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PHILIPPINES



**WEST PACIFIC EAST ASIA
OCEANIC FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

WPEA OFMP



PROGRESS REPORT – PHILIPPINES

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**WEST PACIFIC EAST ASIA OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (WPEA-OFMP):
PROGRESS REPORT 2012**

Philippine Component

I. INTRODUCTION

The West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFMP) is a three (3) year project which started January 2010. The main objective of this project was to strengthen national capacities and international cooperation on priority transboundary concerns relating to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the west Pacific Ocean and east Asia (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam). The project has two (2) main components, namely, i) Monitoring, data enhancement and fishery assessment and ii) Policy, institutional strengthening and fishery management.

Highlights of activities undertaken under the two (2) project components from January 2010 to June 2012 are discussed below.

II. MONITORING, DATA ENHANCEMENT and FISHERY ASSESSMENT

A. PORT SAMPLING ACTIVITIES

Port sampling activities were continued after the IPDCP through NSAP monitoring activities in a few selected landing sites around the country through BFAR and ACIAR funding support. The NSAP enumerators collected data from their assigned ports particularly on oceanic tuna/s (e.g. yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack). The enumerators collected data according to NSAP procedures and were supervised by the Regional Stock Assessment Project Leader. Monthly reports are forwarded to the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) to be encoded in the NSAP Database System. With the help of WPEA-OFMP funding support which started January 2010, we were able to monitor additional tuna landing sites and continue monitoring activities in areas funded by ACIAR which ended August 2010. Below is the list of sampling sites and number of enumerators assigned.

Table1. List of port sampling areas monitored and number of enumerators assigned.

Region and Sampling Site/Port	Number of Enumerators
Region 1: Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur	2
Region 3: Masinloc, Zambales	2
Region 4B: Puerto Princesa City	1
Region 4B: Mindoro Oriental*	5
Region 5: Bicol	2
Region 6: San Jose, Antique	2
Region 8: Samar*	4
Region 11: Davao	2
Region 12: General Santos City*	4
CARAGA: Surigao del Sur*	4
ARMM: Jolo, Sulu	2

Note: * 2 or more enumerators funded under the Philippine Data Collection Project (PDCP)

B. ANNUAL TUNA CATCH ESTIMATES REVIEW WORKSHOP

The 5th Tuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Review Workshop last May 2011 was conducted to review and validate Philippine catch estimates by species and gear type. The workshop was attended by different government agencies and the tuna industry. Data from different sources, namely, BFAR (NSAP, logsheets, cannery receipts), BAS, PFDA and industry were presented and reviewed. The breakdown of the catch by gear according to the process undertaken in the workshop is as follows: Purse Seine (PS) – 51,184MT; Ringnet (RN) – 27,923MT; Handline – 10,864MT; Hook and Line (HL) - 15,000MT and Others (OTH) – 1,871MT. While the breakdown by species is as follows: Skipjack (SKJ) – 67,486MT; Yellowfin (YFT) – 37,172MT and Bigeye (BET) – 2,185MT. After removing the foreign-flagged catch landed in the Philippines from the BAS estimate, there was a difference of around 114,000MT. The difference could be due to the difficulties in estimating the diverse municipal fisheries and could be explained as possible bias in the probability surveys due to very low coverage. The workshop participants noted that while the industrial fleet estimates are now becoming more reliable, there is still a major problem in determining and validating the estimates of the small-scale municipal fisheries that needs to be resolved in the near future. More details on the workshop outputs kindly refer to the workshop report.

C. MUNICIPAL TUNA FISHERIES PROFILE: REGION 8 – EASTERN SAMAR

The Fourth Philippines/WCPFC Annual tuna catch estimates workshop (16-17 May 2011) also noted that the estimates for the municipal fisheries were difficult to determine. The WS came-up with a recommendation:

BFAR/NFRDI and WPCFC/SPC consider a study of all Philippines regions that looks at environmental conditions (e.g. bathymetry) of the waters restricted to municipal fisheries (with 15km) to determine the likelihood that hook-and-line vessels at nearby landing sites would catch significant amounts of oceanic tuna species.

Given the large difference between the BAS and NSAP catch estimates, Region 8 was selected for this preliminary study in 2011/2012.

Based on this study the following should be considered:

- Our NSAP data in four (4) key tuna landing areas in Region 8 particularly in Eastern Samar, noted less than 1% of bigeye tuna, 46% yellowfin tuna, 40% skipjack and 15% other species for 2011 with a total of 1,110.45 t., which is much less than the BAS estimate.
- When accounting for both the NSAP and the non-NSAP landing sites (see table at the start of this presentation), the catch estimate (1,658 - 3,000 t.) is still significantly lower than the BAS municipal fisheries estimate for Region 8 (16, 903 t.).
- In Region 8, Municipal fishers move out of municipal waters catch oceanic tunas (e.g. yellowfin, skipjack). They sometimes? travel 8 – 20 nautical miles or more from their base to reach their fishing grounds. These are also the areas where payaos are located and usually owned by commercial fishing operators.
- BAS estimates should try to consider seasonality of catches in coming-up of estimates for the municipal sector. There are times when there are no catch or unloading for 1 – 3 months or even up to six (6) months in a particular tuna landing area that was observed in this study.
- We should also try to consider the species composition in the landing sites - there are areas where fish unloading are mainly for small pelagic or demersal fishes.

- It is suggested to review the frame survey to identify the landing areas that have significant catches or unloading of oceanic tunas because this study observed that not all municipal sites have significant oceanic tuna unloadings.

D. OBSERVER DEBRIEFING WORKSHOP

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has been implementing the Fisheries Observer Program since 2009 to present. The Fisheries Observer Program has already trained a total of 135 observers and has deployed a total of 86 observers in commercial fishing vessels in view with the implementation of the FAD Fishing Closure for 3 months period from July to September of each year and as well in gathering catch data for regular monitoring. Philippine Observers gather data from fishing vessels fishing activities including total catch, species composition, bycatch, Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) and Vessel sightings. These data are crucial in formulating policies and regulations for fisheries management.

In the course of the Program implementation it was observed that debriefers have to be trained in order to gather quality data from fisheries observers. There is a need for a proper briefing and debriefing procedures for boarding and disembarking observers. Briefing prior to boarding a vessel is required by the Program in order to instruct observers on the activities to be conducted and other fishery/scientific data for the observer to gather. Debriefing is also an important tool for the Program to make sure that the disembarking observers have followed the instructions during briefing and allows the Program to check if the proper procedures and protocols in data gathering were been applied and to establish basis to evaluate the performance of its observers. The Briefing and Debriefing workshop is also a requirement by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission during the audit conducted. The said activity was conducted last June 7 – 15, 2012 and trained 30 competent debriefers for the Program.

E. TUNA DATA AND RESEARCH INVENTORY

A national inventory on tuna data and research was produced. The inventory tried to record and assesses different sources of tuna data information gathered, managed and stored by various agencies and organizations including tuna researches conducted by academe, research institutes and various agencies/organizations in the Philippines. The key elements of the inventory include (i) source of data, (ii) type of data, (iii) temporal and spatial resolution, (iv) time periods covered, (v) availability and (vi) media (e.g. electronic, hard-copy). The inventory was conducted last April to June 2012.

III. POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING and FISHERY MANAGEMENT

A. POLICY, LEGAL and INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The review of the policy, legal and institutional arrangements for WCPFC-related matters including the preparation of checklist of shortfalls was included in the Philippine annual workplan. The purpose of this review is to assists the government of the Philippines in improving its policy, legal and institutional arrangements in compliance with the requirements of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). A consultancy report was prepared in November 2010 which also includes a Comparative Matrix of WCPFC Member Obligations with Philippine Policy/Law/Institutional Arrangements. This matrix was updated last May 28, 2012 based on what the Philippine government has done for the past years in relation to Philippine compliance with WCPFC.

B. NATIONAL TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Revised Philippine National Tuna Management Plan provides the framework for the sustainable management and equitable use of tuna fisheries in the country, promotion of responsible fishing practices by Philippine-flagged vessels fishing for tuna in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and the development of the fishing industry through responsible trade of tuna products. This Plan implements the *Philippine Fisheries Code* (Republic Act 8550) and all relevant domestic policies, legislation and regulations, including the obligations of the Philippines under international and regional fisheries agreements to which the country is a party. The Plan has been revised to align management measures with the need for the proper conservation of tuna resources and the development of the Philippine tuna industry. The Philippine National Tuna Management Plan elaborates the objectives, principles, and scope of the Plan, the importance of tuna fisheries in the Philippines, applicable legal, policy and institutional framework, and management and enforcement measures for tuna fisheries in the Philippines. The revised plan was done last November 2010 and was updated last 28 May 2012.

C. NATIONAL TUNA INDUSTRY COUNCIL REVIEW

The main objective of this review is to make National Tuna Industry Council (NTIC) more responsive and proactive to the needs and issues of the Philippine Tuna Industry, with the end in view of attaining sustainable development and promoting competitiveness. The review looked into the current activities and functions of the National Tuna Industry Council (NTIC); identifying problems or areas that needs improvement; and recommend actions that needs to be taken for the improved functions of the National Tuna Industry Council (NTIC). The review of the NTIC functions was done last October to December 2011 and the recommendations was updated last 29 May 2012.

D. NATIONAL TUNA FISHERY PROFILE

The draft Philippine Tuna Fisheries Profile was produced last May 2012 and presented to key persons wherein the revised outline was agreed last 29 May 2012 and will be adopted in the finalization of the profile by November 2012. The revised outline is found in **Annex 3**.

IV. SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET

Please refer to **Annex 2** for details.

V. FUTURE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The future activities of this project will be geared towards accomplishing the following:

1. Continued coordination with:
 - a. BFAR Regional offices to collect monthly port sampling (NSAP)
 - b. Fishing industry to submit monthly logsheets data
 - c. Canneries to collect monthly cannery receipts
2. Conduct of annual review to evaluate different sources of catch estimates and produce best possible estimates to be provided to WCPFC.
3. Improve compliance and quality of logsheets data submitted through awareness workshop.
4. Continued coordination of tuna tagging activities.
5. Updating of WPEA-OFMP website: <http://www.nfrdi.da.gov.ph/P-WPEA.html>
6. Finalization of National Tuna Fishery Profiles

7. Conduct of local stock assessment workshop
8. Conduct of PLI Workshop (Implementation Manual, Tuna Fishery Profiles, NTIC issues, etc)
9. Experts workshop on tuna management on local basis
10. Continue to conduct field study for the compilation of catch information at landing sites to improve the municipal “small tuna” hook-and-line annual catch estimates.

Annex 2. Summary of Project Activities and Budget for 2010 to June 2012

	Activity	Period	Budget (US\$)		Status / Outputs
			Donors	Phil-Co-Financed	
1	Port Sampling in the Philippines	1 January to 31 December 2010	38,588	100,000	* 20 enumerators hired; port sampling data collected
2	Tuna Identification Training for BAS key data informants in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines	24 - 26 February 2010		11,000	* 25 BAS key data informants trained; tuna posters distributed
3	Port Sampling Data Review Workshop at NFRDI Conference Room, Quezon City, Philippines	13-14 May 2010		2,000	* Workshop report produced
4	2nd Philippines/WCPFC Annual Tuna Fisheries catch Estimates Review at BFAR Conference Room, Quezon City, Philippines	17 - 18 May 2010	10,830	2,500	* Workshop report produced
5	3rd Philippines/WCPFC Annual Tuna Fisheries Catch Estimates Review at Eurotel, Quezon City, Philippines	19-Nov-10		1,000	* Workshop report produced
6	Logsheets implementation	January - December 2010	1,000	1,000	* Logsheets data collected; summary report produced included in WPEA progress report
7	Printing & distribution of observer references	May & October 2010	1,000	4,000	* Printing and distribution of observer manual during observer training financed by Philippine Government through BFAR
8	Participate to SAW and EMAW 2010	14 - 21 June 2010	6,000		* Report produced
9	Coordination of tuna tagging activities	January - December 2010	1,000	1,000	* Tagging posters printed and distributed; tagging rewards paid to respective tag finders for each recovered tag; around 1,515 tags recovered for 2010
10	Coordination of tuna data research	January - December 2010	1,000	1,000	* Continued collaboration on the exchange of tuna data and research initiatives with different agencies and organizations
11	National Stock Assessment Workshop	16 - 18 December 2010	5,650	6,000	* Workshop report produced
12	Centralized Database System	December 2010	6,000		* Equipments purchased
13	Policy, Legal & Institutional (PLI) Workshop	16 - 17 November 2010	8,700	3,000	* Workshop report produced; PLI consultancy report produced including checklist (preliminary)
14	Development of WPEA website	October - December 2010	9,300	1,000	* WPEA website incorporated in the NFRDI website (in progress) http://www.nfrdi.da.gov.ph/P-WPEA.html
15	Updating of National Tuna Management Plan (NTMP)	November 2010	3,200	1,500	* In progress of completing the updated NTMP; Workshop report produced
16	Continued Port Sampling Implementation	January - December 2011	65,760	100,000	* 20 enumerators hired; continue port sampling data collection
17	Port Sampling Data Review Workshop at NFRDI Conference Room, Quezon City, Philippines	12 - 13 May 2011	2,550	1,500	* Workshop report produced
18	4th Philippines/WCPFC Annual Tuna Fisheries catch Estimates Review at BFAR Conference Room, Quezon City, Philippines	16 - 17 May 2011	2,550	1,500	* Workshop report produced

	Activity	Period	Budget (US\$)		Status / Outputs
			Donors	Phil-Co-Financed	
19	Continued coordination of tuna tagging activities	January - December 2011	1,080	1,000	* Continued printing and distribution of tagging posters; continue to pay tagging rewards to respective tag finders for each recovered tag 1,515 tags recovered for 2010 and 794 tags recovered for 2011
20	Participate in the Tuna Data Workshop (TDW5)	18 - 22 April 2011	4,000		* Report produced
21	Participate in the Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW)	26 June - 5 July 2011	4,000		* Report produced
22	Review of National Tuna Industry Council Functions	October - December 2011	3,200	1,000	* Consultancy report produced
23	Continuation of port sampling activities	January - December 2012	77,760	100,000	* On-going
24	Continue collaboration with the Pacific tuna tagging activity	January - December 2012	2,580	2,000	* Tagging posters printed and distributed; tagging rewards paid to respective tag finders for each recovered tag
25	Fifth PH/WCPFC Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Review Workshop and 3rd WPEA – NSAP Catch Estimates Review Workshop	14- 18 May 2012	5,100	6,000	* Workshop reports produced
26	A field study for the compilation of catch information at landing sites to improve the municipal “small tuna” hook-and-line annual catch estimates	April - June 2012	8,000	2,000	* Report produced
27	Continue Logsheets Awareness	January - December 2012	2,670	2,000	* On-going; preliminary report produced
28	National Tuna Data Inventory and Tuna Research Inventory	April - June 2012	1,000	1,000	* Data and research inventory produced
29	Participate in the Tuna Data Workshop (TDW6)	23 - 27 April 2012	4,000		* Travel report produced
30	Policy, Legal and Institutional (PLI) Review Workshop including updates on PLI issues, National Tuna Management Plan (NTMP), National Tuna Industry Council (NTIC) functions, National Tuna Fishery Profile (NTFP), Implementation Manual on WCPFC – Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and other WCPFC Concerns	May 28 - 30, 2012	6,460	5,000	* PLI Review Workshop report produced; NTMP updated; NTIC report revised/updated; Draft NTFP produced
31	Philippine Fisheries Observer Debriefers Training Course-Workshop and printing of Observer Manuals	7 - 15 June 2012	6,944	5,000	* Training-Workshop report produced; 30 Debriefers trained; Observer Manuals (PS/RN/LL) produced
TOTAL			289,922	363,000	

Annex 3. Revised Outline of the Philippine Tuna Fisheries Profile

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

2. Background information

Include fisheries administrative regions

3. Tuna Fisheries

3.1. Major tuna species

3.2. Major Fishing Gears

3.2.1. Handline

3.2.2. Ringnet

3.2.3. Purse Seine

3.2.4. Other Gears (HL, Troll line, etc)

3.3. Fishing Vessels

- No. of vessels by fleet

3.4. Fishing Ground

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3.4.2. EEZ & Territorial Waters

3.4.3. Distant water fishery

3.4.4. Fishing Season by fishing area

3.5. Catches and Unloadings

3.5.1. Annual Catch

3.5.1.1. Municipal

3.5.1.2. Commercial

3.5.2. Catch Composition

3.5.3. Trends in Effort and Catch Rates

4. Fisheries infrastructure

4.1. Fish Ports and service facilities

4.2. Processing plants (private)

5. Fisheries socio-economic characters and Marketing (c/o BFAR/NFRDI)

Include catch amount and economic market value

5.1 Municipal sectors

5.2 Commercial sectors – including international trading statistics

5.2.1 EEZ and territorial waters

5.2.2 Distant water fisheries

5.2.3 Local and Foreign Trade

6. Tuna Industry Profile

6.1. GenSan

6.2. Navotas

6.3. Others

7. Fisheries managements (c/o BFAR/NFRDI – PLI report)

7.1. Institutional arrangements and management

7.2. Legal framework

7.3. Management Plans

7.4. MCS Activities

8. International/Regional Tuna Management Organization

8.1. Member

8.1.1. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

8.1.2. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

8.1.3. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

8.2. Co-operating non-member

8.2.1. Commission for the Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

8.3. Non-member

8.3.1. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

9. Tuna Statistics and Research Activities

8.1 Data collection – port sampling, logbook, etc.

8.2 Fisheries research

- MV DA-BFAR and Observer Reports

- Academic Researches

10. Issues, Concerns and Challenges

References

Annexes

Annex 4. Documentation of WPEA – OFM Project activities



Port Samplers based in Region 12: General Santos City Fish Port Complex



Gathering of data and conduct of interviews in Region 8: Eastern Samar



Participants of 2012 Annual Tuna Catch Estimates Review Workshops