

ABSTRACT

EROBAS, MA. ELMA PARAMOSA. University of the Philippines in the Visayas, March, 2004. Assessment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMCs) in Negros Occidental.

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This study was conducted to assess the status, performance and achievements of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMCs) in Negros Occidental based on its mandated functions. The respondents of the study were the 25 coastal City and Municipal Agriculturists or the Fisheries Technician, 18 FARMC Chairpersons, 2 Commercial Fisherfolk Representatives, NGO Representative and Women Sector representative. Out of the twenty-five coastal cities and municipalities in Negros Occidental, 19 or 76% have formed their Councils in accordance with the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 or Republic Act 8550 and Fisheries Administrative Order 196. Out of these 18, only six have provisions for budget while the rest have none. Local officials usually extract financial support for FARMC activities from other existing programs and projects of the LGU which have budget allocations.

Major issues identified were lack of interest among the local officials to render administrative, technical and financial support to the Council, lack of interest among the fisherfolk to form fisherfolk associations, lack of capability of the Council. These issues have to be remedied in order for the Council to achieve its goals and objectives.

The study also evaluated the accomplishments of the Councils based on their mandated functions. The Performance Indicator System (PIS) used by BFAR was revised to determine the performance of the Councils in the Province. Results of the evaluation revealed that Bacolod City and San Carlos City FARMCs were much ahead in terms of performance and accomplishments among the 17 FARMCs in the Province. Both CFARMCs are now in Level II for they conduct regular monthly meetings, their internal rules are already formulated, they have formed their different committees, and the members are representatives of different accredited fisherfolk in their respective LGUs. The rest of the LGUs still need to satisfy the criteria in Level I.

Further, in order to disseminate proper information about the Council in the different coastal barangays, intensive information education and communication campaign was conducted among the different stakeholders which includes not only the fisherfolk but also fishworkers, women and youth sectors, commercial operators, Municipal and City Agriculturists and local personnel.