

LONG STANDING WOES FOR FOOD AND AGRI-FISHERIES SYSTEM

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THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES FOOD SYSTEM

- Fish – a staple food of Filipinos
 - Main source of animal protein in the Filipino diet



- Per capita consumption: 26.7 kg/yr

SOURCES OF FISH PRODUCTION

*Capture Marine Fisheries - 1,888,308 mt (67%)



*Aquaculture (no seaweeds) – 760,000 mt (27%)



*Capture Inland Fisheries – 164,201 mt (5.8%)

Source: PSA (2019)

STATUS OF PHILIPPINE FISHERIES

No. of People Employed: > 1.6 million

- 85% from municipal or small fisherfolk
- 14% from aquaculture
- 1% from commercial fisheries

Production Trend: On the decline with annual growth rate of 7.5% in 2015 to 1.5% in 2018

Source: BFAR, 2019

LONG STANDING WOES

- **Overfishing/Overexploitation**
 - Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of 1.9 mmt has been exceeded
 - Two-thirds of fishing grounds are overfished
- **Extreme Poverty of Small Fisherfolk**
 - Earning less than ₱50/day
 - Poverty rate of 39.2%
 - “Poorest of the Poor”

● Pollution of Aquatic Environments

- 2.2 million metric tons of organic/inorganic waste pollutants disposed into open waters (rivers, lakes, coastal waters) every year
- Only 10% of sewage is treated
- 13% of water bodies have poor water quality



- High Cost of Production for Intensive Aquaculture
 - 60-70% of operating cost for commercial feeds
 - Rising cost of imported feed ingredients (*e.g.*, soybean meal, fish meal)





- **Lack of Effective Extension Services**

- RA 7160 (1991) devolved the extension function for fisheries from the Bureau of Agricultural Extension and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to the local government units (LGUs)
- LGUs lack well-trained fisheries extension workers and resources

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND SHOULD BE DONE

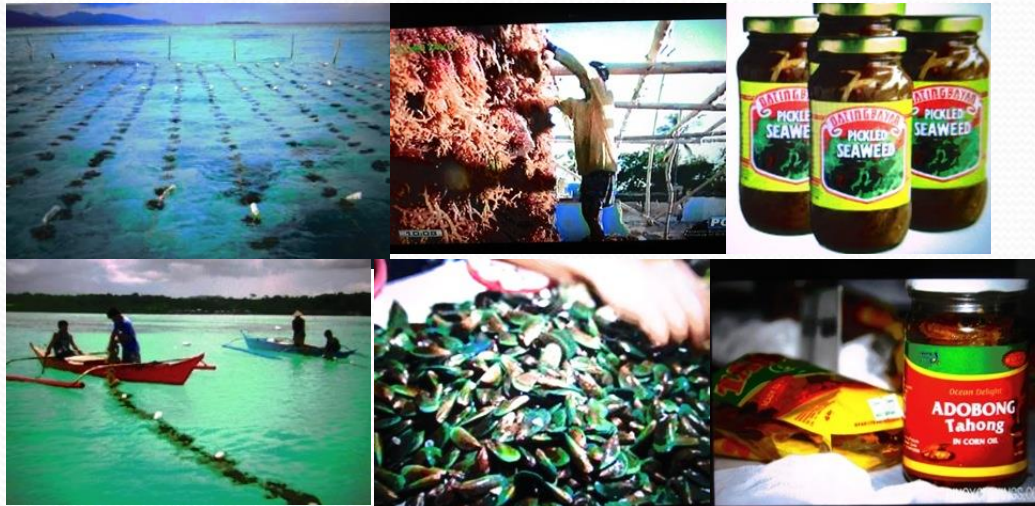
- **Overfishing/Overexploitation**

- RA 10654 2014)- amending the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 “to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.”
- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System
- Closed Seasons
- Marine Protected Areas

● Extreme Poverty of Small Fisherfolk

- Marine-based alternative livelihoods

(*e.g.*, seaweed farming, shellfish farming, processing, etc.)






● Pollution of Aquatic Environments

- RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) for comprehensive and ecological solid waste management
- RA 9275 (Clean Water Act of 2004) for comprehensive water quality management

● High Cost of Production

- Use of alternative feed ingredients that are locally available
(*e.g.*, fermented copra meal, fermented sweet potato, vermimeal, etc.)
- Improve feeding practices to reduce feed wastage
(*e.g.*, use of extruded floating feeds instead of sinking feeds for cage culture)
- Ecological intensification
(*e.g.*, biofloc, prebiotics, probiotics, IMTA)

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- **Lack of Effective Extension Services**
 - Strengthening of LGUs capacity/capability for extension for fishers and fishfarmers with support from NGAs (DA, DOST,etc.), SUCs and R & D institutions
 - Restoration of extension function to the DA-BFAR

WHAT ELSE SHOULD BE DONE

Creation of a Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Oceans)

- More focus, attention and support for the conservation and development of our vast aquatic resources and boosting our aquaculture potential
- The DA-BFAR only had a budget of ₱5.9 billion which was only 11% of the DA's budget of ₱53.4 billion for 2018 despite the fact that fisheries contributed 17.4% to the GVA of AFFH.
- Indonesia created the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in 1998 and is now second to China in terms of aquaculture.



MABUHAY!