benefits accruing from investing in the right practices and information in safeguarding the country's marine resources. IEC activities play a very critical role in raising awareness of various aspects of the plans and programs of BFAR MIMAROPA. Additionally, the bureau provided services to its stakeholders in order to receive them. Five thousand forty-one IEC materials were distributed, 30 materials developed and 13 IEC activities were recorded.

5,041
IEC materials distributed

13
IEC activities recorded

**30**IEC materials developed

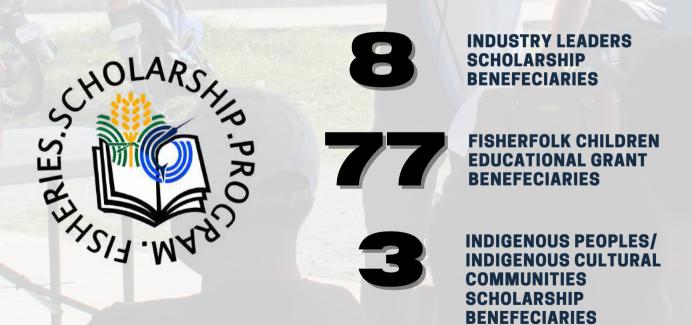
# STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Seventeen local FARMCs were strengthened, primarily in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Romblon, to aid in the formulation and implementation of the Comprehensive National FARMC Implementation Plan. In addition, the Bureau has assisted 85 LGU technicians around the province.

local FARMCs strengthened

85
LGU technicians

The Fisherfolk Children Educational Grant (FCEG) Scholarship and the Industry Leaders (IL), formerly known as the Ferdinand E. Marcos (FEM) Scholarship Program, are two of BFAR's ongoing fishing education scholarship programs. FCEG's goal is to help deserving children of poor registered municipal fisherfolk. The IL, on the other hand, is intended for high school graduates who rank in the top ten of their graduating class. Then there's the Indigenous Peoples/Indigenous Cultural Communities (IPs/ICCs) category. Eight of these are IL Scholarship recipients, 77 are FCEG beneficiaries, and 3 are BFAR MIMAROPA IPs/ICCs scholars.



# OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

# **UPDATING OF FISH-R AND BOAT-R DATABASE**

In cooperation with LGUs, continuously enabled the updating of the aforementioned databases, as of December 31, 2022:



Total Registered Boats:	* <b>37, 394</b>		
Total Registered Fisherfolks:	<sup>1</sup> 174, 834		





Republic of the Philippines Department of Agriculture

# BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE - MIMAROPA

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